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The Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) Centres for Health Research was established in 1999. Professor Donald Cameron was appointed as the inaugural Chair to ‘champion’ and facilitate research across basic biomedical through clinical to health services research involving all disciplines.

The aims of the Centres for Health Research are to:

• Enhance the research effort
• Foster research campus wide and create an environment which supports the further development of internationally recognised health research on the campus
• Provide leadership
• Manage the existing research space and work with research groups to develop new research space
• Manage infrastructure issues
• Provide strategic direction for promoting research
• Promote and profile the unique research capability of research conducted within a tertiary teaching hospital environment
• Promote campus wide collaborative research activities
• Monitor campus wide research performance
• Lobby on behalf of all research groups, internally and externally
• Provide executive support to research committees
Highlights 2003

Cancer Collaborative Group

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Cancer Collaborative Group was established in early 2002 to bring together basic and clinical investigators involved in cancer research at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

In November 2003, the Cancer Collaborative Group was officially awarded a $2 million grant, over five years, by the Queensland Cancer Fund. This award is a one-off major Collaborative Research Grant. These funds will be used for gene studies, clinical trials, training and mentoring young researchers, and the translation of research into routine cancer care within the hospital’s multidisciplinary clinics. The research conducted by the Cancer Collaborative Group is anticipated to provide benefits for Queenslanders diagnosed with cancer, and their families.

Centre of Clinical Research Excellence

In June 2003, Senator Patterson, Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, presented a plaque to Professor John Prins, who accepted on behalf of the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders Consortium. The current study involves patients with diabetes, who are at risk of developing cardiovascular disease. This study seeks to show that lifestyle changes and an exercise program may reduce damage to the structure and function of blood vessels, improve the ability of the small vessels of the heart to carry blood to the heart muscle, and improve heart function. This is a unique study that combines the strengths of Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Human Movements and Population Health at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the University of Queensland. It will deliver important results that will guide management of diabetic subjects, as well as showcase advances in cardiovascular imaging.

Grant Success

A successful round of NHMRC grants were announced in November 2003. Eight health and medical research project grants, totalling in excess of $3 million, have been awarded to investigators based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research secured new funding of $1.3 million per year for the next three years. The Centre attracted six NHMRC grants, one ARC, one QCF, and one UQ research development grant.

As part of the International Collaborative Grants Scheme (NHMRC, UK Wellcome Trust and NZ Health Research Council), Professor Ian Frazer, Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, and his collaborators were awarded $1,378,961. This money will be used to examine the effectiveness of a vaccine, designed to prevent tumours and cancers associated with papilloma virus infection, as treatment for existing infections. Researchers will also be looking for predictors of a favourable outcome of treatment.
Dr Micheal Stowasser, Professor John Prins, Dr David Johnson, Professor Tom Marwick, Dr Jeff Coombes. (Ms Elaine Beller is absent)

Dr Louise Hutley, Diabetes and Endocrinology, was one of four successful recipients of the Smart State Fellowships...

**Start Up Companies**

**ADIPGEN PTY LTD**

Adipogen Pty Ltd, a new, early-stage biotechnology company was set up to evaluate a target for which antagonist compounds could be used as an effective anti-obesity therapeutic. Professor John Prins and Dr Louise Hutley have identified a key protein that causes the production of human fat cells. Blocking this protein from having its effect at the level of the fat cell will be a novel approach to treating obesity and is the focus of the research and development. This work is being carried out within the Department of Medicine, University of Queensland and the Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. In addition to funding from Uniseed, the group has been awarded a BIF Grant and a Bio-Start Grant totalling $335,000.

**DENDRIGHT PTY LTD**

Dendright Pty Ltd, a spin-off company has been formed to develop dendritic cell vaccines to treat rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases. Professor Thomas is the Scientific Director, and leads the research program at the PAH. Dendright has an exclusive license to intellectual property developed at the University of Queensland, based on dendritic cell-based treatment of autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis. The results of Professor Thomas’ research were published in 2003 in Immunity. These exciting results have very widespread implications for the immunotherapeutic control of autoimmune, transplantation and allergic reactions, as well as the necessity to overcome constitutive self-tolerance in order to treat tumours. The concept represents a paradigm shift in the field, culminating in direct clinical application and commercial opportunity. The paper was highlighted by Nature Reviews Immunology and as a "must read" paper by Faculty of 1000. Dendright has received recognition as a company with significant potential as reflected by award of an Innovation Start Up Scheme (ISUS) grant from Queensland Government and a NHMRC Development grant for 2004.

**Queensland Smart State Fellowships**

In December 2003, the Innovation and Information Economy Minister, The Honorable Paul Lucas announced the winners of the Smart State Fellowships at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Dr Louise Hutley, Diabetes and Endocrinology, was one of four successful recipients of the Smart State Fellowships.
New Professor joins the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research

CANCER-CAUSING GENES UNDER MICROSCOPE

Professor Tom Gonda moved to Brisbane with his wife at the end of 2003 to join the University of Queensland's Centre for Immunology & Cancer Research (CIRC). As the Head of the CICR Molecular Oncogenesis Group, Tom aims to: establish a productive laboratory to pursue work in areas including leukaemia and breast cancer; and to help apply research findings from the Cancer Program's work to the development of new cancer therapies, possibly by initiating a cancer drug discovery/development project in collaboration with other scientists and institutions.

Tom was a former Principal Research Fellow at the Hanson Centre for Cancer Research in Adelaide and also former Chief Scientist Bionomics Ltd.

Professor Gonda's post-doctoral research training was on the Myb oncogene under the supervision of Professor J. Michael Bishop, a San Francisco scientist who shared the 1989 Nobel Prize for his discovery of the cellular origin of retroviral oncogenes. Tom continued to work on the Myb oncogene when he returned from the US to the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Melbourne.

Tom's principal research interests include leukaemia and breast cancer. His research focuses on a class of genes known as 'Oncogenes', which can cause and contribute to cancer. This area of research has potential to improve understanding of how cancer occurs. Such research could identify markers that will aid in earlier detection or diagnosis of cancer, and equally importantly, may also identify targets against which new anti-cancer drugs could be directed. Researchers have discovered around 100 different oncogenes, many of which are directly or indirectly involved in controlling cell growth.

Tom's research complements the work of a number of research groups who are part of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Cancer Collaborative Group.
PAH Clinical Pharmacology Scientist Scores

Australia First

Paul Taylor wins ‘International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology Young Investigator Award’

Clinical Pharmacology’s Paul Taylor has become the first Australian to win the International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology Young Investigator Award for exceptional scientific achievements. Paul, a Senior Scientist who has worked at the Princess Alexandra Hospital since 1986, travelled to Switzerland to receive the award in September 2003. The International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology for the past decade have presented this bi-annual award.

In 2002, he won an Outstanding Speaker Award from The American Association for Clinical Chemistry for his presentation “A practical guide to development and validation of quantitative HPLC-mass spectrometry”.

Paul was the first to establish the use of HPLC-mass spectrometry for routine therapeutic drug monitoring of tacrolimus in solid organ transplant recipients. The Clinical Pharmacology laboratory is a national reference centre for monitoring many of the newer immunosuppressant drugs and has developed many specialised analytical techniques to measure drugs that aid physicians in making clinical decisions. Paul currently holds a collaborative National Health & Medical Research Council grant with the School of Pharmacy and Department of Surgery, researching the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the newer immunosuppressant drugs. He has published over 50 peer reviewed papers and 80 abstracts.

Paul’s research interests include therapeutic drug monitoring of immunosuppressant agents and the use of HPLC-mass spectrometry in the clinical setting for therapeutic drug monitoring, measurement of pharmacodynamic markers and novel diagnostic tests. Paul’s goal is to establish a clinical mass spectrometry centre at Princess Alexandra Hospital that will facilitate research in solid organ transplantation, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, cancer and infectious diseases.
Queensland Government’s Smart State Fellowship 2003

DR LOUISE HUTLEY AWARDED ONE OF FOUR SMART STATE FELLOWSHIPS

Dr Louise Hutley from the University of Queensland, based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, has been focussing her research work in the past six years in the area of obesity. Obesity is a major medical and social problem in developed and developing countries and current therapeutic strategies are relatively ineffective. A recent World Health Organisation report indicated 66% of men and 51% of women in Queensland were overweight or obese.

Louise has always been interested in medical research and ‘how the body works’. She began a Bachelor of Science degree as a mature-age student whilst working in the veterinary field and graduated in 1994 with distinction. Two years after joining the Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and researching in the field of human obesity and the relationship between visceral adipose tissue and Type II diabetes, Louise commenced postgraduate studies to further her findings in this field. Professor John Prins became one of her PhD supervisors along with Professor Don Cameron from PAH and Professor Adrian Herington from QUT. Louise completed her PhD in 2002 and was awarded the Dean’s Award for Excellence.

With Professor Prins she has now extended the findings of her PhD to show that not only are paracrine factors produced by adipose-derived microvascular endothelial cells playing a role in growth of human fat tissue but have further identified a growth factor as a mediator of the observed adipogenic effects of the endothelial cells.

It is this work that lead to her receiving a Queensland Government’s Smart State Fellowship. This Fellowship will allow the group to further define the mechanisms by which the growth factor is having effects on human fat tissue growth. These findings have the potential for the development of effective therapeutic strategies in the management of human obesity. Louise’s Smart State Fellowship presented by the Queensland Government is cosponsored by The University of Queensland and Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.

To help foster research at the local level Louise founded the Princess Alexandra Postgraduate Student group and was an inaugural member of the committee. The aims of this group include raising the profile of research at this hospital and to disseminate scientific information between all research groups. Louise has also been involved in programs to support high school students with an interest in science and research.
Message from the District Manager

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Centres for Health Research Review 2003 showcases the collective research efforts of hospital and university researchers based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The mission of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District, a 750 bed tertiary teaching hospital and mental health service, is ‘To deliver a world-class Health Care, Teaching and Research Service’. The Hospital has an ongoing commitment to medical research and innovation, to support and facilitate the research strengths and the further development of research on the campus.

On behalf of myself and the Executive, I congratulate and thank our researchers and Professor Donald Cameron for a great year of achievements highlighted throughout this report. These achievements reflect the dedication, passion, enthusiasm and significant skills of our clinicians, researchers, and their support staff.

The contribution and role of the staff and Board of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation, under the Chair of Mr Leo Williams AO, in continuing to raise and dedicate their fundraising efforts to support research programs on the campus, is greatly appreciated. The contribution of medical research to the prevention, treatment and cure of disease reflects the substantial support of our patients, volunteers, supporters, and funders who are the lynch-pins for the knowledge discoveries and their applications.

I am delighted and proud at the continuing progress and discoveries made by our researchers through collaborative efforts to take discoveries from bench to patient bedside and improve the overall health care of our communities.

I take great pleasure in presenting the 2003 report to you, and look forward to working with Professor Cameron and the research community to further facilitate basic, clinical and health services research activity conducted at this hospital.

Ms Deb Podbury
District Manager, Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District
Chairman’s Report
on Research at the Princess Alexandra Hospital

RESEARCH – KEY TO HEALTH

In my fifth year as the Chair of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Centres for Health Research, it is interesting to reflect on the changes that have occurred. The most obvious change is the growth, in terms of research staff and students recruited, the increase in competitive grant funding, and the new facilities that now house the basic research activity on the campus. The new research facility which became home to hospital and university researchers in 2002 has provided opportunities to strengthen existing research activities and to undertake new research programs.

Among many wonderful achievements were the winning of several large grants. These included a Queensland Cancer Fund Grant by the Cancer Collaborative Group to enhance scientific capabilities in the field of cancer research and patient care; a Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders to research diabetes, heart and vascular disease; and an international collaborative grant to examine the effectiveness of a vaccine designed to prevent tumours and cancers associated with papillomavirus infection.

Three areas of research gained world attention:

• A world-first cervical cancer vaccine developed by Professor Ian Frazer’s team
• The Spinal Cord Regeneration Team attracted international interest last July when a landmark trial of a new treatment for spinal cord injury began.
• Dr Ranjeny Thomas’s team developing a vaccine against auto immune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile diabetes. The approach developed to turn off an auto-immune disease is believed to be the first in the world.

Allied Health research has seen an increase in research activity. This is due to the support by the joint Princess Alexandra Hospital and the University of Queensland appointments and the many dedicated research staff. Building on this increase, the Allied Health research staff participated in a mid year planning workshop which enabled the group to set key priorities and directions for the future. Outcomes from this workshop are evident in a more focussed research agenda and collaborative research grant applications.

All research at the Princess Alexandra Hospital is considered by the Princess Alexandra Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). A record number of new research protocols, over two hundred and twenty studies, were submitted to the Committee for review and ethical approval in 2003.
Thank you to the research and clinical community for their dedication and commitment to research. A special thank you to the members of the Research Committee, the Human Research Ethics Committee, and the Animal Ethics Committee for their contribution to the research efforts on the Princess Alexandra Hospital campus. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation under the Chair of Mr Leo Williams AO and the recently appointed Chief Executive Mr Leighton Wood.

It gives me great pleasure to present this sixth Annual Research Review, which is a summary of what has been achieved in 2003.

Professor Donald Cameron AO
Chair, Princess Alexandra Hospital
Centres for Health Research

The research activity between 1998 and 2003 in terms of funding, publications and higher degree students is as follows:

Postgraduate Research Students.
As with other measures of research activity there has been a pleasing increase in the number of Masters and PhD students on the campus. Masters students have increased from 13 in 1998 to 26 in 2003 and PhD students from 28 in 1998 to 62 in 2003.

Research Funding.
There has been a progressive increase in research funding obtained by groups on the campus from approximately $5.1 million in 1998 to over $12.5m in 2003 (includes funds received for some commercially sponsored clinical trials)

Publications.
Between 1998 and 2003 the publication output was sustained.
Research Committee Report

The purpose of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Research Committee is to foster research within the Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District. The committee promotes and facilitates excellence in research on the campus and also provides advice on: strategic and operational policy on research direction, management and reporting; development and management of allocation protocols to ensure that research infrastructure on the campus is used appropriately; process for effective management of research infrastructure including the Biological Research Facility; promotion of specific initiatives to facilitate research on this campus.

Some of the areas addressed and changes initiated during the year included:

• A process to review the wet-lab research space across the campus,
• A review of the management structure of the Biological Research Facilities (con-joined PAH and University of Queensland) which resulted in reinstating a User Committee and a Management Committee;
• The fit-out of the ground floor of the research building by the end of 2004
• Development of marketing material including a logo and slogan

Thank you to Dr Louise Hutley and Dr Nigel McMillan for their contribution to the committee over the past few years. Ingrid Hickman replaced Dr Hutley as the new student representative and Dr Gabrielli replaced Dr McMillan.

... the Princess Alexandra Hospital Research Committee is to foster research ...
MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Dr Louise Hutley  
(resigned April 2003), Diabetes and Endocrinology Department

Ms Ingrid Hickman  
(commenced June 2003), Diabetes and Endocrinology Department

Ms Anne-Louise Bulloch  
School of Medicine, University of Queensland

Dr Mark Bowles  
School of Medicine, University of Queensland

Dr Susan Ash  
(resigned June 2003), Nutrition and Operational Services

Dr Sandra Brauer  
(resigned June 2003) Physiotherapy, Allied Health

Mr Pim Kuipers  
(commenced August 2003) Spinal Outreach Team, Allied Health

Professor Ian Jones  
School of Medicine, University of Queensland

Professor Kenneth Donald  
Professor and Head Graduate  
School of Medicine, University of Queensland.

SECRETARIAT

Ms Areti Gavrilidis  
Business Manager, Centres for Health Research

Ms Diane Allwood  
Executive Support Officer, Centres for Health Research

... promotes and facilitates excellence in research on the campus and also provides advice on: strategic and operational policy on research direction, management and reporting ...
Human Research Ethics Committee Report

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Human Resource Ethics Committee (HREC) is constituted in accordance with The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Guidelines and the National Statement (Section 2.6). The purpose of the Committee is to ensure that all research studies are conducted in an ethical manner. The HREC reviews the ethical, legal and scientific aspects of research proposals.

Before a research study commences it must be reviewed and approved by the committee. If there are significant modifications these must also be reviewed. Any serious adverse events from investigational drugs are also reviewed. Review by the Committee is to ensure that volunteers are not subject to undue risk, and that subjects are fully aware of any risks and benefits they may incur. The Committee also ensures that studies are compliant with relevant legislation. The NHMRC also requires annual reviews of all studies.

The HREC reviews research studies that are conducted at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District and regional centres including QEII and Logan Districts.

COMPLIANCE

The Committee is audited annually to ensure that structure and function are according to the NHMRC Guidelines.

ACTIVITY

A record number of new projects were submitted to the Committee for review.

Between 1996 and 2003 the number of new submissions increased from 155 to 226, and the number of modifications increased from 60 to 160.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Ingrid Hickman; Louise Smith; Louise Hutley; Tony Russell; Di Cowley; Lyn Coppock; David Good

... resource to promote and provide a supportive environment to postgraduate students...

Princess Alexandra Hospital Postgraduate Student Committee

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Postgraduate Student Committee was formed in 2001 to represent the growing body of postgraduate students who are primarily located at the Princess Alexandra Hospital for their research studies.

The mission of the Postgraduate Student Committee is to act as a resource to promote and provide a supportive environment for Postgraduate Students at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Campus. The goals are to:

- Bring together Postgraduate Students from different fields and Universities within a learning and social environment,
- Act as liaison between student body and hierarchy,
- Increase the profile and awareness of Postgraduate Students,
- Represent Postgraduate Students at committee meetings and to maintain open communication.

The following was achieved during the year:

- An e-mail database was created and maintained for 95 members of the group (including 15 supervisors)
- Weekly postgraduate student seminars: 10 invited speakers; 7 UQ confirmation of candidatures; 2 half day seminars run by UQ Student Support Services
- A number of opportunities for students to present their own 'work in progress' to the weekly forum to gain experience in presenting data in a supportive environment. This also allowed students to become aware of the expertise of other researchers on campus
- 2 social gatherings for students
- Representatives volunteered and participated in the Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run, August 2003, to raise funds for the Princess Alexandra Hospital Research Foundation

Members of the committee organised speakers and seminars as a service to the greater student group and included topics such as; writing a literature review, obtaining research funding, intellectual property and patents, thesis submission information, and ethical considerations for human and animal research. The feedback received was that the presence of a student body is important to reduce the isolation felt when separated from the primary university campus and to form an identity at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Members of the committee would like to thank Dr George Mellick for his time and effort in supporting postgraduate students, and UQ SOMS for providing lunches at many of the student presentations.
The Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation experienced several highlights in 2003 as well as change to its direction and operating structure.

Important fundraising highlights included the Suncorp Sunday Mail Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run. The Princess Alexandra Research Team was chosen as the major beneficiary of the 2003 event. The Princess Alexandra Hospital community supported the event with the participation of 100 hardworking volunteers and around 400 entrants. The 14,000 entrants in the 2003 Suncorp Sunday Mail Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run have left a magnificent legacy for future generations through the $149,646 that has been allocated to by the organisers and sponsors to fund Princess Alexandra Hospital researchers.

The Foundation, in December 2003, awarded block grants for 2004 as follows: $100,000 to the PAH Cancer Collaborative Group; $57,500 to the Centre for Cardiovascular Disease and Metabolic Disorders; $57,500 to the Spinal Regeneration Project. In addition $35,000 was awarded courtesy of the Mardi Jackson Foundation for the purchase of melanoma research equipment.

Three $2,000 registrar grants were also awarded.

Several initiatives that were planned in 2003 are anticipated in 2004 to significantly increase the funding available for research. These initiatives include the Foundation’s development of equity in ongoing annual fundraising events including a Corporate Cricket Challenge and Healthy Communities Week (in partnership with the Mater Hospitals Trust and the Queensland Hotels Association), and the Free Wills Program where the Foundation will pay for the wills of benefactors to be drawn up by a network of Foundation solicitors.

In June 2003 Mr Gary Evans resigned as Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation. Mr Lloyd Hancock left the Foundation in September. The contribution of both will be long remembered.

The Foundation over the years has contributed in excess of $17 million to medical research at Princess Alexandra. For this level of performance to be sustained we must work together and continue to innovate in what is a highly competitive area of fundraising.

Members of the Foundation Board appointed by the Governor in Council are drawn from the business and medical communities.
... 14,000 entrants in the 2003 Suncorp Sunday Mail Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run have left a magnificent legacy for future generations through the $149,646...

MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Michael T Wille
BA (Hons), Bowling Green University, Yale University. Company Director.

Simon Lockyer
BSc (Griffith Uni) Communication Director, McCann Erickson Advertising.

Richard Bowly
Dip. Advertising (Melb) Associate Fellow Australian Marketing Institute, Chair Cradeview Pty Ltd, Toowoomba, Director, Queensland Hotels Association, Director The Southern Hotel Toowoomba

SECRETARY

Anne Maree Buttner
B Appld Sc (OT), Grad. Dip. Management. Director Corporate Services, Princess Alexandra Hospital and District Health Service.

HONORARY SOLICITOR

Michael Back
BA (Hons.) LLB (Hons.). Partner, Freehills – Solicitors

FOUNDATION STAFF

Leighton Wood
Chief Executive Officer (Gary Evans, June 2003)

Lloyd Hancock
Executive Director Administration, BSc (UQ) until September 2003

Jennie Bickerton
Direct Marketing Manager

Barbara Blake
Administration Assistant

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair: Kenneth Donald
MBBS, PhD, FRCPath., FRACMA, FRACS. Professor and Head of the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Queensland.

Donald P. Cameron
AO, MD, FRACP. Chair, Research Division, Princess Alexandra Hospital.

David C. Gotley
MD, FRACS. Professor of Surgery, University of Queensland.

Ranjeny Thomas
MBBS MD University of Western Australia, FRACP.

Thomas Marwick
MBBS, PhD, FACC, FESC, FRACP. Professor of Medicine, University of Queensland.

Nicholas Bellamy
MB ChB, MD, MSc. FRCPath. Glas., FRCPath. (C), FACP, FAHMS, FRAC. Director, Center of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine (CONROD) Department of Medicine, University of Queensland.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Professor Donald Cameron AO, Chair, PAH Centres for Health Research, Mr Michael Prain, Managing Editor, Courier Mail, Mr John Mulcahy, Managing Director, Suncorp. Photo courtesy of The Courier Mail.
Group Reports
Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service

The Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service is a community-based service that specialises in rehabilitating people with an acquired brain injury. The primary aim of this service is to facilitate successful community integration of people with an acquired brain injury. The Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service provides training and consultancy to service providers and carers. In addition, this service conducts research and development activities to improve outcomes for people with an acquired brain injury and their families.

Current Research Activities

Development of a service evaluation strategy for community based Acquired Brain Injury rehabilitation (ABIOS).

Comparison of outcome measures in community based Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) rehabilitation.

Qualitative analysis of rehabilitation goals as an indicator of service outcome.

Responding to the psychological and social needs of people with stroke: Integrating theory and practice in post-discharge rehabilitation (Buys N, Kendall E, Posner N, Kuipers P, Cox M : Collaboration with Centre for Human Services, Griffith University and Brisbane Southside Central Division of General Practice).

Development of a children’s support programme to build family resilience and enhance the quality and durability of outcome of patients of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit.

A research intervention to enhance the well-being and psycho-social outcomes of patients, based on the World Health Organisation’s ICF ‘environment’ framework: A controlled study in the Princess Alexandra Hospital Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit – Day Hospital.
Financial Support

$75,000 ARC. Responding to the psychological and social needs of people with stroke: Integrating theory and practice in post-discharge rehabilitation. N Buys, (GU).

$6,000 Quality Improvement Project (QUIP). Program, Development of a children's support programme to build family resilience and enhance the quality and durability of outcome of patients of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit (Wright, S).

$5,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation. A research intervention to enhance the well-being and psycho-social outcomes of patients, based on the World Health Organisation's ICF 'environment' framework: A controlled study in the PAH Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit – Day Hospital (Kuipers, P).

Publications


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:


INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Sharon Smith. Children of People with ABI: ABIOS Quality Initiative. Allied Health Quality and Research Forum

Judy Roser. The role of ABIOS. Occupational Therapy Association, Neuro Special Interest Group.

Elissa Morriss. Introduction to ABIOS and community rehabilitation. Disability and Rehabilitation Course, Psychology Department, University of Queensland.


Libby Groves. Continuum of Care of Adults with ABI. Speech Pathology Association.

Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr P Kuipers

Member, Princess Alexandra Hospital Allied Health Research Committee

Reviewer, Australian Journal of Rural Health, Disability and Rehabilitation, Rural and Remote Health
The Academic Unit in Geriatric Medicine (AUGM) is now in its second year. The Unit constitutes the research and development, and teaching activities of the University of Queensland and Princess Alexandra Hospital in Geriatric Medicine. Many activities are multi-disciplinary in perspective, reflecting the nature of geriatric medicine and aged care. Several major research projects have been established, and considerable preliminary work on others is underway.

The focus of the Unit is on research into the medical care of frail older people. This work has a particular focus on the organisation of care, in its various settings – hospital, community and residential care homes.

The Unit is the host for the Australian Coordinating Centre for interRAI. interRAI is an international collaborative which develops assessment, care planning, casemix and quality measurement tools for frail older people and people with disability or mental health problems.

The Unit also has a special focus on the epidemiology and genetics of Parkinson’s disease, and is working with several other clinicians and researchers in Brisbane and internationally to research these issues.

There is close collaboration with the Australasian Centre on Ageing with which the Unit shares staff and participates in regular joint projects.

Relevant website addresses are:
AUGM: http://www.soms.uq.edu.au/augm
interRAI Australia: http://interrai-au.org
Australasian Centre on Ageing: http://www.uq.edu.au/cfha

Main Areas of Research

The research activities currently have several foci: Biological research around the genetic influences in Parkinson’s disease; clinical research in geriatric medicine; and health services and policy research in geriatric medicine and aged care.

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Review of Aged Care Services in the Bayside District for the Bayside District Health Service, Queensland
Review of the National Psychogeriatric Unit Program for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing in association with Vivienne Tippett and Associates
Review of Specific Aged Care Services in Brisbane North for The Royal...
Brisbane and Prince Charles Hospital Health Districts
Review of the National Strategy for an Ageing Australia for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

CLINICAL TRIALS
Multi-centre study identifying impacts of an assessment and care planning protocol for frail older patients in acute care (Mater Adult, Townsville)


OTHER RESEARCH
Survey of Functional and Psycho-Social Problems among Older Hospital Inpatients (pilot study)
Utilisation of hospitals by older people in Australia: emerging patterns over 10 years
Research and Development work in association with the interRAI Collaborative
Development of databases for interRAI-AC and interRAI-PAC
Assemble interRAI-AC international database
Development of Australian versions of interRAI tools, revision of international versions, and revision of manuals
interRAI workshop with guest speaker Dr Iain Carpenter

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
Parkinson’s disease and ageing

Genetic contributions to Parkinson’s disease
Cigarette smoking, genetic risk factors and the aetiology of Parkinson’s Disease

Financial Support

GRANTS
$200,000, Utah Foundation, Health services research and development (L. Gray)

CLINICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

$100,000, Utah Foundation, Health services research and development (L. Gray)
Janssen-Cilag, GAL-INT-10 – GAL-INT-21, P. Varghese (PAH)

$84,500 Reviews and consultancies (L. Gray)

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

$36,000, Geriatric Medical Foundation of Queensland, Parkinson’s disease and aging, G.D. Mellick

$15,000, Parkinson’s Queensland Inc, Genetic contributions to Parkinson’s disease, G.D. Mellick, P.A. Silburn

$20,000, UQ Enabling Grant, Cigarette smoking, genetic risk factors and the aetiology of Parkinson’s Disease, G.D. Mellick

$20,000, Brain Foundation of Australia, Cigarette smoking, genetic risk factors and the aetiology of Parkinson’s Disease, G.D. Mellick

Publications


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


Mellick GD, Dunne MP, Newman B, Silburn PA. GSTM1 and GSTT1 gene deletions in the aetiology of Parkinson’s disease (PD). No gene-smoking interactions. Australian
**Lectures and Presentations**

**Len Gray**

*Regional variation in the supply of specific aged care services in Queensland* (2003) Queensland Health and Medical Scientific Meeting, Brisbane


*Will aged care be baby boomer ready?* Learning from the Myer Review. (2003) The Australian Association of Gerontology*

*The Future of Ageing - when the baby boomers retire* 2003 Conference, Coffs Harbour NSW.


*Planning your service: What should be on the menu?* (2003) Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine, Annual Scientific Meeting.


**George Mellick**

*The shaking palsy meets the human genome project: How studying our genes may help to unravel the causes of Parkinson's disease.* Invited seminar to research program Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane July 2003.

*Recent advances in the genetics of Parkinson's disease.* Invited presentation to Queensland's Aged Care Support Association.


*Risk factors for Parkinson's disease – revealing the inherited component.* Invited seminar to Department of Neurosciences Royal Brisbane Hospital Nov 20 2003.

**Paul Varghese**


*Introduction to the interRAI Method Workshop* NDHP4 A better Third Age, Health Care for Older People Conference Brisbane, August 2003

*A survey of patients awaiting residential care in public hospitals in the Brisbane region,* (August 2003) NDHP4 Conference, Brisbane

**Post Graduate Students**

Daniel Buchanan, PhD (completed 2003)

Yifu Deng, PhD (completed 2003)

Coral Gartner, PhD (completed 2003)

Young Mo, PhD (completed 2003)

**Awards**

Professor Len Gray

Australian Centenary Medal for Service to Aged Care

**Public Service Relevant to Research**

Len Gray:

Associate Editor Australasian Journal on Ageing

Fellow, interRAI Collaborative

George Mellick:

Vice-President, Parkinson's Queensland Incorporated

Abstracts Editor 2003 7th Multidisciplinary Conference on Parkinson's disease (Gold Coast August)

Reviewer (Neuroscience Letters) 2003

Manuscript Assessor

Paul Varghese:

Member, Clinical Reference Group advising the Working Party on a number of research projects conducted by the AHMAC.

(Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council)

Lyndall Spencer:

Educational Consultant, Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

“Medication Issues in Older People: Pharmacology or Polypharmacy.” Advanced trainees Workshop, Faculty of Aged Care Psychiatry, Royal Australasian College of Psychiatry, Brisbane, Nov 2003

“Queenslanders’ Attitudes to euthanasia: changes from 1995-2000?” (November 2003) Queensland Health and Medical Scientific Meeting, Brisbane


*The Future of Ageing - when the baby boomers retire* 2003 Conference, Coffs Harbour NSW.


*Planning your service: What should be on the menu?* (2003) Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine, Annual Scientific Meeting.


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Falls are serious adverse events and occur frequently in many aged care settings, including the Aged Care Mental Health Ward – Grevillea. The Aged Care Mental Health Service, in conjunction with the Physiotherapy department and the Geriatrics Department, is currently conducting research in the area of gait and balance in depressed, older patients, and the effect of successful electroconvulsive therapy (EC) treatment on cognition and motor performance for this group. The aim is to refine procedures for risk assessment and falls prevention in older consumers.

The Memory Clinic, a collaborative activity with the Department of Geriatric Medicine, also gathers data aimed at enhancing the clinical accuracy of early, differential diagnosis of dementia syndromes. These clinics are acknowledged internationally as excellent vehicles for teaching. The clinic hosts many undergraduate and postgraduate students from a variety of disciplines each year. Students and advanced trainees of all disciplines visit and rotate through the Memory Clinic with the aim of disseminating professional knowledge regarding the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of dementia syndromes.

Dr Lie lectures for the University of Queensland, Department of Psychiatry, and Drs Best and Geffen lecture for the Psychiatry Registrar Training Program at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

... research in the area of gait and balance...
**Research**

**MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH**

For 2003, the main area of research was a falls prevention related study investigating cognitive and motor changes in depressed elderly people before and after treatment with electroconvulsive therapy. Completed falls study data will be presented in 2004. Preliminary findings were described in the 2002 Research report.

**PROJECTS COMPLETED**


**Current Research Activities**

Are problems with attention associated with poor balance in depressed older adults?

**Financial Support**

Ongoing support from the Geriatric Trust Fund for the running of the Memory Clinic

**Publications**

Brodaty HB, Draper B, Millar J, Low L, Lie DC, Sharah S, Paton H. Randomized controlled trial of different models of care for nursing home residents with dementia complicated by psychosis or depression. J Clin Psychiatry 2003; 64 (1): 63-72


**SUBMITTED ABSTRACT**

Broome A. Memory Regained: Treatment Effects of Cholinesterase Inhibitors in Individuals Suffering from Very Early Alzheimer’s Disease. Paper submitted to the joint International Neuropsychological Society/Australian Society for the study of Stroke and Brain Injury conference, scheduled for Brisbane, 2004

**Lectures and Presentations**

Wells S
PA Week “Diversional Therapy and how it Helps Your Patients Get Better Quicker”

Lie D

Toowoomba Older Person’s MH Service Competency Seminar, Oct 2003 The older driver with suspected dementia

PA Week 2003. Advances in psychogeriatrics

Lloyd D

Broome A
Seminar Presentation, Psychiatry Research Group Meeting. Cognitive Improvements and Laterality Effects in Depressed Older People Following Successful Treatment with Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT), Mt Cootha, Brisbane, 28 February 2003. (Invited presentation)


**Post Graduate Students**

Annette Broome, PhD in Clinical Neuropsychology, University of QLD (in progress)

Gai McKibbon, Masters in Mental Health Nursing, Griffith University (in progress)
Alcohol and Drug Assessment Unit

This is a busy clinical service concerned with the identification, assessment and treatment of alcohol and other drug related problems. It is involved in the application and evaluation of research based cognitive and behavioural interventions in programs developed by this unit. A major focus of the unit is treatment outcome evaluation, which includes the investigation of anti craving and relapse prevention medications in the treatment of alcohol dependence.

The implementation of the Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative (QIDDI) and the more recent extension of the Court Diversion Program have offered further opportunities in the evaluation and treatment of distinct patient groups.

Current Research Activities

Impact on Quality of Life measures of short–term alcoholism treatment programs
Cannabis expectancy cognitions and implications for treatment
Treatment effects of on alcohol related expectancies
Psychometric and psychosocial outcomes in Liver Transplantation in Alcoholic Liver Disease

Financial Support

The Alcohol and Drug Assessment has treatment funding only:
National Drug Strategy (NDS)
Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative (QIDDI)

Publications


Lectures and Presentations


Professor Ross McD Young

Chair, Early Detection and Prevention Committee of the Queensland Cancer Fund
Chair, Curriculum Development Committee, Southern Zone Mental Health Education Service

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Financial Support

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Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative (QIDDI)

Publications


Lectures and Presentations


Professor Ross McD Young

Chair, Early Detection and Prevention Committee of the Queensland Cancer Fund
Chair, Curriculum Development Committee, Southern Zone Mental Health Education Service
Anaesthetic Department

The Anaesthetic Department provides Anaesthesia services for 18,000 patients per year with a total anaesthesia time in excess of 32,000 hours.

The department’s research and university teaching commitments have increased significantly with the appointment of Dr Joe Power as Chair of the Research Committee, and the appointment of Associate Professor Green to a university position. Dr Power has been successful in obtaining research grants to in excess of $24,000.

Current Research Activities

Anaesthesia for Cardioversion
The effect of an epidural blood patch on cerebrospinal fluid physiology
Pathophysiology of the hyperdynamic circulation in liver failure

Financial Support

GRANTS
$24,359 ANZCA The effect of an epidural blood patch on CSF physiology, (Dr Power)

Publications

Power G.E, Hellier C, Gordon R.A. Gordon’s Syndrome and Emergency Anaesthesia, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (accepted for publication April 2004)

Lectures and Presentations

Dr Peter Moran
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists – ‘Anaesthesia and Liver Disease’
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists – ‘Preoperative Cardiac Risk assessment’
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists – ‘Thermoregulation’

Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr Peter Moran Reviewer for the Journal Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
**Staff**

This research group has no permanent staff at the present time. All the members perform the work in their own time.

- **Dr Mark O’Brien**  
  Cardiac Surgeon TPCH (retired December 2002)

- **Dr Marjorie Green**  
  Hon. Senior Research Fellow (retired August 2000)

- **Dr Patrick Hogan**  
  Director of Immunology QHPS

- **Dr Belinda Clarke**  
  Director of Anatomical Pathology, TPCH.

- **Dr Edwina Duhig**  
  Anatomical Pathologist, TPCH.

- **Dr Thomas Roberts**  
  Anatomical Pathologist, QHPS.

**Financial Support**

The work was supported by:

- Cryolife
- Prince Charles Hospital Research & Development Foundation
- Princess Alexandra Hospital Research & Development Foundation
- Institute of Cardiovascular Research

**Aortic Valve Research Group**

There are approximately 250,000 human aortic valve replacements worldwide, about 2000 of these implanted in Australia. The number is increasing at a rate of 5-7%. Worldwide, 55% of prosthetic heart valves are mechanical, and 45% are biological. However, in developed countries the percentages are reversed. The use of mechanical heart valves is increasing at a rate of 3-5% per year, while bioprostheses implants are increasing at a rate of 8-11% per year.

Valve disease is a universal problem that affects people from all walks of life, of all ages, every nationality and religion.

Both types of prostheses have drawbacks. The major drawback for mechanical valves is the lifelong use of anticoagulants, which is associated with its own set of complications, such as haemorrhage. Many of these complications necessitate the urgent removal of the implant and replacement with another device. The problem with bioprostheses (both allo- and xeno) is that they will function well for 10-20 years and then become progressively dysfunctional. Like native heart valves, bioprosthetic heart valves have central flow and good haemodynamics. The biological surfaces usually have good thrombo-resistance in comparison to mechanical valves, and thus patients do not need to be maintained on anticoagulant therapy with all the associated problems. These problems are particularly difficult for young women wishing to have children, those wishing to participate in sport and children leading a normal life.

The aim of the research over the past few years has been to try and establish why bioprosthetic valves, particularly allograft implants become dysfunctional after 10-20 years. To do this a rat model was used to study the pathogenesis which leads to the eventual destruction of the grafted aortic valve. The group also examined the effects of immunosuppression, which is not presently used in the clinical situation. The effects of using antioxidant enzymes on oxidative stress; and the effects of pre-treatment of the valve with high concentrations of oxygen have been studied by the group. In the human area the effects of HLA mismatching of the valve implants have been examined. Currently, the group is examining the morphology of normal human aortic valves to determine what types of cells are present before implantation. From the results of this study the group may be able to determine what some of the complex responses are and how they may be prevented or encouraged as therapy for the failing aortic valve implant.

**Current Research Activities**

The progress of work in 2003 completed the laboratory work with the exception of interpretation of the histology and immunohistochemistry which is in hand at the present time. The work is the process of preparation for publication.
Audiology Department

Audiology is one of the smaller Allied Health Departments but continues to have a significant presence in clinical research and teaching. A feature of the research is a trend to collaborative projects with larger research groups. The annual contribution to university teaching has increased to 36 student placements.

The focus of the acoustic neuroma research continues to be the early detection of those tumours that are most likely to grow and thus require intervention. The study has been extended to include the radiological and histological aspects of the tumours. In addition, the collaboration with Physiotherapy has enabled rehabilitative aspects associated with vestibular disturbances to be studied.

The research focus continues to reflect the strong links with the Ear Nose and Throat Department particularly in the area of acoustic neuromas. This collaboration has recently been extended to include the Physiotherapy Division at the University of Queensland.

The hospital-wide contribution to access initiatives for the deaf and hearing impaired patients has provided a rewarding dimension to research and development activity. This research focuses on reducing the communication barriers experienced during hospitalisation and there is an increasing emphasis on promoting higher standards in other health facilities.

... focus of the acoustic neuroma research continues to be the early detection of those tumours that are most likely to grow and thus require intervention ...
Current Research Activities

Measuring the hearing disability of children with a history of recurrent otitis media. (PhD Research).

Prediction of hearing outcomes in acoustic neuroma surgery: Correlation between audiological results, magnetic resonance imaging, surgical findings, and histopathological appearance (PhD Research).

Comparison of dizziness and postural control disturbance between subjects with persistent whiplash associated disorder and subjects with unilateral vestibular pathology.

The following projects were completed:

• Assessment of noise levels in an Intensive Care Unit.
• The value of Electroneuronography as an outcome measure of facial nerve function following acoustic neuroma surgery.
• A comparison of the hearing outcomes from different surgical approaches to cerebellopontine angle tumours.
• Wavelet analysis of the auditory brainstem response during acoustic tumour removal.

Financial Support

$3,500 Development Grant from the Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation for the establishment of a Database for Acoustic Neuroma Patients (David Brown-Rothwell).

$1,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Research and Education Trust, “Differential Diagnosis and Management of Acoustic Tumours: Establishment of Database.” (David Brown-Rothwell)

Lectures and Presentations

Keogh, T
Otitis Media – Audiological Perspectives. Queensland Paediatricians Conference

Middle Ear Infections – Long term effects on auditory perception. The 43rd PAH Week

Towers, E
Hearing Loss and Hospitals. Better Hearing Australia

Tinnitus: Evaluation and Management. Invited Lecture to Year 2 Audiology Students. The University of Queensland

Post Graduate Students

Daniela Ferris, MAudS (graduated 2003)
Miriam Hewitt, MAudS (graduated 2003)
Steven Lowry, MAudS (graduated 2003)

Public Service Relevant to Research

David Brown-Rothwell
Member, Princess Alexandra Hospital Allied Health Research Committee

Member, Princess Alexandra Hospital Research Committee

Dr Julie Thomason
Queensland State President Audiological Society of Australia.

Evelyn Towers
Member, Panel of Experts Committee on Access Issues, Audiological Society of Australia.
Breast and Endocrine Department

The Breast and Endocrine Department at Princess Alexandra Hospital aims to provide comprehensive management of breast and endocrine surgical conditions within a multi-disciplinary setting. Breast cancer is managed in conjunction with the Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology Units.

Surgeons meet on a weekly basis with clinicians from the other disciplines in the “Breast Referral Multi-disciplinary Clinic” to ensure that “state of the art” breast cancer treatment is provided in keeping with nationally accepted best practice guidelines. The respective surgeons work closely with the BreastScreen Queensland Brisbane South Service so that surgical expertise is provided for screening, assessment and diagnosis of early stage breast cancer as well as its management.

The unit is also involved in the collection of data for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) National Breast Cancer Audit of all breast cancers presenting to the hospital. Endocrine disorders are managed where appropriate in conjunction with the Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology and a weekly combined clinic is held to review difficult cases.

The unit plays a role in both undergraduate and post-graduate teaching of breast and endocrine surgical conditions.

... provide comprehensive management of breast and endocrine surgical conditions within a multi-disciplinary setting ...

Staff
Dr Neil Wetzig
Dr Ian Bennett
Dr David Wilkinson
Dr Petar Vujovic
Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS
RACS SNAC Trial: A randomised controlled trial of sentinel node biopsy versus axillary clearance in the management of breast cancer
Phase III BIG 1-98 Trial: Postmenopausal women with operable receptor positive breast cancer (Letrozole versus Tamoxifen as adjuvant treatment) (double blinded) In conjunction with Medical Oncology (Dr E Walpole)

Financial Support
Breast Cancer Association of Queensland, RACS SNAC trial, For Queensland component of trial (Neil R Wetzig)

Publications

Abstracts which have been published
Bennett, IC. Intraoperative ultrasound guided excision of impalpable breast lesions. ANZJ Surg Vol 73 Supp May 2003, A5, BS15

Articles accepted for publication
Ung O; Gill G; Wetzig N.R et al on behalf of the RACS SNAG Group. Australian Experience and trial in Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy. Asian J of Surg (accepted for publication 2003)

Lectures and Presentations
Dr Neil Wetzig
As Invited Speaker:
Microdochectomy: How I Do It, RACS Annual Scientific Congress, Brisbane May 2003
Sentinel Node and Internal Mammary Node Biopsy: How I Do It, RACS Annual Scientific Congress, Brisbane May 2003
Sentinel Node Biopsy Update, Asian Surgical Association Meeting, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia December 4-6 2003
Minimally Invasive Breast Surgery, Asian Surgical Association Meeting, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia December 4-6 2003
Management of Lymphoedema, Asian Surgical Association Meeting, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia December 4-6 2003

Dr David Wilkinson
Presenter and facilitator, Symposium on Incidental Adrenal Tumours, RACS ASC Brisbane, May 2003
Presenter and facilitator, Symposium on Strategies in Parathyroid Exploration, RACS ASC Brisbane, May 2003
Presenter, Techniques of Nerve-Sparing Axillary Dissection, RACS ASC Brisbane, May 2003
(invited)
Presentations to GP Groups, Breast Cancer in Young Women, Mater Private Hospital
Presentations to GP Groups, Advances in Breast Cancer Management, Gold Coast Hospital

Dr Ian Bennett
Symposium: Ultrasound for General surgeons, Ultrasound, A New Direction for Breast Surgeons. RACS ASC Brisbane, May 2003
(invited)
Distant Recurrence: Timing, Pattern, Prognosis – Who are long-term survivors? RACS ASC Brisbane, May 2003
Free Paper: Intraoperative ultrasound guided excision of impalpable breast lesions. RACS ASC Brisbane, May 2003
Ultrasound for breast surgeons seminar and workshop, Brisbane 26 July 2003, conducted and chaired.

Public Service Relevant to Research
Dr Neil Wetzig
Co-Chair RACS SNAC Trial Management Committee
Chair Queensland Co-operative Oncology Group Breast Group
RACS Representative BreastScreen Queensland Quality Management Committee
Editorial Board World Journal of Surgery
Cardiothoracic Surgery Department

The Cardiothoracic Surgery Department is a tertiary referral unit established in 1998. The Department provides a comprehensive adult cardiothoracic surgery service to the Southern Area Health District. The department is accredited for advanced training with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Collaborative research projects are currently being undertaken with the Cardiology Department and the Cardiovascular Imaging Research Group.

For the last two years the Cardiothoracic Surgical Registrars have won the prize for ‘Best Registrar Paper’ at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Annual Scientific Week.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS
EXPEDITION Trial – A double-blind placebo-controlled, multinational trial to investigate the effect of intravenous treatment with the Na+/H+ exchange inhibitor CARIPORIDE (HOE642) on all cause mortality and non-fatal myocardial infarction in patients at risk of myocardial necrosis during and after coronary bypass.

OTHER RESEARCH
Assessment of latent left ventricular dysfunction in asymptomatic severe valvular regurgitation. (National Heart Foundation grant. S. Wahi, T Marwick, C. Smith, J Mundy)

Lectures and Presentations

Awards
Dr Ben Anderson (Advanced Trainee) and Dr Janet Huang (Basic Surgical Trainee) – Tied winners for Best Registrar Paper. Scientific Symposium 43rd Annual PAH Week. September 2003

Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr J Mundy
Grant Application Reviewer, NHMRC
Member, Blood Transfusion Improvement Collaborative. Sydney 2003
Cardiovascular Imaging Research Group

The Cardiovascular Imaging Research Group provides clinical and research capability in cardiac imaging and image processing, including multi-modality interests that are unique in the Asia-Pacific region. This Group has expertise in new echocardiographic imaging technologies, myocardial viability, early detection of atherosclerosis, assessment of contractile reserve, and studies of how cardiac imaging techniques can influence patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness of care. This work is carried out in the research echo/stress area in the main hospital and image processing area in the Department of Medicine.

The Group offers a level of infrastructure unmatched in the region. Resources include data acquisition with three research echo/vascular ultrasound machines (plus access to additional clinical machines), equipment for exercise and pharmacologic stress testing and VO2 analysis. Some of these devices carry developmental software that the group are developing in tandem with industry partners. The 3-dimensional echo system is unique in the region. There are fifteen networked imaging workstations, including software for measurement of myocardial velocity, strain and backscatter, contrast echocardiography, 3D analysis and automated measurement of vascular structure and function. Data from the hospital nuclear and MRI equipment can be imported using optical disk. Additional software is available for each modality.

There are postgraduate students and staff from Australia and overseas. The group offers research opportunities for Cardiology trainees (M.Phil or Ph.D), medical students (joint MB/PhD) and science graduates (Ph.D). Students are enrolled in the Department of Medicine and must meet appropriate admission criteria. Enquiries regarding the activities of the group can be directed to Professor Tom Marwick (tmarwick@soms.uq.edu.au).  
http://www.soms.uq.edu.au/cig/

... clinical and research capability in cardiac imaging and image processing, including multi-modality interests that are unique in the Asia-Pacific region ...
Current Research Activities

MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

Evaluation of myocardial structure using ultrasound backscatter and tissue Doppler. Changes in the nature of the returning sound waves may be a marker of the underlying tissue characteristics. This work has been used to identify structural changes supporting the presence of a diabetic cardiomyopathy, as well as pre-clinical changes consistent with fibrosis in hypertensive patients.

Quantification of echo techniques for detection of myocardial ischemia, using tissue Doppler techniques to measure myocardial strain and velocity. This has generated unique diagnostic approaches and further developments seek to use these techniques to access the response of myocardium to various metabolic interventions including improved diabetic control.

Use of high frequency ultrasound to follow the progression of abnormal vascular structure and function. The unique aspect of this work is the use of developmental edge-tracking software for objective quantification of vessel dimensions. These studies focus on patients with diabetes and renal disease as well as patients with heart failure. Recently, two large-scale interventional studies have been completed that examine factors influencing vascular function and thereby progression of atherosclerosis. With the arrival of Dr Karam Kostner, this will now interface with his expertise in lipid management, especially novel plasma markers of atherosclerosis (lipoprotein (a), markers of complement activation and various apolipoproteins).

Coupling of contrast agents used in echocardiography, computed tomography and nuclear magnetic resonance to delipidated lipoproteins for imaging and possibly drug delivery.

Evaluation of myocardial perfusion using contrast echocardiography. This work is unique in Australia and promises to offer a new tool to examine coronary patency and myocardial viability after heart attacks.

ASSESSMENT OF MYOCARDIAL VIABILITY

Use of echocardiography to improve clinical decision-making (mitral regurgitation, peripheral vascular disease).

New techniques of image display and recording to improve the efficiency of echocardiography and develop tele-echocardiography in Australia.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical Centres of Research Excellence – studies of cardiovascular effects of lifestyle and specific therapies for diabetes, hypertension, renal failure and obesity

Progression of CAD in end-stage renal failure

Importance of transmural distribution of scar to the diagnosis of myocardial viability

New techniques for quantitation of regional LV function

Echocardiographic and biochemical responses to anti-fibrotic therapy in LVH

Non-BP dependent adverse cardiovascular effects and genetic aspects of aldosterone excess.

NHMRC CTC: FIELD substudies on vascular structure and function (1999-)

Bristol-Myers Squibb – I-PRESERVE (2002-)

Boehringer-Ingelheim – ONTARGET study and MRI substudy co-investigator (2002-)

NIH – HAT (home automatic defibrillator) study.

Patents

“Apparatus and method for early detection of Cardiovascular Disease using Vascular Imaging” Provisional patent 2003904100

Financial Support

CURRENT NHMRC

$400,000 NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence (total funding $2,000,000 over 5 years).

$69,333 per annum ($208,000 total 2002-2005). Project grant. Development of quantitative tools for assessment of regional cardiac function by echocardiography (T Marwick).

$88,500 per annum ($265,500 total 2002-2005). Project grant. Importance of transmural distribution of viable myocardium to outcome after revascularization.

OTHER SOURCES

$50,000 per annum National Heart Foundation of Australia. Biochemical, structural and functional effects of treating fibrosis in hypertensive heart disease (T H Marwick, M Stowasser).

$50,000 per annum National Heart Foundation of Australia. Non-BP dependent adverse cardiovascular effects and genetic aspects of aldosterone excess (M Stowasser, T H Marwick).

$100,000 National Heart Foundation of Australia. Echo substudy of the IDEAL trial (T H Marwick)

$15,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation. Contrast Echocardiography (T H Marwick)

$20,189 Medical Benefits Fund of Australia. Exercise training for heart failure (N Smart, T H Marwick)

$10,000 Astra Zeneca, UNIVERSE study, Study group

$10,000 Bristol-Myers Squibb, I-PRESERVE study, Study group

$67,000 Boehringer-Ingelheim, ONTARGET study and MRI substudy, Study group

$400,000 Lipidsciences, Phase 1 Plasma Research – Key to Health
Delipidation Study (KM Kostner, K Taylor, D Colquhoun)

Publications


Marwick TH. New therapeutic approaches to myocardial viability – Selecting who will benefit. Heart Metab 2003;20:23-28


Mottram PM, Leano R, Marwick TH. Usefulness of B-type natriuretic peptide in hypertensive patients with exertional dyspnea and normal left ventricular ejection fraction and correlation with new echocardiographic indexes of systolic and diastolic function. Am J Cardiol 2003;92:1434-8.


Yuda S, Short L, Leano R, Marwick TH. A bnormal left ventricular filling with increasing age reflects abnormal myocardial characteristics independent of ischemia or hypertrophy. Am J Cardiol 2003; 91:63-67.

ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


de Backer T, Carlier S, Haluska B, Segers P, Han-Yo E, Marwick TH. More favorable improvement of arterial wall characteristics by renal transplantation than by hemodialysis. J. Amer. Coll. of Card. 2003, 41(6); 298A.

Fang Zhi You, Marwick TH. Decreased longitudinal contractility is compensated by increased radial contractility in subclinical diabetic heart disease. J. Am. Soc. of Echo. 2003, 16(5):517.


Haluska B, Short L, Mottram P, Carlier S, Marwick TH. Is a radial-aortic transfer function for total arterial compliance robust
in women and the elderly? J. Amer. Coll. of Card. 2003, 41(6); 298A.

Haluska B, Short L, Mottram P, Carlier S, Marwick TH. Is cuff pressure a surrogate for measures of total arterial compliance? J. Amer. Coll. of Card. 2003, 41(6); 287A.


Marwick TH, Case C, Vasey C, Sawada S. Development of a clinical and echocardiographic score for assigning risk of major events after exercise and dobutamine echocardiograms. J. Amer. Coll. of Card. 2003, 41(6); 471A.


Nelson C, McCrohon J, Rose S, Marwick TH. Extent and not nature of dysfunctional myocardium is the main determinant of B-type natriuretic peptide in patients with ischemic left ventricular dysfunction. J. Amer. Coll. of Card. 2003, 41(6); 143A.


Yuda S, Fang ZY, Leano R, Marwick TH. Is quantitative interpretation likely to increase sensitivity of dobutamine stress echocardiography? A study of false negative results. J. Am. Soc. of Echo. 2003, 16(5); 564.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Kostner K. Treatment of elevated Lp(a). In print Handbook of Experimental Pharmacology (Springer)


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Marwick TH, Case C, Leano R, Short L, Baglin T, Cain C, Garrahy P. Use of tissue doppler imaging to facilitate the prediction of events in patients with abnormal left ventricular function by dobutamine echocardiography. Am J Cardiol 2003 (in press)

Mottram PM, Haluska B, Yuda S, Leano R, Marwick TH. Patients with a hypertensive response to exercise have impaired systolic function without diastolic dysfunction or left ventricular hypertrophy. J Am Coll Cardiol 2004 (in press)


Lectures and Presentations


“New modalities to improve accuracy of stress echo” (Plenary session); “Development of a clinical and echo score for assigning risk of major events after exercise and dobutamine echocardiograms” (abstract).


“Coronary artery distribution and stress echocardiography”; Queensland DMU preparation course (Faculty) Wesley Hospital, Brisbane; May 2003

“Controversy corner – Evaluation of viability with echo” (Plenary) ANZ Society of Nuclear Medicine, Sydney, May 2003

“Cardiovascular disease and renal failure” (Plenary) Renal Society of Australia. Brisbane, May 2003

“Echocardiography in the catheterization laboratory” (Session chair, organizer) – including lectures on Myocardial viability, Role of echo in TASH, EuroPCR, Paris May 2003


ASEANZ CV and Lipid Forum (Chair, Organizing committee), Melbourne, May 2003

“Echo for clinical measurement and pathophysiology” (Chair); “Characterizing the myocardium”; “Quantitation of stress echo”; “Methods of assessing RV function” (Faculty) Port Douglas Heart meeting, May 2003, Pt Douglas.
“Should we examine the heart or the myocardium?” (Annual Feigenbaum lecture).
“Rationale for the quantification of regional myocardial function during stress echocardiography.” (Plenary session).
“Doppler myocardial imaging in myocardial ischaemia” (Chairman’s summary), “Getting the most out of stress echo” (Chair, FOCUS session), “Imaging ischaemic heart failure: echocardiography and beyond. Live from Vienna (Chair, FOCUS session), 24th Congress of the European Society of Cardiology, Vienna, August 2003.
“Stress echocardiography for valvular heart disease”; “Doppler myocardial imaging” (Echo for viability – lessons from contrast-enhanced MRI); “Heart muscle disease in diabetes” (Echo Seoul, September 2003.
“Stress echocardiography 2004 – Do we need 3D, contrast, tissue Doppler and strain?” (Plenary session), “Approaches to quantifying LV function” (Moderator), “How to perform contrast echocardiography” (How To Session).

**Post Graduate Students**
Dr Peter Cain, PhD (completed 2003)
Dr Robert Fathi, PhD (completed 2003)
Dr Ben Fang, PhD (in progress)
Dr P Mottram, PhD (in progress)
Dr C Nelson, MPhil (in progress)
Mr N Smart, PhD (in progress)
Dr S Moir, PhD (commenced 2003)
Dr L Hanekom, PhD (commenced 2003)
Dr D Rakshit, MPhil (commenced 2003)

**Awards**
**Tom Marwick**
Feigenbaum lecture, American Society of Echocardiography 2003

**Peter Cain**
Tyrr Prize, University of Queensland 2003

**Neil Smart, Brian Haluska**
Finalists, Affiliate Prize, Cardiac Society of ANZ.

**Phillip Mottram**
NHF scholarship 2002-5” Cardiac fibrosis and the Genesis of Diastolic Heart Failure “

**Public Service Relevant to Research**

**Professor Tom Marwick – Grant/Promotions Reviewer**
NHMRC Grant Reviewer
Chair, NHF Research Committee

**Professor Tom Marwick – Committees**
Chair, Scientific Committee, Cardiac Society of ANZ meeting, 2004
Echo guidelines committee, Cardiac Society of Aust NZ
Cardiovascular Health Advisory group, Natl Heart Foundation
Medicare Services Advisory Committee, Dept of Health and Aged Care
Cardiac Imaging group, Dept of Health and Aged Care

Health Sciences Faculty Research Committee

**Dr Karam Kostner – Committees**
Chair, Scientific Committee, German Clinical Lipidology Society 2003
Scientific Organizing Committee, German Clinical Lipidology Society 2004
Scientific Organizing Committee, World Congress Clinical Nutrition, Brisbane, 2004
Austrian Society Cardiology, founding and nucleus member of section: Atherosclerosis Thrombosis and Vascular Biology

**Professor Tom Marwick – Editorial Reviewer**
Annals of Internal Medicine
American Journal of Cardiology
American Journal of Medicine
American Heart Journal, Editorial Board
Heart Circulation
European Heart Journal
European Journal of Echocardiography, Editorial Board
Journal of the American College of Cardiology
Journal of the American Medical Association
Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography, Editorial Board
Internal Medicine Journal
Korean Journal of Cardiovascular Disease
Editorial Board

**Dr Karam Kostner – Editorial Reviewer**
Eur J Clin Investigation Editorial Board
Atherosclerosis
Atherosclerosis Thrombosis Vascular Biology
European Heart Journal
Journal of Lipid Research
Clin Chim Acta
Heart
Lipids

**Professor Tom Marwick – Annual Scientific Sessions Reviewer**
American College of Cardiology
American Heart Association
American Society of Echocardiography
American Heart Association
Cardiac Society of Australia & NZ

**Dr Karam Kostner – Annual Scientific Sessions Reviewer**
European Heart
German Society Clin Lipidology
World Congress Clinical Nutrition
The Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research has now over ninety researchers and students. The research activities of the Research Teams are divided into two major Programs – Immunology and Cancer Cell Biology.

The centre has translational research programs in the fields of skin cancer, leukaemia, diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis.

**CANCER BIOLOGY PROGRAM**

The Cancer Biology program exploits the biology of cancers to develop new anti-cancer therapies. The Cancer Biology program includes the Research Teams of Associate Professor Nicholas Saunders (epithelial cell differentiation), Dr Brian Gabrielli (cell cycle control), Dr Nigel Macmillan (virus host interactions) and Professor Tom Gonda (oncogenes in leukaemia and breast cancer).

Major highlights in 2003 included the appointment of Professor Tom Gonda to the cancer biology program. Tom’s work on leukemogenesis and his considerable experience in academia and industry will strengthen the translational research of the program, which aims to develop new approaches to the management of cancer. The cancer biology program is an integral component of the Cancer Research Collaborative, which has been established on the Princess Alexandra Hospital campus in the last year, aided by a major grant from the Queensland Cancer Fund, and bringing to local the research program a bench to bedside approach to cancer control.

**IMMUNOLOGY PROGRAM**

The Immunology Program focuses on understanding immune physiology to design better therapeutics.

The Immunology program includes the Research Teams of Professor Ranjeny Thomas (dendritic cell biology) and Professor Ian Frazer (epithelial tumour immunology).

The appointment in 2003 of two centre funded research fellows to 5 year appointments gives the centre opportunity for further growth in these areas, as well as providing for training of the next generation of research team leaders.

The centre's priority for 2004 and beyond will be to expand the number of graduate students working with the research teams.
CANCER BIOLOGY PROGRAMME
Molecular Oncogenesis Group
Professor Tom Gonda
Dr Kathleen Murphy
Ms Joanne Russell

Molecular Virology
Dr Nigel McMillan
Dr Pia Martensen
Dr Annika Antonsson
Mrs Elizabeth Payne
Mrs Liliana Munoz
Mr Tom Fothergill
Mr Daniel Clarke
Mr Aaron Irving
Ms Lani Hardy
Mrs Kylie Hengst

Epithelial Pathobiology
Dr Nicholas A. Saunders
Ms Alison L. Dahler
Ms Louise Knop
Mr Liam Barnes
Dr Claudia Popa
Dr Maggie Auret
Ms Chung Fai Wong

Cell Cycle Group
Dr Brian Gabrielli
Dr Heather Beamish
Mr Angus Harding
Ms Nichole Giles
Mr Andrew Burgess
Ms Robyn Warrener
Dr Leonore De Boer
Mr Yu Qian Chau

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITY
Ms Michelle Latimer
Ms Kelly Minto

Current Research Activities
G2 phase cdk2/cyclin A co-ordinates multiple pathways in G2/M progression
Histone hyperacetylation affects G2/M cell cycle transition.
The melanoma susceptibility gene product p16 functions in a UV-induced cell cycle checkpoint in human skin.
Mitotic regulation of the Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK pathway
Mechanisms of tolerance induced by dendritic cells
Improving dendritic cell vaccines
Cardiovascular disease risk factors in rheumatoid arthritis
tRNAser(CGA) differentially regulates expression of wild type and codon modified papillomavirus L1 genes
Effects of additional codons directly downstream from the AUG on the expression of GFP gene
Codon usage determines differentiation-dependent expression of papillomavirus capsid genes in keratinocytes in vitro

The Molecular virology laboratory has active research projects investigating the evasion of the Interferon system by the viruses, the role of Interferon induced proteins in cancer formation, the use of RNA interference to treat cervical cancer and viral-mediated cellular signalling

CLINICAL TRIALS
DNA microarray studies in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia role of PKR in the formation of chronic lymphocytic leukemia

Patents
US Provisional patent 60/40313: 12 Aug 2002.
Thomas, R and O’Sullivan BJ.
Immunomodulating compositions, processes for their production and uses therefor. PCT stage.
Virus like particle vaccines for prevention of cervical cancer
(Issued US,AUS,EUR) IH Frazer and Jian Zhou
(Priority dates 1991 - 1995)
Therapeutic vaccines for Cervical Cancer
(Issued US, AUS, EUR) IH Frazer, R Tindle
(some also with CSL) (Priority dates 1990-1993)
Codon modification to optimise gene expression
(Issued US, AUS, pending EUR) IH Frazer, Jian Zhou
(Priority dates 1997 -2003)
Ubiquitination to optimise combined prophylactic/Therapeutic vaccines.
(Issued AUS, PCT stage internationally) IH Frazer (Priority date 1999)

Financial Support
CURRENT NHMRC
$105,000 Immunoregulatory immune responses to a peripherally presented tumour antigen (IH Frazer)
$160,000 Effective Immunotherapy for HPV associated cervical cancer precursor lesions (IH Frazer, G Leggatt, R Thomas)
$86,666 CTL avidity as a determinant of the macthe antigen specific immune response (GR Leggatt, IH Frazer)
$78,500 Queensland Cancer Fund How does tRNA correlate with codon usage to regulate the expression of papillomavirus late genes (KN Zhao, IH Frazer)
$107,000 Equipment Grant Array WoRx-e Microarray Scanner System
$174,000 HPV and Cervical Carcinoma: signalling and clinical responses to interferons (McMillan, Ralph, Laminin)
$75,000 Optimising Immunity towards Cancers by Vaccination, (G Fernando)
$140,000 DC tolerance (R Thomas)
$140,000 Arthritis models (R Thomas)
$105,000 Tolerance in skin (R Thomas, I Frazer, G Leggatt)
$100,000 G2 phase cdk2/cyclin A co-ordinates multiple pathways in G2/M progression, (B. Gabrielli)
$84,000 Equipment grant (Gabrielli, McMillan, Leggatt, Jonson, Powell)

OTHER GRANTS
$300,000 Cancer Research Institute. New York Virus Like Particles as immunotherapy for HPV associated lesions (IH Frazer)
$78,000 Queensland Cancer Fund. Evaluating
therapeutic interventions to overcome tolerance to tumour antigens (IH Frazer)


US$55,000 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDFR). DC tolerance in diabetes (R Thomas)

$73,000 Queensland Cancer Fund. Mechanism of UV induction of the melanoma susceptibility gene product p16 (B Gabrielli)

$75,000 Wesley Research Institute Predicting clinical responses of Osteogenic sarcoma to chemotherapy using gene expression profiling (S Sommerville, N Saunders, N McMillan)

$70,000 Queensland Cancer Fund “Miticotic regulation of the Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK pathway.” (B. Gabrielli, J Jancok)

$35,000, The Mardi Jackson Foundation. Equipment grant (B.Gabrielli)

$25,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation. Tolerance experiments (R Thomas, IH Frazer)

$8,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation. Cancer Biology Programme (N McMillan)

$5,000 Queensland Cancer Fund Travel Grant (B. Gabrielli)

Publications


Smithers, B, O. C., K; Macfadyen, S; Chambers, M; Greenwood, K; Boyce, A; Abdul-Jabbar, I; Barker, K; Grimmert, K; Walpole, E; Thomas, R (2003). “Clinical response after intradermal immature dendritic cell vaccination in metastatic melanoma is associated with immune response to particulate antigen.” Cancer Immunology Immunotherapy 52: 41-52.


BOOK CHAPTERS


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

Ranjeny Thomas

May 2003, Australian Rheumatology Association, Sydney.


Ian Frazer (Papillomavirus Vaccines, unless otherwise indicated)
WHO conference Manila Feb 2003. Invited Plenary Speaker
WHO conference Seoul Korea Feb 2003, Invited Plenary Speaker
Lorne Cancer Conference, Feb 2003 Invited Speaker
Eurogyn conference Paris, April 2003 Invited plenary speaker
Therapeutic Vaccines Conference ISB Los Angeles April 2003 Invited plenary speaker
WHO conference on PV vaccines, Geneva May 2003 Invited Rapporteur
October 2003 International Cytokine Society, Cairns. Original Antigenic Sin; a role for IL-10.
September 2003 WHO Geneva HPV standardisation workshop. Chair and rapporteur.
September 2003 Edward Jenner Vaccine Institute, Oxford. Invited speaker
September 2003 WEHI, Melbourne. HPV vaccines
Brisbane Immunology Group Retreat at Rydges Oasis Resort, Caloundra, August 21-22.
July 2003 International Papillomavirus Vaccine Meeting Cambridge. IL-10 mediated immune deviation following repeated vaccination

Brian Gabrielli
Beatson International Cancer Conference, Glasgow; Gordon Conference "Molecular Targets for Therapeutics", Oxford;
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, James Cook University, April 2003.
Department of Medicine, Griffith University, Gold Coast. May 2003
Children's Cancer Institute Australia, Sydney, November 2003.
Nigel McMillan
Graham Leggatt
Brisbane Immunology Group Retreat at Rydges Oasis Resort, Caloundra, August 21-22.
Germain Fernando
Australasian Society for Immunology Conference, Perth December 8-11th, 2003
Kong-Nan Zhao
December 2-5 2003 2nd Australian Virology group meeting, Fraser Island

Post Graduate Students
Mr Andrew Burgess, PhD (in progress)
Ms Robyn Warrener, PhD (commenced 2003)
Mr Yu Qian Chau, Hon's (completed 2003)
Mrs Lilianan Munoz, PhD (in progress)
Mr Tom Fothergill, PhD (in progress)
Mr Daniel Clark, PhD (in progress)
Ms Aaron Irving, PhD (completed 2003)
Ms Lisa Putrel, Bsc Hons (completed 2003)
Ms Stephanie Richards

GRADUATED 2003
Trina Stewart, Ph.D (University of Queensland)
Xiaosong Liu, Ph.D (University of Queensland)
Magdalena Serewko, Ph.D (University of Queensland)
Claudia Popa, PhD (University of Queensland)

Awards
Professor Ian Frazer
Fellowship of The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering 2003
Australian Centenary Medal 2003

Public Service Relevant to Research
Dr Brian Gabrielli
Member of NH&MRC Oncology Grant Review Panel
Organiser of the Australian Cell Cycle Workshop, Stradbroke Island.
Dr Germain Fernando
Reviewer for Journal of Immunology
Reviewer of NH&MRC grants.
Professor Ranjeny Thomas
Centre of Clinical Research Excellence Committee, NH&MRC 2002-3
Discipline Panel NH&MRC 2002-3
Adhoc reviewer for approximately 10 other national and international granting bodies, including:
Wellcome Trust International,
Whitehead Fellowships, New York,
Fondazione Telethon/ Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
Scientific Committee Arthritis Foundation of Australia – Assess, rank and recommend funding for approximately 50 grants per year
Viewpoint Editorial Team, Arthritis Research – Regular editorial comment in my speciality area for the journal
Editorial Board, Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift
Team Leader, paper reports for Arthritis Research

Primary reviewer for Journal of Immunology – 2 manuscripts/month

Professor Tom Gonda
Member, Australian Research Council Expert Advisory Committee On Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (2003-)
Member, National Breast Cancer Foundation Expert Group on Strategic Planning (2003-)
External Reviewer, Child Health Research Institute Scientific Review, June, 2003
Member, Organising Committee, 16th Lorne Cancer Conference
University of Queensland Immnstitutional Biosafety Committee
Organising committee of the Australian Virology Group annual meeting
Organising committee of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research annual meeting
Reviewer for Journal of Virology, Archives of Virology, Journal of Leukocyte Biology

COMMITTEES
Professor Ranjeny Thomas
Scientific Programme Committee, Australian Rheumatology Association
Centre for Primary Health Care – School of Population Health

The Centre for Primary Health Care is concerned with advancing the ability of health systems, services, communities and individuals to respond effectively to health issues through the application of primary health care. There is sound understanding of the social and structural determinants of health and the core principles of consumer and community participation, empowerment, partnerships, and intersectoral collaboration. Most of the research involves a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. Within this overarching framework, two significant areas of focus for the Centre are: mental health promotion and chronic illness self-management. Both represent issues that are of major importance to population health and are closely aligned with major national policy initiatives and with the School’s identified research priorities. Centre staff have particular expertise in young people’s mental health, the role of self-help organisations in the health system, and community capacity building. Staff of the Loss and Grief Unit, located within the Centre, conduct research into areas relating to many areas of loss and grief. Current projects include a 10-year follow-up of families who experienced the death of a baby and the development of a scale assessing perceptions of ability to support the bereaved.

Recent peer-reviewed publications and reports completed by Centre staff show some of the main contributions in these areas. PhDs being completed at the Centre address a variety of topics relevant to primary health care, including: psychosocial processes and the achievements of environmental organisations; social support and post-partum health; mental health of mothers’ and their children; and collaboration among non-profit organisations.

In 2003, the Centre continued to build on its strong record of evaluation, completing reviews of: Queensland Health’s 100% IN CONTROL alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention campaign for young people; and the joint State-Commonwealth Rural and Remote Suicide Prevention Program (LIFE Promotion Program). Another significant piece of work produced by the Centre was a qualitative systematic review of the literature concerning the management and care of people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in tertiary care settings, which was completed and published as a joint initiative of the National Drug Strategy and the National Mental Health Strategy.
Publications

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

REPORTS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
Quantitative Pathology

Queensland Health Pathology Services Princess Alexandra Hospital Chemical Pathology Department is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). The department provides a wide range of diagnostic, analytical and consultative services to the Princess Alexandra Hospital campus and other clinical facilities including reference services to other clients.

Chemical Pathology

Staff

Dr Peter Hickman
MBBS, PhD, MAACB, FRCPA

Dr Lee Price
MBBS (Qld), FRCPA, FRACP, MAACB

Financial Support

QHPS, Development of HPLC method to measure Diltiazem in plasma, Rebecca Mason

Publications


Lectures and Presentations


Post Graduate Students

Rebecca Mason, MSc Clinical Biochemistry (completed 2003)

Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr PE Hickman – Editorial Board Clin Chim Acta

Jill Tate (Supervising Scientist) invited by the IFCC Committee for Standardisation of Markers – Cardiac damage as the AACB representative (3 year appointment)

Invited by AACB to membership of the Working Party for Reference Intervals and also membership of the Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Committee of the AACB
Clinical Pharmacology Department

The Clinical Pharmacology laboratory is a national reference centre for monitoring many of the newer immunosuppressant drugs and has developed many specialised analytical techniques to measure drugs that aid physicians in making clinical decisions. The tacrolimus Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) service has increased by twenty percent since 2002. The department will hopefully acquire another mass spectrometer to cater for the increased demand and to provide backup.

Active research collaboration has been maintained with the Queensland Liver Transplant Services, Department of Renal Medicine at Princess Alexandra Hospital and the School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland. Research is focussed on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the newer immunosuppressant drugs.

Quality use of medicines remains the clinical focus with emphasis on drug utilisation evaluation and pharmacovigilance.

Current Research Activities

- Investigation of the effect of atorvastatin on cyclosporin pharmacokinetics in adult liver transplant recipients.
- The effect of oral iron on mycophenolate mofetil absorption in renal transplant patients.
- Factors that influence the protein binding of mycophenolic acid.
- MPA and MPAG pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics early post-renal transplant.
- Development of analytical techniques for the measurement of free and total mycophenolic acid and its glucuronide metabolite.
- Development of an analytical technique for the measurement of a novel anticancer drug, PEP005.
- Investigation of novel sample preparation techniques for bioanalysis with HPLC-tandem mass spectrometry.

Financial Support

$135,000 NHMRC Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies of the newer immunosuppressants (Tett SE, Taylor PJ, Lynch SV, Duffull SB, Pillans PI).

Publications


Taylor PJ, Morris RG (2003). Tacrolimus measurement by microparticle enzyme immunoassay II. Ther. Drug Monit. 25 (3) 259-260

Abstracts which have been published


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Clinical Services Evaluation Unit

The Clinical Services Evaluation Unit (CSEU) was established by the Princess Alexandra Hospital executive in October 2002 with the support of the Clinician Development Program. The mission of Clinical Services Evaluation Unit is to improve clinical outcomes, efficiency or services, and patient satisfaction experienced by users of the services offered by the Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Services District.

Clinical Services Evaluation Unit strives to be a centre of excellence for clinician-driven professional development, research and teaching in the disciplines of evidence-based practice, continuous practice improvement, clinical services evaluation, and clinical informatics.

The major objectives of Clinical Services Evaluation Unit are to:

- Promote the teaching, research and practice of evidence based practice and clinical service improvement.
- Provide methodological and analytical expertise in the design, implementation and evaluation of clinical care improvement methods and programs.
- Provide clinicians and managers with an information search and dissemination service that promotes awareness and adoption of innovative methods for optimising quality of care.
- Assist clinicians and managers in evaluating costs, quality and outcomes of new health care technologies and services.
**Current Service evaluation and improvement projects**

Utilisation of outpatient clinics – background literature review and research protocol development in preparation for 2004 audit

Development of an evidence-based policy relating to the use of Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) tubes

Development of electronic discharge summary currently being field tested on general medical wards

Development of bedside checklists for common medical conditions

Development of Advanced Care Directive policy - discussion paper now finalised in preparation for distribution to key stakeholders.

Optimising use of clinical investigations: An audit was designed and conducted in August/September 2003 by CSEU staff in collaboration with Dr Judy Graves and Linette Penfold from the Division of Medicine

Extended care: framework for improving aged care strategies (Collaboration with QEI, Community Health, Southside Division of GP).

Analysing use and effects of clinical indicators and feedback systems in health care; characterising and assessing influence of clinical leaders using ethnographic methods; analysing socioeconomic gradients in use of invasive cardiac procedures.

Research program in methods for improving patient safety.

Multidisciplinary collaboration involving PAH, University of Queensland, Griffith University, Queensland Health, Cognitive Institute and National Collaboration for Safe Use of Medicines.

**Clinic initiated Quality Improvement Program projects supported by CSEU:**

- Improving the delivery of supplemental oxygen therapy for patients of Princess Alexandra Hospital (Respiratory)
- PAH Hospital Wide Tracheostomy Management (Speech Pathology)
- Implementation of best clinical practice standards to reduce central line-associated blood stream infections and premature central line removal (Oncology/haematology)
- Improving cardiac arrest outcomes (Cardiac Services)
- Development of a children’s support programme to build family resilience and enhance the quality and durability of outcome of patients of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit. (ABIOS)

**Projects Completed**


**Lectures and Presentations**

**Holzhauser, K. & Johns K.**

Clinical Services Evaluation Unit – Can one unit make a difference?. PAH Week 2003

“Measuring Clinical Practice through Auditing” Multidisciplinary Southern Zone Research workshop, 2003
Colorectal Unit

The Colorectal Unit was formed in 1990 and provides a comprehensive adult colorectal service to the Southern Area Health District. The Unit receives elective, urgent and emergency referrals. Senior surgical staff provide continuous consultation and on-call service, supported by junior surgical staff. In 2003, Mrs Jodi Cooper temporarily transferred to a senior administrative position in Nursing, and her position in ward 4E has been well filled by Cathy Bent. The clinical focus is on difficult colorectal problems such as rectal cancer, complicated inflammatory bowel disease and complex perianal problems. An audit is conducted monthly relating to wound infection, thrombo-embolic disease, anastomotic leaks and mortalities in the Unit. The Princess Alexandra Hospital rates in all of these areas are very comparable with data from other major centres.

The Colorectal Project has been collecting data on colonic and rectal cancer cases handled through the unit for twenty five years. This extensive database has produced much of the Unit’s research output over the past decade, and continues to do so now with clinical studies underway on perforated colorectal cancers, large bowel obstruction, entero-vesical fistulas and colorectal trauma. In addition, there is a collaborative prospective study underway with the Department of Radiotherapy for rectal cancer.

The Unit plays an active role in graduate and postgraduate teaching at all levels in the hospital. The major thrust at the graduate level is with the third year medical students, who spend five terms, each of six weeks, at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in General Surgery. Students are tutored by, and receive seminars and lectures from consultants in the Unit every week. The unit also participates in, and coordinates the clinical training of the general surgical registrars at the hospital.
Current Research Activities

The Colorectal Unit’s main focus is with clinical studies of long term outcome in certain key areas of colonic and rectal disease such as cancer and inflammatory bowel disease. A dedicated research assistant assembles all cancer patients being treated and followed by the Unit on a database, and this has been used extensively for generating retrospective studies from the Unit. A list of interesting topics requiring investigation is kept that is distributed to our junior medical staff on arrival, and they are encouraged to engage in one of these during their stay. Several registrars have taken some of these through to completion and publication. Current registrar topics include retrospective studies on the influence of perforation of colorectal carcinoma on outcome, enterovesical fistula and carcinoid tumours treated at Princess Alexandra Hospital, and an update of our previously published study on iatrogenic colorectal trauma at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Royal Brisbane Hospital and the Mater Hospital. The results of stapled haemorrhoidectomy at Princess Alexandra Hospital are under investigation, and a prospective study comparing short and long course radiotherapy given preoperatively for rectal cancer is also underway in conjunction with the Department of Radiotherapy. Studies have been mounted measuring the effectiveness of our teaching of undergraduate and, more recently, graduate medical students at the University of Queensland by using longitudinal instruments such as pre- and post-testing during 5th year and 3rd year respectively.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Long course versus short course radiotherapy for low rectal cancer. Collaborative study with the PAH Department of Radiotherapy. Intergroup trial involving trans-Tasman Oncology Group and the Australian Gastrointestinal Trials Group as well as the Colorectal Society of Australasia and the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery of the RACS. This is a randomized trial of preoperative radiotherapy for Stage T3 adenocarcinoma of rectum.

Financial Support

$10,000 Johnson & Johnson, “General Surgical Lists and Reminders”, 5th Edition. (Dr Brian Miller) $5000 J&J and Tyco, Colorectal Project (Dr Jon Cohen) $750 Johnson & Johnson, Neville Davis Surgical Registrar research prize (Dr Brian Miller)

Publications


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


Lectures and Presentations


Awards

Dr Brian Miller Inaugural RACS Gordon Trinca Medal for Contribution to Trauma Care and Education in Trauma, in Australasia, May 2003. The Mervyn Neely Memorial Award for Excellence in Surgical Teaching at University of Queensland, July 2003.

Public Service Relevant to Research

Theile, DE Reviewer for articles submitted to the “Medical Journal of Australia”.

Miller, BJ Reviewer for articles submitted to the Journal “Injury”, and the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.

Schache, DS Reviewer for articles submitted to the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.

Cohen, JR Reviewer for articles submitted to the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.

Publications


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


Lectures and Presentations


Awards

Dr Brian Miller Inaugural RACS Gordon Trinca Medal for Contribution to Trauma Care and Education in Trauma, in Australasia, May 2003. The Mervyn Neely Memorial Award for Excellence in Surgical Teaching at University of Queensland, July 2003.

Public Service Relevant to Research

Theile, DE Reviewer for articles submitted to the “Medical Journal of Australia”.

Miller, BJ Reviewer for articles submitted to the Journal “Injury”, and the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.

Schache, DS Reviewer for articles submitted to the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.

Cohen, JR Reviewer for articles submitted to the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.

Publications


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


Lectures and Presentations


Awards

Dr Brian Miller Inaugural RACS Gordon Trinca Medal for Contribution to Trauma Care and Education in Trauma, in Australasia, May 2003. The Mervyn Neely Memorial Award for Excellence in Surgical Teaching at University of Queensland, July 2003.

Public Service Relevant to Research

Theile, DE Reviewer for articles submitted to the “Medical Journal of Australia”.

Miller, BJ Reviewer for articles submitted to the Journal “Injury”, and the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.

Schache, DS Reviewer for articles submitted to the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.

Cohen, JR Reviewer for articles submitted to the “ANZ Journal of Surgery”.
Dermatology Department

The Department of Dermatology provides outpatient, day care and inpatient services relating to general medical and surgical dermatology. Medical staff are visiting medical officers with two full time registrars, two part time registrars, a research assistant and an RMO. Sub-specialist clinics include a pigmented lesion clinic, laser surgical clinic and specialist dermatologic surgical clinics.

Several members of the visiting medical staff of the hospital held public service positions outside the hospital but relevant to dermatology during 2003. These include: Dr John Auld (President Australasian College of Dermatologists), Dr Caroline Mercer (Board of Censors Australasian College of Dermatologists), Dr Brian De’Ambrosis (Chairman, Queensland Faculty Australasian College of Dermatologists), Dr Robert Sinclair (Chairman, AMA Foundation).

Current Research Activities

Two clinical trials have been conducted in the Department during 2003.

OTAU04-IMIQ. This open labeled study investigates the efficacy and safety of Imiquimod 5% cream applied topically as an adjunct for the treatment of non-aggressive nodular basal cell carcinoma. The trial involves the screening and biopsy of target lesions, weekly and second weekly review of progress and eventual excision of treated areas. Patients are seen 6-10 times over sixteen weeks. Over 40 lesions were screened in 17 patients. The trial is ongoing and completion is expected in mid-2004.

1413-IMIQ. This trial investigates the treatment of superficial BCCs with Imiquimod 5% cream. This is an ongoing project now in the second of five years. 14 patients were initially enrolled. 12 and 24 month follow up visits were conducted during 2003 involving review of treated sites and photography.

No serious adverse events have occurred in either trial. Research activities occupied one full day a week for the research assistant. Ethics Committee approval and regulation has been complied with.
The Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology was formally established as a Unit in 1978 bringing together the Diabetic Clinic and the Endocrine Clinic services, which were established 14 and 17 years ago respectively.

RESEARCH

The main research interests of the Department include Diabetes (Type I and II), Obesity, Insulin Resistance and Endocrine Cancers. The Department, which is based at Brisbane’s Princess Alexandra Hospital, is part of the School of Medicine – University of Queensland and houses an independently-funded research program.

The team is internationally recognized for research into obesity made possible through a long-standing research program investigating factors that regulate fat cell growth in humans. This is one of the few laboratories in the world to carry out research on human adipose tissue and cells derived from such tissue. Scientists and clinicians within the laboratory have expertise in cell and molecular biology, clinical research, and clinical endocrinology including obesity and diabetes.

Obesity and related health problems are a major cause of morbidity and mortality throughout the developed and developing world and causes considerable economic consequences. The 2000 AUSDIAB survey in Australia revealed 47% of adults are overweight and 20% are considered obese. Obesity leads to many medical complications including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and depression. Australian government data show obesity to be the 5th largest cause of disease burden (AUSDIAB).

There are two groups headed by Professor Prins and Dr Whitehead as follows:

Prins Group: The main aim of this work is to investigate the relationship between obesity and insulin resistance. Specific projects involve investigation of human adipose cell acquisition and loss, insulin action and insulin signal transduction, and specific roles of transcription factors and hormones in adipose tissue and insulin resistance.

Whitehead Group: The main activity of this group is to investigate insulin signalling pathways using in-vitro cell systems. Specific projects involve the molecules insulin receptor substrate-1 (IRS-1) and inosine 5’-monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH).

This research has led to the formation of AdipoGen Pty Limited. AdipoGen is a venture capital backed, ‘start-up’ company with current shareholders including: UniQuest Pty Limited, Queensland Government, and UniSeed Pty Limited. The company was formed with a $330k seed fund from UniSeed Pty Ltd in 2003. Professor Prins is the Scientific Director of the company, which
Sr Vanessa Campbell  
RN, Clinical Trial Coordinator (CTC)

Sr Christine Watts  
RN, CTC

Sr Beth Haseman  
B.Nurs, RN, CTC

Sr Jane Sorbello  
B.Nurs, RN, CTC

VISITING MEDICAL OFFICERS

Dr Alpha Yap  
MBBS, PhD, FRACP, Part-time  
Endocrinologist

Dr Lee Price  
MBBS, PhD, FRACP, Part-time  
Endocrinologist

Dr Michelle Leong  
MBBS, FRACP, Part-time  
Endocrinologist

Dr Christine Rowland  
MBBS, FRACP, Part-time  
Endocrinologist

Dr Anna Thomas  
MBBS, FRACP, Part-time  
Endocrinologist

Dr Brian Hirschfeld  
MBBS, Diabetologist

Dr Alan Stocks  
AM, MBBS, FRCPE, FRACP, Emeritus  
Physician Dept of Diabetes and Endocrinology

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Ms Elaine Thomas  
BSc, Research Scientist

has US patent protection. This company has been formed to undertake commercialisation of a novel anti-obesity therapeutic and has provided funds for the proof-of-concept research program underpinning the technology. A board of experienced individuals has been formed, with track records in commercialising early stage biotechnologies. AdipoGen is interested in the development of novel treatment strategies for obesity and overweight that will benefit both Australia and the world.

CLINICAL

The Diabetes and Endocrinology Department provides a tertiary level in- and out-patient clinical service in diabetes and endocrinology. The service includes consultancy to other departments and services within the hospital and an outreach service every two months to Mt Isa Base Hospital. The clinical service is supported by a laboratory providing a genetic screening service for Australasia for inherited disorders of endocrine tumours and calcium regulation abnormalities.

TEACHING

Professor John Prins, Dr Trisha O’Moore-Sullivan and Dr Anthony Russell have extensive roles in the education and training of clinicians, scientists, graduate and undergraduate students, involving lectures, tutorials and clinical bedside coaching.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

A multicentre, double-blind, randomised, placebo and active controlled dose range finding study of L-000224715 in patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus who have inadequate glycaemic control.

Normalisation of calcium and vitamin D status and the effects of S12911 on the incidence of new vertebral fractures and peripheral fractures in postmenopausal osteoporotic women.

A double blind, randomized, placebo controlled study to evaluate the effects of different doses of testosterone from a Metered-Dose Transdermal Spray (MTDS®) on sexual function in pre-menopausal osteoporotic women.

A double blind, randomized, placebo controlled study to evaluate the effects of different doses of testosterone from a Metered-Dose Transdermal Spray (MTDS®) on sexual function in pre-menopausal osteoporotic women.


An open-label trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of fixed dose rosiglitazone/metformin combination therapy in poorly-controlled subjects with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

A randomised, double-blind trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of fixed dose rosiglitazone/metformin combination therapy compared to both rosiglitazone and metformin monotherapies in drug-naïve type 2 diabetes mellitus subjects.

A multicentre, multinational, randomised, open study to establish the optimal method for initiating and maintaining Lantus" (insulin glargine) therapy based on a comparison of two treatment algorithms to determine optimal metabolic outcomes, safety, and satisfaction in subjects with Type II Diabetes Mellitus.

A phase IV, multinational, multicentre, randomised, open study to establish the optimal method for initiating and maintaining Lantus" (insulin glargine) therapy based on a comparison of two treatment algorithms in subjects with Type 1 diabetes mellitus.

A 24 month multicentre, open-label, randomized, parallel group, long term safety trial comparing intensive treatment of pulmonary inhaled human insulin with insulin aspart administered s.c., both in combination with NPH, in subjects with type 1 diabetes.

Phase 3, Randomized, D/B, Placebo Controlled Multicenter Trial to evaluate the Safety & Efficacy of BMS-298585 in Combination with Glyburide Therapy in Subjects with Type 2 Diabetes who have Inadequate glycemic control on Sulfonylurea Therapy alone.

Phase 3, Randomized, D/B, Placebo Controlled Multicenter Trial to evaluate the Safety & Efficacy of BMS-298585 in Combination with Metformin Therapy in Subjects with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus who have inadequate glycemic control on Metformin alone.


A phase 2b, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to assess the efficacy, safety and tolerability of 12 weeks treatment with AOD9604 on weight and fat loss in obese adults.

Pioglitazone versus placebo in combination with insulin therapy in patients with Type 2 Diabetes who are unable to achieve adequate glycemic control with insulin therapy.

Long-term efficacy of pioglitazone versus gliclazide in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus – A one year extension study of H6E-MC-GLAG.

Pregabalin open-label extension trial in patients with painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

An open-labelled, randomised, parallel group, multi-centre, multinational trial comparing the glycaemic control obtained after treatment with Insulin Aspart and Human Soluble Insulin in patients with Type 1 diabetes treated on a basal-bolus regimen.

A 7 month multicentre, multinational, randomised double blind study of the effect of Mitiglinide in combination with Metformin or Mitiglinide as monotherapy for the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes followed by a 5 month open label treatment with Mitiglinide-Metformin combination.

An open-label safety study of Duloxetine in patients with painful diabetic neuropathy.

OTHER RESEARCH

Characterisation of the role of FGF-1 in human adipogenesis with a view to identify therapeutic targets for the treatment of obesity.

Cytoskeletal integrity and IRS-1 function

Role of IMPDH in fatty acid storage and lipid body dynamics.

Insulin action and signalling in human liver – the effects of obesity, free fatty acids and adiponectin.

Role of 11b-Hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase (HSD) in Insulin Resistance

Investigation of appropriate testing criteria for multiple endocrine neoplasia Type 1 and insights into the epidemiology of the disease.

Identification of novel genes for familial hyperparathyroidism syndrome

Identification of activating and inactivating mutations of the calcium sensing receptor in patients with familial hyperparathyroidism.

Clinical research into the effect of lifestyle on Type II diabetes

Investigation of the effects of fatty acids on glucose transport and insulin action in human adipose cells.

Contribution of novel glucose transporters and activated GLUT4 to...
basal and insulin-stimulated glucose uptake in human subcutaneous and omental adipose tissue.

Influence of the medium collected from thiazolidinedione-treated adipose tissue explants on the insulin sensitivity of human muscle cells.

Study of impaired non-insulin mediated glucose uptake in obesity and pregnancy examining the mechanisms regulating hyperosmolar induced glucose uptake in human adipose tissue.

**Patents**

US patent number PCT/AU03/00826 entitled “Differentiation modulating agents and uses therefore” filed on June 27, 2002

**Financial Support**

$47,500 National Heart Foundation of Australia. Fibroblast growth factor-1 (aFGF) – A key signalling molecule in human adipogenesis? (JB Prins)

$250,000 Biostart. FGF-1 project (JB Prins)

$76,000 Innovation Start Up Scheme (ISUS). Antibody Drug Prototype (JB Prins)

$90,000 Mayne Bequest Research Programme. A Research Program in the Metabolic Syndrome (JB Prins)

$400,000 NHMRC CCRE Grant. “Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Cardiovascular Disease and Metabolic Disorders” (Marwick TH, Prins JB)

$40,000 Diabetes Australia Research Trust. Investigation into the Molecular Coordination of Insulin Signalling (J Whitehead)

$20,000 Eli Lilly 2003 Endocrinology Research Programme, Investigation into the Molecular Coordination of IRS-1 Signalling (J Whitehead)

$65,000 Lions Senior Medical Research Fellowship, Investigation into Insulin Action and Insulin Resistance (J Whitehead)

$25,000 Novo Nordisk Regional Diabetes Support Scheme, Role of 110b-Hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase (HSD) in Insulin Resistance (Su-Mien Yeoh)

**Publications**


**ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION**


Macdonald GA, Prins JB. Peroxosomal fatty acid metabolism, PPARs and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. In Press.


**ABSTRACTS**


Sweet A, Prins J, Hayward N. Cardinal J. Characterisation of the MEN1 promoter. Annual Queensland Health And Medical Scientific Meeting Brisbane, November 2003.

Sweet A, Prins J, Hayward N. Cardinal J. Characterisation of the MEN1 promoter. 46th Annual Scientific Meeting. The Endocrine Society of Australia Proceedings 2003, p146

Thomas E, James DE, Whitehead JP. Searching for Insulin Receptor Substrate-1 (IRS-1) Anchoring Proteins (IAPs) ADS and ADEA Scientific Meetings Proceedings Sept 2003, Melbourne p122


Warner J, Cardinal J, Prins JB. Genetic Testing in Familial Isolated Hyperparathyroidism:
Unexpected Results and their Implications. Annual Queensland Health and Medical Scientific Meeting Brisbane, November 2003.

Lectures and Presentations

**Professor John Prins**
Management of Diabetes, QRMSA, Tugan. 11/3/03

Diabetic cardiomyopathy and the metabolic syndrome. Eli Lilly Directions in Diabetes Conference, Melbourne, 21/3/03

Cardiovascular hormones made by fat, Novo Nordisk Registrar Training Weekend, Sydney, 22/3/03

Diabetes and heart disease. MSD Queensland Cardiology Clinical Weekend. Brisbane. 5/4/03

Obesity and diabetes-associated heart disease. National Heart Foundation Scientific Meeting – Challenges in Cardiology – signposts to the future. Brisbane. 10/5/03

Antihypertensive treatment in obesity. BMS GP training evening. Brisbane. 14/5/03

A novel anti-obesity therapeutic. Novo Nordisk Symposium. Copenhagen. 20/5/03

11bHSD and human adipose tissue. Novo Nordisk Symposium. Copenhagen. 20/5/03

Energy Homeostasis and Benefits of Weight reduction. Gastroenterological Society of Queensland Update Weekend. Coolum 7/6/03

How fat talks to the liver. Gastroenterological Society of Queensland Update Weekend. Coolum 7/6/03

Diabetic and obesity cardiomyopathy. Servier Clinical Weekend. Gold Coast. 14/6/03

Obesity, Pfizer Controversies in Cardiology Clinical Weekend. Gold Coast. 21/6/03

Antihypertensive treatment in obesity. BMS GP training evening. Brisbane. 2/7/03

Diabetes and Heart disease- it's all in the fat(s). MSD Queensland Physician’s Symposium. Brisbane. 19/7/03

Heart Protection Study – relevance to diabetes. MSD GP training Meeting. Brisbane. 22/7/03

Diabetic Renal Disease. Second Kimmelstiel Meeting. Sydney. 26/7/03


Atypical antipsychotics and diabetes. Psychiatry Training Evening. 26/8/03

FGF and human adipogenesis. IMB Seminar. Brisbane. 28/8/03

Growth factors and human adipogenesis. Kolling Institute Lecture Series. Sydney. 3/9/03

Making money out of research. PAH Week. Brisbane. 4/9/03

Obesity and Syndrome X. Royal Australasian College of Physicians Lecture Series. Brisbane. 10/9/03

Managing the metabolic syndrome. Australian Diabetes Society annual scientific meeting. Melbourne. 19/9/03

Obesity investigation and management. Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists. Gold Coast. 24/9/03

Sweet Hearts – sometimes not so good. Diabetes and the Metabolic Syndrome Clinical Weekend. Sydney. 18/10/03

Managing hypertension in obesity and renal disease. BMS GP education evening. Brisbane. 9/10/03

MEN1. Human Genetics Society of Australasia Lecture Series. Brisbane. 14/10/03

Management of hyperprolactinaemia in psychiatry. Association of Psychiatric Nurses. Brisbane. 18/10/03

Management of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Lecture to Delegation of Chinese Endocrinologists. Brisbane. 19/11/03


Thiazolidinediones in Type 2 diabetes. Glaxo GP training evening. Brisbane. 2/12/03

Dr O’Moore Sullivan

The Past and Present of Diabetes Management – We’ve always had diet and we’ve always had drugs. Invited symposium lecture. Australian Diabetes Association Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, September 2003.

Dr Russell

Post Graduate Students

Tony Russell, PhD (in progress)

Trisha O’Moore-Sullivan, PhD (in progress)

Janet Warner, PhD (in progress)

Su Mien Yeoh, MPhil (completed 2003)

David Chambers, MBBS/PhD (in progress)

Alison Sweet, PhD (completed 2003)

Felicity Newell, PhD (completed 2003)

Jenny Grant, PhD (completed 2003)

Sylvie St-Pierre, PhD, (completed 2003)

Thor Friis, Honours, Completed in 2003

Michael Keogh, MPH (in progress)

Louise Smith, PhD (completed 2003)

Tara Carton, PhD (in progress)

Awards

Dr Louise Hutley, recipient of Smart State Fellowship, December 2, 2003

Public Service Relevant to Research

Professor John Prins

Committees

Specialist Advisory Committee for Endocrinology of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians; Scientific organizing committees for the Australian Diabetes Society Annual Scientific meeting (2003-2006), the International Congress of Obesity (2006) and the principal organizer of the biannual NovoNordisk Scientific Meeting for Australasia; Research Committees of both Princess Alexandra Hospital and the University of Queensland’s Department of Medicine; Chair of the General Clinical Training Committee at Princess Alexandra Hospital; Advisory boards for Government, NGOs and Pharmaceutical Companies.

Review Panels

Grant review panels for NHMRC and Eli Lilly, and regularly reviews grants for the NHMRC, Heart Foundation, Diabetes Australia, MRC (UK), MRC (Hong Kong), MRC (Canada) and the Wellcome Trust (UK).

Editorial Boards

Editorial Board for an International Journal and regularly reviews papers for the leading Journals in medical science and in Diabetes and Endocrinology.

Dr O’Moore Sullivan – Committees


Dr Russell – Committee

Co-convenor for the Queensland Endocrine Group Annual Meeting 2003

Annual Research Review 2003 – Centres for Health Research Research – Key to Health
Division of Diagnostic Radiology

On any one day, there are approximately 137 staff in the Radiology Department including: 65 radiographers, 20 nurses, 18 administration officers, 10 operational officers, 4 PACS administrators and 20 medical staff. The department indirectly participates in many research studies by providing and reporting on imaging studies required as part of the research protocols.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS
Indirect involvement via production and reporting on imaging required as part of trials conducted in other departments of the hospital, mainly through the Oncology Department.

OTHER RESEARCH
Renal Volume Analysis using CT to assist in prognostication of post-operative transplant renal function.

Publications

BOOK CHAPTERS

Lectures and Presentations
Mr Paul Esdaile, PACS Administrator – Presented “Queensland Health PACS Project” to international conference on Health Care Informatics in Kuala Lumpur.
Ear Nose Throat (ENT) Department

The Ear Nose and Throat Department of the Princess Alexandra Hospital is a nationally and internationally recognised Head and Neck Cancer Unit that services the local community south of the Brisbane River and also caters for patients from all over Queensland, interstate and the Pacific Islands. This multi-disciplinary Head and Neck Clinic was established in 1978.

This department has built its reputation on its ability to obtain good results in patients with advanced head and neck cancer. It recently expanded its clinical expertise in the development of skull base surgery with Dr Ben Panizza, the development of the Voice Clinic with Dr Scott Coman and its outreach into island and native communities with Dr Chris Perry.

In 2001, the Garnett Passe Rodney Williams Foundation allocated $2 million for the establishment of the Chair in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. This was matched by funding from Queensland Health and the University of Queensland. Since the establishment of the Chair in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, there has been an immense interest in work carried out into the basic science of head and neck cancer, chronic infection and nerve regeneration. The clinic still sees over 4,223 outpatients, and carries out over 800 major surgical procedures each year.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL SERVICE AND RESEARCH

Since the establishment of the multi-disciplinary Head and Neck Clinic at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, the main focus of the Department of Otolaryngology has been in treating patients who suffer with head and neck cancer.

This centre has developed a national and international reputation for its multi-disciplinary approach to the management of patients whose cancers impact on their senses of smell, vision, hearing, taste and on vital functions such as breathing, swallowing and speaking. Each year, this clinic sees over 300 new patients and many, many more existing patients suffering from head and neck cancer.

In the past year a review of the operation of parotidectomy, which has been performed for the past 10 years, was conducted. This review has been accepted for publication in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgeons. A review of total glossectomy has been carried out, and publication of this review is imminent. In addition a review of pharyngolaryngectomies with the use of jejunal conduits for reconstruction from 1977 to 2002 is currently being undertaken and should be available for publication in the near future.
During the last year an objective of olfactory function was carried out at this hospital on patients who suffered head injury by Dr Boris Haxel, an ENT Resident from the University of Mainz in Germany, in conjunction with this department and Griffith University under the supervision of Professor Allan MacKay-Sim.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATED WITH UQ

Dr Nick Saunders who works in the Cancer Collaborative Group at this hospital has been working with this department and using clinical material from patients with head and neck cancer to study the molecular biology of head and neck cancer, in particular E2F, in the progression of tumours. It is hoped that the outcome of this research may be a method whereby the reversal of the cancer process may be achieved in tumours that are susceptible.

ACOUSTIC NERVE TUMOURS

A study has been planned for a gene array on acoustic nerve tumours in conjunction with Professor Jim Pickles and an ENT research resident Dr Viv Shridar on a gene array of these tumours. It is hoped that this gene array will indicate which genes are up-regulated and which genes are down-regulated so that a genetic pattern for these tumours can be elucidated. Once this has occurred it may be possible by using immuno-histochemistry to halt or cause tumour regression by the application of appropriate genetic proteins.

COLLABORATION WITH QIMR

This department has collaborated with QIMR in the provision of important material in tumours of the nasopharynx and has initiated a unique study in the identification of the Epstein Barr virus in these tumours. This study has had several interesting outcomes. Firstly, it has lead to the possibility of the development of an adoptive vaccine which may be useful in treating those tumours which are recurrent following surgery or radiotherapy. At the present time there are more than 12 patients enrolled in this study and a test trial of a vaccine is currently being undertaken. In addition these nasopharyngeal cancers have been studied by gene arrays and some very interesting protein markers have been discovered which may be helpful in the future determination of prognosis and treatment for these tumours. This study has been undertaken with Professor Dennis Moss, Dr Joanne Davis, Dr Azgary, Dr Brent McMonagle, Dr David Chin and Dr Michael Elliot at the QIMR.

GENE ARRAYS IN HEAD AND NECK CANCER

This study is being undertaken with Dr David Chin, Dr Glen Boyle and Professor Peter Parsons at the QIMR. Material from patients seen at the Head and Neck Clinic of this hospital have been analysed using gene array techniques. These techniques allow the discovery of those tumour proto-oncogenes which are up-regulated and the identification of those tumour suppressor genes which are down-regulated. Matched tissue from mucosa, primary tumour and metastasis is being studied and an interesting genetic pattern is emerging. Further work is being done to identify the proteins by immuno-histochemical means and hopefully this will lead to several conclusions. Firstly, it may lead to the development of a serum or salivary test for tumours. Secondly, tumour from a metastasis may be able to be used by doing a gene array to identify the primary site. Thirdly, it is hoped that eventually by using either a virus or peptide a genetic protein reversal may be effected to halt tumour growth. These studies offer great promise and the results so far are most encouraging.

COLLABORATION WITH GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Collaboration with Griffith University is being undertaken with Professor Allan MacKay-Sim and his department. In a study of chronic sinusitis with Dr Lennart Greiff and Dr Anders Cervin of Lund University, Sweden, patients have had their tissues analysed and have been treated and followed up using the drug Klacid as a therapeutic agent. Klacid acts on the molecular cell biology to reduce the production of inflammatory cytokines. In the trials undertaken both invitro and invivo there has been a 70% response to this treatment for those patients who have been regarded as having chronic sinusitis after all other methods have failed.

Studies on using olfactory ensheathing cells to penetrate glial scar in the spinal cord have been carried out in the Wistar laboratory rat. Ethical approval has been obtained and one such study has been carried out in a human paraplegic patient at Princess Alexandra Hospital and this study is currently ongoing.

Nerve regeneration studies are being carried out with Dr Brent McMonagle where olfactory ensheathing material was used as a healing promoting factor after resection of the sciatic nerve in the Wistar rat. 70% of those rats that had olfactory ensheathing material used regenerated the sciatic nerve.
comparing to 0% in the controlled rats.

**FUTURE PROSPECTS**

The current projects will be expanded, updated and continued hopefully with some outstanding results.

A new project is being undertaken using muscle from the tongue to regenerate a vocal cord. This study will first be carried out in a laboratory animal such as the rabbit and the collaborators of this study will include Dr Ann Tresize from UQ Anatomy Department, Dr Viv Shridar, Dr Scott Coman and Professor William B Coman. Dr Tresize has found that the muscle stem cell in the tongue, larynx and muscles of mastication rapidly repairs and reconstructs damaged muscle. It is hoped that this study will allow the resection of laryngeal tumours and their replacement with tongue muscle cells with the ultimate goal of being able to resect a tumour and have the end result of a functioning vocal cord and larynx.

**CLINICAL PROSPECTIVE RANDOMISED CONTROL STUDY ON LASER VERSUS RADIOTHERAPY AND FOR T1, T2 LARYNGEAL CANCER**

This is a multi-national study where patients who are enrolled in the study will be treated with either one modality i.e. laser surgery or radiation and who will have various end points measured. These end points will include local recurrent survival but also include voice, swallowing and quality of life. In addition the costs of these various treatments will be measured. At the present time there are many international centres collaborating with this study and from our own Head and Neck Clinic we have 12 patients who have enrolled in this study. An enormous amount of work is required to prepare research material. For example it took almost two years to prepare the protocol for this clinical prospective randomised control study on laser surgery versus radiotherapy.

**CLINICAL TRIALS**

Laser resection Radiotherapy in Head and Neck cancer.

Chemotherapy/Radiotherapy Protocol (TROG)

**Financial Support**

- $54,000 Garnett-Passe & Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation Project grant for “cDNA profiling of invasion and metastatic markers in HNSCC” (Dr David Chin)
- $80,000 Garnett-Passe & Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation MSc grant, “Analysis of immunological aspects of nasopharyngeal carcinoma” (Dr David Chin)
- $80,000 Garnett-Passe & Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation MSc Extension grant, “Analysis of immunological aspects of nasopharyngeal carcinoma” (Dr David Chin)
- $160,000 Garnett-Passe & Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation Project grant, “Defining immunological parameters relevant to NPC in patients at different stages of the disease” (Dr David Chin)

**Publications**

**ABSTRACT**


**Lectures and Presentations**

**Professor W Coman**

**Guest Lecturer**

- Rhinosporidiosis – Granulomatosis, George Sisson – Head & Neck Meeting, University of Tennessee, Vail, Colorado USA, Feb 2003
- Macrolides and sinusitis, University of Illinois, USA, Feb 2003
- Laser Surgery for Early Glottic Cancer, Annual Scientific Meeting – ASOHN, Cairns Convention Centre, May 2003

**Visiting Professor**

- Laryngeal Cancer, Head and Neck Oncology Research, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, USA, Nov 2003

**Public Service Relevant to Research**

**Professor William B Coman – Editorial Boards**

- Member, Editorial Board for the Australian Journal of Otolaryngology
- Member, Editorial Board for The Laryngoscope
- Member, Editorial Board for The American Journal of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Medicine and Surgery
- Journal Referee for the Australian Medical Journal
- Journal Referee for the Australia and New Zealand Journal of Surgery
Emergency Department

This Emergency Department is a designated level 6-Trauma centre with 42,000 annual attendances and 14,000 admissions. It is an acute clinical department with responsibility for emergency (ED), presentations, observation bay admissions, and attendance at cardiac arrests occurring within the hospital environs.

The department is responsible for pre-hospital and inter-hospital transfers of sick and injured patients in the Southern Zone of Queensland Health and utilises fixed and rotary wing assets, and road. The department provides Clinical Coordination and medical advice for the hospitals and health facilities within the Southern Zone.

Research

MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

Trauma Registry
NICS (National Institute of Clinical Studies)
Aeromedical Retrievals and Aviation Medicine
Medical Education and Assessment in the Emergency Department – Recording and analysing problem solving models currently in use.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

Determinants of Interventional Therapy in Overdose Patients. James Collier. Part of a multicentre trial based at RBH
National Demonstration Hospital Project Phase 4 – Improving Aged Care. James Collier in conjunction with Ian Scott dept Internal Medicine
Prospective study of missed C1 C2 fractures in trauma on plain radiology. Andrew Parkin and Sean Lawrence with John Coucher (Radiology Dept)
Study of neurological outcome of patients undergoing early reduction of facet dislocation with or without fracture. Andrew Parkin
Family study of patient with lignocaine resistance. Michael Sinnott, Jamie Thomas and Peter Silburn
OTHER RESEARCH

Incidence and Implications of Exploding Tyre Injuries in Queensland.

Computerised follow up of abnormal pathology results. Michael Sinnott, Stuart Young and Goce Dimeski.

Financial Support

GRANTS

Trauma – CONROD and Queensland University, $36,000
NICS – $400 (prize money)

Lectures and Presentations

Dr Michael Sinnott

“Innovation, Staff Safety and Cold Hard Cash.” Chairman of Session at PA week, September 2003.

Rush JA, Reith DM.


Dr Jamie Thomas


Dr Peter Thomas


“Transport of Patients with a Mental Illness in Queensland.” Queensland Rural Health Advisory Council, Brisbane, August 2003.

Invited Speaker on multiple topics to James Cook University Medical Students, Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, November 2003.

Awards

Dr Neville Henry AM 1999 (now retired)
RN Julie Finucane OAM 2000

Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr Phillip Kay
Private Practice Committee for the College of Emergency Medicine

Julie Finucane OAM
President, Queensland Emergency Nurses Association
Chair, College of Emergency Nursing Australasia Ltd
Staff Officer Grade 2 Nurse (Head of Corps Staff) Defence Personnel Executive Canberra

Dr Peter Thomas
Member, Training Centre, St John Ambulance (Queensland)
Lecturer, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners GP Registrars Training Programme
Lecturer, Queensland Ambulance Service Paramedic Programme
Queensland Emergency Medical System Multi-Casualty and Disaster Planning Advisory Committee
Queensland Emergency Medical System (QEMS) Zonal/Regional Coordination Committee
Principal Clinical Coordinators Group
GP/Hospital Liaison Committee
Editorial Advisory Panel “Australian Family Physician”

Dr Michael Sinnott
Director of Emergency Medicine Training

Dr Colin Page
Member, Fellowship Exam Committee
APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support) Instructor

Dr Bevan Lowe
Member of the Fellowship Exam Committee;
APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support) Instructor
AHLs (Advanced Hazmat Life Support ) Instructor

Dr James Collier
Member of the Fellowship Exam Committee;
APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support) Instructor

Dr Karen Richards
Secretary, Queensland Branch of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine Chair, MCQ subcommittee of the Fellowship Exam
Clinical Leader of National Institute of Clinical Studies Project

Dr Marianne Cannon
Course Facilitator, Council of Rural and Remote Nurses
The Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department is committed to clinical research excellence in chronic liver disease. The department strives to translate laboratory findings to the bedside with improved therapeutic options and patient management. The group is particularly interested in understanding the liver responses to increased iron, hepatitic C and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis in relation to disease pathogenesis and increased fibrogenesis. There is a major research interest in nutritional aspects of end-stage liver disease and recurrent hepatitis C post liver transplantation. The group are active in conducting clinical trials particularly in relation to treatment for Hepatitis C. A number of new trials were initiated in 2003 and new treatment modalities for eosinophilic oesophagitis in adults have been investigated.

Current Research Activities

Iron metabolism in the cirrhotic liver: studies on iron absorption and hepatic iron kinetics (Crawford D, Fletcher L, Roberts M, Powell L, Bridle K, Murphy T and Walters M, Hung D, Chang P). In this NHMRC-funded project the group investigate the mechanisms involved in increased iron deposition in end-stage liver disease. The hypothesis being explored relates to the fact that excess iron deposited in cirrhotic liver is possibly associated with increased intestinal iron absorption mediated through increased expression of novel intestinal iron transporters and that this iron is associated with increased liver injury. Dr Katherine Stuart as part of her PhD studies has provided convincing evidence that the gene expression of intestinal iron transporters DMT1 (IRE) and Ireg1 (ferroportin) in human haemochromatosis patients show inappropriate increased expression for a given level of serum ferritin. This project is also concerned with defining ferrokinetics in the diseased liver. Using animal models of haemolytic anaemia we have shown that non-transferrin–bound iron (rather than transferrin-bound iron) plays a significant role in hepatic iron deposition. These studies are ongoing and include investigations using animal models of cirrhosis.

Effect of liver pathophysiology on hepatic pharmacokinetics. (Roberts MS, Crawford DHG, Fawcett J, Fletcher LM, Bridle KR). The aim of this NHMRC-funded project is to investigate the effect of liver disease on hepatic drug disposition. This project involves both human and animal experimentation where the animal studies have shown that there are good correlations between the predicted and observed pharmacokinetic parameters of 3H-taurocholate based on liver pathophysiology (e.g. serum bilirubin level and biliary excretion of 3H-taurocholate). Human studies are due to commence on liver transplant patients.

Interrelationships between alcohol and iron metabolism in liver disease.
Both alcohol and excess iron in the liver can induce tissue damage and lead to fibrosis and ultimately cirrhosis. Therefore the co-existence of alcohol (and/or its metabolites) and iron in the liver may have significant effects on disease pathogenesis. Patients with alcoholic liver disease commonly have increased serum iron indices (serum ferritin and transferrin saturation) and hepatic siderosis is seen in up to 30% of patients with alcoholic liver disease. The precise role played by iron in disease progression in alcoholic liver disease has not been well characterised however it is possible that alcohol and/or its metabolites have some effect in modulating the function of proteins involved in sensing body iron stores. Hepcidin, a recently discovered liver-derived circulating peptide, is one of these molecules and we are investigating the hepatic expression of the hepcidin gene in response to excess alcohol in animal models. Preliminary results were presented at the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease annual conference in Boston USA.

Eosinophilic oesophagitis in adults. (Kerlin P, Remedios M, Jones D, Fletcher L and Campbell K). Eosinophilic oesophagitis is an under-recognised cause of dysphagia, chest pain and food bolus obstruction. It has characteristic macroscopic and histological features and may be referred to as the equivalent of “asthma of the upper gut.” This project aimed to further define the clinical syndrome, endoscopic characteristics, eosinophilic infiltrate distribution, clarify association with allergy, reflux, dysmotility and to assess symptomatic and histological response to treatment with topical steroids. Favourable response to fluticasone propionate providing an alternate treatment to dilatation has been demonstrated by the group.

CLINICAL TRIALS

WV16143 Roche A protocol for re-treatment with the combination of Peginterferon alfa-2a and Ribavirin for patients with chronic hepatitis C in original study NV15942 who relapsed virologically after completing 24 weeks of treatment. NV 15908 Roche An extension protocol to evaluate the long-term effects of treatment with peginterferon alfa-2a (PEG-IFN)- or interferon (IFN)- based therapies for patients with chronic hepatitis C.

BV16209 Roche 132/00 Protocol B Pegasys Mono or Pegasys + RIBAVIRIN SAS. Multicenter Open Label Expanded Access Program of Peginterferon alfa-2a (Ro25-8310) Monotherapy and Combination Therapy with Ribavirin (Ro 20-9963) in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C.

GS-98-437 Gilead 8/99 A Double-Blind, Randomised, Placebo-Controlled Study of Adefovir Dipivoxil for the Treatment of Patients with HbeAg(+) Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection.

GS-00-480 Gilead An open-label, continued access study of Adefovir Dipivoxil for patients with chronic HBV infection who have completed a Gilead-Sponsored study of Adefovir Dipivoxil.

GS-00-481 Gilead A phase 3b, long-term, observational study of the durability of seroconversion in patients with chronic hepatitis virus infection who have seroconverted while participating in a previous Gilead-Sponsored study of Adefovir Dipivoxil.

GS-98-435 Gilead 112/99 An Open
Label Study of the Safety and Efficacy of Adefovir Dipivoxil for the Treatment of Liver Disease due to Lamivudine Resistant Hepatitis B (HBV) in Liver Transplant Patients. S2413009 Solvy 2/02 A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized, Multinational Study to Investigate the Safety and Efficacy of 2 mg TID of Cilansetron Over 26 Weeks in Diarrhoea-Predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome Subjects.

Financial Support

$85,000 NHMRC Iron metabolism and the cirrhotic liver: studies on iron absorption and hepatic iron kinetics (D Crawford)

$145,000 NHMRC Effect of liver pathophysiology on hepatic pharmacokinetic (M Roberts)

Publications


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


Longitudinal and penetrance studies of HFE-associated hemochromatosis in probands and relatives in an Australian population. AASLD Hepatology 2003; 38(4) Suppl 664A.

BOOK CHAPTERS

ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Lectures and Presentations
Dr Crawford
Liver transplantation for HCV. Transplant Society of Australia and New Zealand. Auckland, New Zealand 2003
When is Liver biopsy necessary? (invited lecture). Australian Gastroenterology Week

Dr Bridle
Failure of Hepcidin upregulation in HFE-associated haemochromatosis implicates the liver in the regulation of body iron homeostasis. Australian Gastroenterology Week
AASLD Posters

Post Graduate Students
Katherine Stuart, PhD (in progress)

Public Service Relevant to Research

Associate Professor Crawford
Council Member, Gastroenterological Society of Australia
Editorial Board: Journal of Hepatology/Journal of the European Association for Study of the Liver

Assessors NHMRC Grants
Associate Professor Crawford
Dr Powell
Dr Fletcher
Dr Bridle

Manuscripts reviewed for the following journals:
Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Gastroenterology
Digestive Diseases and Sciences
Hepatology

Annual Research Review 2003 – Centres for Health Research
Research – Key to Health
Haematology Department – Clinical & Laboratory

The Department of Clinical and Laboratory Haematology is a tertiary referral centre for the study and management of haematological malignancies. The department continues to develop clinical programmes in leukemias, lymphomas and myeloma with multidisciplinary clinics in these diseases. The department has one of the largest lymphoma clinics in the southern hemisphere. Because of its focus on the diagnosis and treatment of leukaemia, and lymphoma, the group has developed unique expertise in blood cancers and has a leading role in raising standards at a national and an international level.

Research is carried at three levels – basic, translational and clinical – with the focus being on improving patient outcomes. The department actively participates in all phases of clinical trials with some trials being initiated from this Unit and now with national and international participation. The staff have been invited, by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Cancer Network (ACN), to participate in producing guidelines for management of Hodgkin’s, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphomas and Transplant related Lymphomas.

The focus of the translational research is on gene expression profiling in chronic lymphocytic leukemia and detecting minimal disease in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and lymphoma not detectable with current technology. By utilising modern biological techniques methods have been developed to detect and quantify extremely small amount of disease. The unit is recognised as a leader in this field. Ability to detect very small amount of disease enables further treatment to be given or for treatment to begin earlier. Furthermore, the treatment as a result can be ‘individualised’ and should result in higher cure rates.

... develop clinical programmes in leukemias, lymphomas and myeloma with multidisciplinary clinics in these diseases ...
**Current Research Activities**

### CLINICAL TRIALS

- **ALL, ALL3, Idarubicin & high dose cytarabine**, Paula Marlton
- **AML, AML12, Idarubicin in consolidation therapy**, Paula Marlton
- **AML - Lab, MMR/PAH, Molecular & phenotypic analysis of leuk cells**, Devinder Gill
- **B-CLL, PAH, Gene expression in B-CLL**, Devinder Gill
- **CLL, ALLG CLL2, Chlorambucil, fludarabine, cladribine**, Devinder Gill
- **Relapsed follicular lymphoma, CORAL 50-03B, R-ICE vs R-DHAP. Pts eligible for Tx followed by randomized maintenance Rituximab**, Tony Mills
- **Essential Thrombocthyemia, PAH 96/02, Mater Hosp, Pegylated interferon in the induction &/or maintenance of haematologic remission in ET**, Mark Bentley
- **Myeloma, ALLG MM6, Prednisone + Zoledronic Acid +/-Thalidomide (postASCT maintenance)**, Devinder Gill
- **Hodgkins Disease, PAH 3/02, Specific cytotoxic T cell response (QIMR)**, Paula Marlton
- **NHL, ALLG NHL11, Modified “Hyper-CVAD” poor risk/aggressive**, Paula Marlton
- **NHL, EORTC, CHOP ± Mabthera in relapsed follicular NHL**, Paula Marlton
- **Lymphoma, TROG 01.02, Idarubicin based therapy + radiation CNS**, Tony Mills
- **Lymphoma, TROG 99.04, Osteolympoma, chemo & radiotherapy**, Tony Mills
- **Lymphoma, TROG 99.03, Stage I & II low grade follicular lymphoma (IFR vs IFR + Chemo)**, Tony Mills
- **Waldenstrom's, ALLG LYO3, Chlorambucil vs Fludarabine (initial therapy)**, Paula Marlton
- **EBV + CMV viral load, QIMR/PAH, Effect of Mabthera in NHL with EBV & CMV**, Devinder Gill
- **Mantle cell lymphoma, PAH/Elli Lilly, Phase 2 evaluation for oral enzastaurin HCI in patient with relapsed mantle cell lymphoma**, Paula Marlton

### Financial Support

- **AMP Leukaemia and Lymphoma Tissue Bank** (A joint research initiative of ALLG and the Leukaemia Foundation) Marlton P $250000 over three years $80000 for 2003.
- **Clinical Trials**: $ 203,000 received as support for multiple clinical trials. (This amount applies to both Medical Oncology and Haematology as not distinguished in the account)
- **Grant to Cancer Collaborative Group at PAH, QCF $2m over 5 yr, beginning 2004** (Gill D, Gofley D, Frazer, Thomson DB, Burmeister B, Beller E, Suanders N)
- **Gene expression profiling in B-CLL**: PAH R&D Foundation $8,000. Gill D
- **Measurement of Minimal Residual Disease by Quantitation of Wilms Tumor mRNA Expression in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia**: Saal R, Marlton P. QHPS SERTF $45000
- **Measurement of MRD in CBF AML**: an ALLG study Leukemia Foundation $250,000 over 5 years
- **QuIP submission. Implementation of best clinical practice standards to reduce central line associated blood stream infections and premature central line removal** (Peter Mollee, Rosita Van Kullenburg)
- **American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation Travel Grant for presentation of “Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation (ASCT) in Primary Systemic Amyloidosis (AL): The Impact of Selection Criteria on Outcome” $1000 (US)**

### Publications

- **Gandhi MK, Siissons JGP, Carmichael AJ. Human Cytomegalovirus-specific immunity following haemopoietic stem cell transplantation.**


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations (invited)

Dr Devinder Gill

Salvage chemotherapy R-ICE vs R-DHAP in relapsed Diffuse Large B-Cell Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (CORAL Study) Nov 2003

Dr P Marlton
Advances in the Biology and Management of Aggressive lymphoma: Cellink Leukaemia Foundation Nov 03

Lymphoma: Biology and management: GMC Nov 03

Minimal Residual Disease in AML: Cancer Collaborative Group Dec 03

Dr A Mills
Brisbane Haematology Meeting. Clinical trials PTLD (Roche meeting)

Dr P Molle
Brisbane Haematology Meeting. Current management of amyloidosis

Dr Mark Bentley
Pegfilgrastim supports full-dose intensity CHOP-14 in elderly patients with aggressive non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma HSANZ Christchurch NZ 2003

Dr Maher Gandhi
Addenbrookes, Cambridge, Grand Round, Feb 2003

Brisbane Immunology Group, Caloundra, Aug 2003

Christchurch, HSANZ, Oct 2003

Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr Devinder Gill
Member of Steering Committee and Principal Investigator (on behalf of ALLG) of Intergroup International Lymphoma Trial: Salvage chemotherapy R-ICE vs R-DHAP in relapsed Diffuse Large B-Cell Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (CORAL Study).

Member of Steering Committee and Co-Principal Investigator (on behalf of ALLG) International Study Group Trial: CHOP or without the anti-CD20 antibody Rituximab in de novo Diffuse Large B-Cell Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (MBIT study)

Member of the Committee on behalf of NHMRC and ACN preparing management guidelines for transplant related post lymphoproliferative disorders (PTLD)

Member of the Committee on behalf of NHMRC and ACN preparing management guidelines for Hodgkin’s Disease.

Member of the Laboratory Scientific Sub-Committee of Australasian Leukemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG).

Member of the Laboratory Scientific Sub-Committee of Lymphoma Group (ALLG).

Chairman Cancer Collaborative Group at PAH

Member of PAH Research Committee

Scientific assessor Anti-cancer Council of Victoria and for the Leo & Jenny Leukaemia and Cancer Foundation

Dr Paula Marlton
Executive Member of Australasian Leukemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG)

Chairman of Laboratory Scientific Committee Australasian Leukemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG)

Founder and Director of ALLG Tissue Bank

Chairman of Tissue Bank Management Committee

Member of the Australian Cancer Network working party for the preparation of NHMRC Guidelines for the management of Lymphoma: Chairman of the Immunodeficiency related Lymphoma Committee

State Medical Advisor Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland.

Member of the National Medical Advisory Committee for the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia

Member of Medical Services Advisory Committee Supporting Committee on Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing in Haematologic Malignancy for the Federal Department of Health and Ageing

Member Cyto genetics and Molecular Genetics Working Party QHPS

Member Molecular Diagnostics Committee of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

Examiner PhD thesis: University of Adelaide

Reviewer: NHMRC Grant applications
Hypertension Unit

The Hypertension Unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital offers a comprehensive diagnostic and management service for patients with all forms of hypertension, and is actively involved in clinical research into the pathogenesis and management of hypertensive conditions. Patients referred to the Unit undergo a thorough assessment in order to confirm the diagnosis of hypertension and to determine the severity of the condition. A detailed search is then undertaken to look for specifically treatable or curable forms.

The Unit uses state-of-the-art approaches to both non-drug and drug treatment of hypertension, involving the services of the Queensland Hypertension Association Salt-Skip Program, and the use of the best available antihypertensive medications. Close liaison with experienced specialists in adrenal and renovascular surgery, interventional radiology, nephrology and vascular medicine, by way of regular group discussions at Renovascular and Adrenal Venous Sampling Meetings, facilitates optimal management approaches for patients with potentially curable forms of hypertension.

In close collaboration with the Hypertension Unit at Greenslopes Hospital, where the Director of PAH Hypertension Unit holds the position of Research Director, the Unit conducts internationally recognised clinical research into the pathogenesis and management of hypertension, and especially of endocrine forms. The Unit is considered a world authority on primary aldosteronism (PAL), a specifically treatable and potentially curable form of hypertension. It has made major contributions to the understanding of its pathogenesis including genetic basis, prevalence and accurate diagnostic workup. This has led to frequent invitations to speak at national and international meetings, contribute reviews to major journals and collaborate with national and international research groups in areas relating to aldosterone, PAL and other salt-dependent forms of hypertension.

As an Associate Professor within the University of Queensland – Department of Medicine, the Director of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Hypertension Unit is actively involved in the teaching medical students from all years of training within the UQ School of Medicine. The Director also holds the position of Postgraduate Student Coordinator for the Southern Clinical Division – School of Medicine.
**Current Research Activities**

**CLINICAL TRIALS**
A prospective, multinational, multicenter, double-blind, randomized, active-controlled trial in patients with essential hypertension to compare the effect of Vasartan 80 and 160 mg, once daily to that of amiodipine 5 and 10 mg once daily, with or without the addition of hydrochlorothiazide, on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality (VALUE Trial).

**OTHER RESEARCH**
Associate Professor Stowasser has fourteen years of clinical and research experience in the pathogenesis, diagnostic workup and management of various forms of hypertension and especially of endocrine varieties, including primary aldosteronism (PAL), renovascular hypertension, pheochromocytoma, renin-secreting tumors, and the syndrome of hypertension and hyperkalemia with normal glomerular filtration rate, also known as pseudohypaldosteronism type 2 (PHA-2) or Gordon’s syndrome. The PAHHU and GHHU have maintained strong collaborative clinical and research ties, and remain the only two clinical Units in Queensland dedicated to the management of, and research into hypertension. Main recent topics of publication and presentation have included:

- Epidemiological, clinical, biochemical, morphological and genetic aspects of PAL. Using meticulous new diagnostic approaches, the GHHU was first to demonstrate worldwide that PAL is approximately 10 times more common that previously thought. The combined PAHHU/GHHU has the largest number of patients (currently over 1000) with PAL worldwide who have been thoroughly studied and documented. This provides a unique resource for further research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of mineralocorticoid hypertension. The PAHHU is the only facility in Eastern Australia offering genetic testing for a familial variety (FH-I) which can cause severe hypertension and early death from stroke, but which is easily controlled by giving small doses of specific “glucocorticoid” medication.
- Genetic forms (i) FH-I: clinical, biochemical and genetic approaches to detection, various aspects of aldosterone biosynthesis, determinants of hypertension severity, treatment, and seeking evidence of non-blood pressure related adverse cardiovascular effects of aldosterone excess in normotensive subjects with FH-I.
- Genetic forms (ii) the PAHHU is involved in collaborative research with the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda and Cornell University, New York, USA in order to determine genetic mutations responsible for a new familial variety of PAL (FH-II) described by the Centre in 1991.
- Non-BP dependent adverse cardiovascular effects of aldosterone excess, which are being sought in patients with PAL and other forms of hypertension by measuring procollagen propeptides as a marker of cardiovascular fibrosis, pulse wave velocity as an indicator of arterial stiffness, and using state-of-the-art echocardiographic techniques (performed in Professor Thomas Marwick’s laboratory, University of Queensland Department of Medicine, Princess Alexandra Hospital) to study fibrosis and remodeling of the heart.
- The therapeutic potential of aldosterone antagonists in a variety of clinical situations (including hypertension and chronic liver disease).
- The genetic basis of fibromuscular dysplasia of the renal arteries, which causes a renovascular form of hypertension.
- The detailed pathophysiology and genetic basis of Gordon’s syndrome.
- The diagnosis of renin-secreting tumors.
- Pathogenesis and diagnosis of pheochromocytoma, a tumor that secretes catecholamines (including adrenaline and noradrenaline), leading to extremely dangerous hypertension and cardiac arrhythmias.

**Financial Support**

**GRANTS**
- $42,735 National Heart Foundation, Non-BP dependent adverse cardiovascular effects and genetic aspects of aldosterone excess (Stowasser M)
- $42,735 National Heart Foundation, Biochemical, structural and functional effects of treating fibrosis in hypertensive heart disease. (Marwick T)
- $400,000 National Health & Medical Research Council, Establishment of a Clinical Centre of Research Excellence in Cardiovascular Disease and Metabolic Disorders (Marwick T)
- $10,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation (Stowasser M)
- $26,500 University of Queensland, Early Career Researcher Grant, Genetics of familial hyperaldosteronism type II (Stowasser M)

**OTHER SUPPORT**
- Irene Hunt Hypertension Research Fund – established in 2000 following a bequest of approximately $1.3 million by a grateful patient of the GHU to be used to support a medical graduate pursuing a higher degree in hypertension research.
- Pfizer (VALUE Trial) – $1,350
Publications


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


BOOK CHAPTERS


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

Associate Professor Stowasser

Invited Presentations – International
Stowasser M, Gordon RD. Primary aldosteronism – careful investigation is essential and rewarding. International Symposium on Aldosterone (funded by the Wellcome Trust to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of aldosterone), London, April 2003.

Invited Presentations – National

Invited Presentations – Local
Primary aldosteronism – prevalence, diagnosis and management. Redcliffe Hospital Clinical Meeting, Brisbane, February 2003.
Hypertension, genes and mineralocorticoids: new discoveries. Symposium entitled “Challenges in Cardiology III – Signposts to the Future” organised by the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (Queensland Branch) and National Heart Foundation of Australia, Brisbane, May 2003.

Oral Presentations at National and International Scientific Meetings (Competitive by Submission of Abstracts)
Stowasser M, Gordon RD, Gunasekera TG, Cowley DC, Ward G, Archibald C, Smithers BM. High rate of detection of primary aldosteronism, including surgically treatable forms, associated with the “non-selective” screening of hypertensives attending a recently established Hypertension Unit. J. Hypertens. 21:2149-2157.
Public Service Relevant to Research

Associate Professor Michael Stowasser
Secretary, Executive Committee of the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia
Member, Blood Pressure Advisory Committee for the National Heart Foundation of Australia (1998 – )
Member, Editorial Board for Clinical and Experimental Physiology and Pharmacology (1998 – )
Subject Editor, Nephrology (2003 – )
Member, Veteran’s Research Foundation Research Committee, Greenslopes Hospital (2001 – )
President, Queensland Hypertension Association (1995 – )
Member, Grant Review Panel, National Health & Medical Research Council
Member, Judging Panel, International Society of Hypertension Fellowship Awards
Member, Judging Panel, Australian Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research Fellowship Awards
Written Grant Application Reviewer, National Heart Foundation of Australia

Reviewer of Scientific Papers submitted for publication in the following journals:

...the Unit conducts internationally recognised clinical research into the pathogenesis and management of hypertension, and especially of endocrine forms...
Staff

Dr Patrick Hogan
Director of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Princess Alexandra Hospital.
Director, Division of Immunology, Queensland Health Pathology Service.

Dr Richard Wong
(on leave of absence in 2003), Staff Immunologist

Dr David Heyworth-Smith
Staff Immunologist

Professor Ian Fraser
Visiting Immunologist

Immunology Department

The Department of Clinical Immunology and Allergy provides an inpatient and ambulatory service to Queensland and Northern New South Wales. The Day Services Unit investigates hypersensitivity to pharmaceuticals, foods and other allergens using intravenous immunoglobulin therapy and skin testing.

Research interests cover clinical and investigative aspects of autoimmune disease, vasculitis, allergy, immune deficiency and the allogeneic response to human allografts including aortic valves.

Current Research Activities

Post-transplant monitoring of anti-HLA antibodies as a predictor of acute rejection in patients after renal or hepatic transplantation

Publications


Heyworth-Smith D, Langguth D and Wong R (2003). Laboratory tests in the investigation of Arthritis Common Sense Pathology


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

Dr P Hogan
“Transplant Immunology and Thoracic transplantation”
Thoracic Organ Failure Symposium. 2003
Australasian Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting

Dr David Heyworth-Smith
“Anti-Ganglioside Antibodies”
“Autoimmune Liver Disease Antibodies”
Royal Australasian College of Pathologists Update 2003

Bryson G, Heyworth-Smith D, Hogan P
“An interesting indeterminate HIV western blot result illustrating the importance of the most appropriate testing algorithm”.
Poster presentation to National Reference Laboratory Annual Scientific Meeting 2003

Richard Wong
“HLA testing” ICPMR Immunopathology Course, Westmead Hospital 2003
“Anti-neuronal antibodies: Clinical and Laboratory Aspects”.
Royal Australasian College of Pathologists Update 2003
Infection Management Services

The Infection Management Services is comprised of a series of divisions including Clinical Infectious Diseases, Infection Control, Sexual Health and the Alternate Site Infusion Service. Each division of the Department provides services to the entirety of the Southern Zone of Queensland Health, except the Gold Coast.

The Department provides undergraduate and post-graduate teaching in all areas of Infectious Diseases, Infection Control as well as some Microbiology to Medical, Pharmacy and Science students of the University of Queensland. Post graduate education and activities are undertaken with a range of professional groups including Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists and Laboratory Scientists.

The research program of the Department has three major foci:

- Epidemiology of healthcare associated infection including development of new epidemiological and statistical techniques for the early detection of adverse outcomes of an infective nature. There is particular interest in both community and hospital-acquired Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and healthcare associated yeast and fungal infections.
- Antimicrobial resistance patterns, particularly in major hospital pathogens.
- Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of newer antimicrobial agents.
Current Research Activities

Development of statistical and epidemiological methods for the early detection of adverse infective event of healthcare related infection.

Epidemiology, pathogenicity, treatment and resistance development in community-acquired Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and its infections.

Statistical analysis and epidemiological assessment of fungal and yeast infections in the intensive care setting.

Mathematical modelling of multi-resistant organism transmission in healthcare institutes.

Pharmacoconomics of home healthcare institutes.

Behaviour in healthcare workers – needlestick injury and handwashing.

Clinical Trials


A muticentre, double blind, comparative, randomised study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Micafungin (FK463) versus Liposomal Amphotericin B (Ambisome) in the treatment of invasive candidiasis and candaemia.

Publications

Beiles B, Morton AP. Involving community may be the way forward. Electronic BMJ 2003;326:1038


Ferguson JK, Doherty PL, Cooper CM, Dollman CM, Looke DFM, Radford JM. Hospital antibiotic utilisation in three states. Aust Infect Cont 2003;8:7-13


Morton AP, Looke DFM. Charts for the surveillance of antibiotic usage. Aust Infect Cont 2003;8:14-19


Nimmo GR, Playford EG. Community-acquired MRSA bacteraemia: four additional cases including one associated with severe pneumonia. Med J Aust 2003;178:245


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


Playford EG, Craig JC, Simpson J, Iredell J. Carbepenem-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CR-AB): risk factors for acquisition and infection amongst ICU patients. 43rd Annual Interscience Conference on antimicrobial agents and chemotherapy, Chicago 2003, Abstract K – 714


BOOK CHAPTERS


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Playford EG, Webster AC, Sorrell TC, Craig JC. Antifungal agents to prevent fungal infections in non-neutropenia critically ill patients. Cochrane Library (in press).

Playford EG, Webster AC, Sorrell TC, Craig JC. Antifungal agents to prevent fungal infections in solid organ transplant recipients. Cochrane Library (in press).


Lectures and Presentations

McBryde E
Severe acute respiratory syndrome. Australian Society for Infectious Diseases Meeting Annual Scientific Meeting, Canberra – March 2003

Looke DFM
Invasive dermatified infection in the immunocompromised. Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Annual Scientific Meeting, Canberra – March 2003

Establishing a formula for antifungal drugs. Australian Society for Antimicrobials Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne – May 2003.

Emerging Infectious Diseases. Renal Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting, Brisbane – May 2003.


Munckhof WJ

Infectious Diseases in Australia: highlights of the last fifty years. Australian Institute of Medical Scientists, Brisbane – November 2003.

Playford EG


Hepatitis B virus in healthcare settings. 4th Joint Conference of Infection Control Practitioners Association of Queensland and Queensland Wound Care Association, Gold Coast – October 2003.

Post Graduate Students

Karen Taylor, M Appl Sci QUT (in progress)
Gail Neilson, PhD UQ (in progress)
Dr Emma McBryde, PhD QUT (in progress)
Petra Graham, PhD QUT (completed 2003)

Awards

McBryde E

Public Service Relevant to Research

Editorship:
Whitby M – International Journal of Infectious Diseases – Editor for South East Asia and Australasia

Editorial Boards:
Looke D – Pathology
Whitby M – Australian Journal of General Practice
Whitby M – Australian Journal of Hospital Medicine
Intensive Care Unit

The Department of Intensive Care is a dynamic unit with a strong emphasis on clinical care and academic medicine. The team includes senior clinicians and nursing staff who are involved in a number of research projects. Two members of the team are currently doing their PhD. There is a wide range of research projects being undertaken, both clinical and laboratory. The clinical areas of research comprise of the following: Sepsis- Biomarkers and Drug Pharmacokinetics, Improving Outcome in Neurotrauma, Nutrition in the critically ill, Mortality prediction and modelling, Adrenal dysfunction in critical illness, Acid-Base Balance and Prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis.

In the Laboratory, the focus is on Tissue oxygenation, Tissue Acid-Balance and Apoptosis in Critical Illness. The group have a well established animal models of the different types of shock and our current focus is Modulation of Cell Death in Shock. Collaborative research is undertaken with the following Departments: Infectious Diseases, Hepatology, Neurosurgery and the Department of Medicine, University of Queensland.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

Nutrition study
Decompressive Craniectomy in Severe Head Injury
Pharmacokinetics of Cis-Atracurium in severe Sepsis
The development of risk adjusted control charts and machine learning models to monitor the mortality rate of ICU patients.
Biomarkers of sepsis
Adrenal dysfunction in critical illness
Other Research
Tissue oxygenation in shock
Tissue acid-base balance
Apoptosis in critical illness
**Patents**

B. Venkatesh & TJ Morgan: Patent application filed in the UK for the concept of “Tissue Base Excess.”

**Publications**


**Book Chapters**


**BOOK EDITORSHIP**


**ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION**

Graham, P and D. Cook. Risk prediction using 30 day outcome: A practical endpoint for quality audit. Accepted for publication in Chest

Limpus, A., Chaboyer, W.P, Purcell, C., Schluter, P.J, Gibbs, H., Beller, E., Hetherington, R. A randomised trial to determine the effect of generated compression stocking length and body position on femoral venous blood flow velocity. (Accepted for publication in Phlebology).

Venkatesh B et al. Indices to quantify changes in intracranial and cerebral perfusion pressure by assessing agreement between hourly and semi-continuous recordings. (Accepted for publication in Intensive Care Medicine)

Venkatesh B et al. Protein losing enteropathy in major burns: a preliminary study. (Accepted for publication in Intensive Care Medicine)

Venkatesh B, Beindorf A. Monitoring cerebral oxygenation in Australasian Anaesthesia

**Lectures and Presentations**

**International Presentations**

**B Venkatesh**

Gut permeability in critical illness International Congress of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine, Brussels March 2003

Tissue lactate concentrations in critical illness International Congress of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine, Brussels March 2003

Monitoring tissue gas tensions- optimal site for monitoring International Congress of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine, Brussels March 2003


Biomarkers of sepsis. Malaysian Society of Intensive Care meeting, Kuala Lumpur, October 17th-19th 2003


Global and focal monitoring in neurotrauma. Malaysian Society of Intensive Care meeting, Kuala Lumpur, October 17th-19th 2003 Post Graduate Students

**C Joyce**


**National Presentations**

**D Cook**

Deming Damning or Dreaming? ANZICS Scientific Meeting, Cairns 2003

P Kruger

Understanding Brain Death – the clinicians role : presented at the Transplantation and Donation Seminar, Princess Alexandra Hospital April 2003.

A Limpus

Developing a Collaborative Research Model. Invited speaker at ANZICS/ACCCN 28th Annual Scientific Meeting; September 2003; Cairns QLD.

B Venkatesh

Modulating cell death in critical illness. ANZICS meeting, Cairns, Sep 2003

Critical hypoxic thresholds for induction of apoptosis. ANZICS meeting, Cairns, Sep 2003

Thesis submission

D Cook. “The development of risk adjusted control charts and machine learning models to monitor the mortality rate of ICU patients. Will be submitted in Nov 2003 for PhD with the School of Information Technology and Elect Engineering, UQ

Examiner for Specialist colleges

W Kelly. Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians

B Venkatesh: Fellowship of the Joint Faculty in Intensive Care Medicine, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists - Apr 2003 and September 2003

C Joyce: Fellowship of the Joint Faculty in Intensive Care Medicine, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists - Apr 2003 and September 2003
Financial Support

RESEARCH GRANTS

$8,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation. Incremental Learning models for risk adjusted quality monitoring in ICU (D. Cook)

D. Cook, Participant in large 3 year grant with QUT Department of Mathematical Sciences modelling patient flows in OT and ICU: modelling, operations research and queuing with Professor Erhan Kosan and Professor Tony Petit. Elected to collaborate and assist, but have not responsibility for the ARC grant from Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation. The assessment of the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of cisatracurium in critically ill patients with severe sepsis (Peter Kruger and Professor Michael Roberts)


$8,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation. Compression Profiles of Graduated Compression Stockings Following Repetitive Patient Use and Hospital Laundering. Limpus A, Chaboyer W, Schlutter P.

$20,000 Australian & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. Tissue hypoxia and apoptosis (B. Venkatesh)

$40,000 Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society: Tissue hypoxia and apoptosis. (B. Venkatesh).

Public Service Relevant to Research

Manuscript Review

D. Cook

Chest

Critical Care Medicine, the journal of the American Society of Critical Care Medicine,

B. Venkatesh

Intensive Care Medicine, the journal of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine,

Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, the journal of the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society

Journal of Cerebral Blood flow and Metabolism

Anesthesia & Analgesia: Critical Care Section

Critical Care: the web based journal edited by JL Vincent

Paediatrics, the journal of the American Academy of Paediatrics,

National Medical Journal of India

Editorial Board Member, Critical Care and Resuscitation

... In the Laboratory, the focus is on Tissue oxygenation, Tissue Acid-Balance and Apoptosis in Critical Illness ...
Departmental Staff

Associate Professor Ian Scott
FRACP, MHA, Med, Director of Internal Medicine; Director of Clinical Services Evaluation Unit

Dr Graham Hall
Dr Robyn Wallace
Dr Lisa Gemmell
Dr Paul Kubler
Dr Peter Landsberg
(relieving physician)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Annabel Hickey
(MMSc [Clin Epi], BAppSci OT)

Neil Stewart

Kim Johns

Melodie Downey

Karen Watson

Mark Jones (BSc)

Internal Medicine Department

In 2003, the Department was heavily involved in quality improvement research in the areas of acute cardiac care, cardiac rehabilitation, aged care, use of clinical investigations, utility of specialist correspondence to referring doctors, use of clinical evidence by clinical opinion leaders, clinical practice guidelines, use of clinical indicators derived from administrative data in assessing variation in hospital quality of care, and differentials in use of coronary angioplasty between public and private health sectors.

The final results of the Brisbane Cardiac Consortium Clinical Support Systems Program and the NDHP Aged Care Initiative were released during the latter half of 2003. Progress reports from the Collaborative for Healthcare Improvement Cardiac and Cardiac Rehabilitation Collaboratives were issued and first manuscripts accepted for publication. The department also focussed internally on methods for maximising effective bed utilisation, on implementing a multidisciplinary program of extended care, on designing a new electronic discharge summary system, and expanding safety and quality initiatives such as mortality reviews, indicator feedback and evidence appraisals. An extensive teaching program comprised activities in bedside clinical skills, clinical epidemiology, critical reasoning and quality improvement methods.

... quality improvement research in the areas of acute cardiac care, cardiac rehabilitation, aged care, use of clinical investigations ...
Current Research Activities

The department has pursued research in the following areas, many under the auspices of the Clinical Services Evaluation Unit:

Evidence-based practice:
Appraising evidence in controversial areas of practice such as new versus older agents as first choice antihypertensive therapy in essential hypertension, local thrombolysis versus transfer for primary angioplasty in patients presenting with ST segment elevation myocardial infarction to hospitals without angioplasty facilities.
Researching methods for improving quality and uptake of clinical guidelines within practice.

Quality improvement:
Maintaining multifaceted quality improvement programs in cardiac care (acute coronary syndromes and congestive heart failure), aged care, acute stroke care, use of clinical investigations, advanced care planning, outpatient services, clinical risk management, and hospital bed utilisation.
Developing evidence-based clinical checklists for the management of syncope, pneumonia, exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart failure, acute coronary syndromes, and
Health services research: Analysing use and effects of clinical indicators and feedback systems in health care; characterising and assessing influence of clinical leaders using ethnographic methods; analysing socioeconomic gradients in use of invasive cardiac procedures.

PROJECTS COMPLETED
Specific research projects which have yielded published articles or manuscripts accepted for publication in 2003 include:
Brisbane Cardiac Consortium Clinical Support Systems Program (CSSP) 2000-2002. Multisite collaboration involving PAH, Royal Brisbane Hospital, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, and Brisbane North and Brisbane Southside Central Divisions of General Practice.
Survey of clinician use of, and attitudes to, clinical practice guidelines (in collaboration with Queensland Health Quality Improvement and Enhancement Program).
Development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines – methods and pre-requisites.
Development and implementation of quality indicator measurement and feedback
Expansion of the role of clinical pharmacists in improving quality of care of patients with heart disease.
Development and implementation of patient self-management strategies in cardiac care.
Final outcome results and analysis of determinants of successful quality improvement programs in acute cardiac care.
Collaboration with Cardiac Collaborative of the Queensland Health Collaborative for Healthcare Improvement.
Collaboration between PAH and Queensland Health Collaborative for Healthcare Improvement.
Analysis of attributes of clinical leaders in promoting use of evidence in clinical practice undertaken in 2002. Collaboration with School of Public Health, Griffith University.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS
Systematic review of studies comparing invasive with conservative strategies following acute coronary syndrome. Cochrane Library review. 2002-2004. (Michel Hoenig, Dr Jennifer Doust, Associate Professor Ian Scott, Associate Professor Con Aroney).
Differentials in use of coronary angioplasty between private and public health sectors. Collaboration with Queensland Health Information Centre.
Assessment of factors responsible for success in multi-site quality improvement programs. Collaboration with Queensland
Financial Support

- $30,000 Health Information Centre, West Moreton Coronary Outcomes Program (I Scott)
- $80,000 Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Brisbane Cardiac Consortium Clinical Support Systems Program (I Scott)
- $30,000 Queensland Health Quality Improvement and Enhancement Program, Cardiac Rehabilitation Program Survey of outpatient cardiac rehabilitation utilization (K Lindsay)
- $70,000 Queensland Health Quality Improvement and Enhancement Program, Cardiac Care Optimisation Program (I Scott)
- $50,000 Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, Older Patient Care Initiative, Associate Professor Ian Scott
- $20,000 CD/P/CEEU, Use of Clinical Investigations (I Scott)
- $30,000 CD/P/PAH Health District, Extended Care Program (K Johns)

Publications

Scott IA. Commentary: In patients with cancer and venous thromboembolism (VTE), enoxaparin was as effective as warfarin for VTE prophylaxis and reduced fatal haemorrhage. Evidence-based Medicine 2003; 8: 85.


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

Dr Ian Scott

Getting the full picture: Risk screening older people in emergency and in-patient settings. Innovative Care for Older People Conference, Sydney, Feb 20. (invited)
Quality workshop for Queensland Health Cardiac Collaborative. Lead clinician and presenter. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, Feb 28 (invited)
Quality measurement and improvement in the real world – what works? West Moreton Safety First Workshop, Woodlands, Marburg, Mar 3 (invited)
Lecture: Clinical reasoning skills for medical practice. Uni of Qland, St. Lucia. Mar 6 (invited)
Evidence-based Medicine Workshop.
Evidence-based quality improvement. Prince Charles Workshop, Brisbane. Mar 7 (invited)
The functions and benefits of a clinical services evaluation unit. Presentation to
Division of Surgery clinical indicator workshop. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane. Mar 8 (invited)
RACP College lecture series. Clinical decision-making and critical appraisal. Wesley Hospital, Brisbane, Mar 19 (invited)
The future of general medicine in Australasia. Presentation to RACP Forum on General Medicine, Stamford Hotel, Sydney, Mar 20 (invited)
Quality measurement and improvement in the real world – what works? Bayside Health Safety First Workshop, Cleveland, April 3 (invited)
Getting the full picture: Risk screening older people in emergency and in-patient settings. Improving Co-ordination of Patient Care Conference. Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Apr 8 (invited)
Teaching EBM. Presentations at National Teach the Teacher EBM Workshop, Wesley Hospital, Brisbane. May 7-10 (invited)
Progress report of the Brisbane Cardiac Consortium CSSP. Presentation to senior executives Commonwealth Department of Health and Human Services, Canberra, May 19 (invited)
Optimising quality of care of congestive heart failure. Presentation to Heart Failure symposium, RACP Annual Scientific Meeting, Hobart, May 28 (invited)
Overview of quality improvement; Service improvement strategies. Presentations to CHI Healthcare Improvement School, Park Royal Hotel, Brisbane, Jun 12-13 (invited)
Optimising cardiac care. Presentation to the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Cardiology Congress, Adelaide, Aug 12 (invited)
Narrowing evidence-practice gaps in acute cardiac care. Poster presentation. 3rd Asia-Pacific Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, Auckland, New Zealand, Sept 3-5.
Systematic review and quantitative meta-analysis of quality improvement interventions for in-hospital management of acute coronary syndromes. Oral presentation prepared (delivered by Dr Victor Chen) at 3rd Asia-Pacific Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, Auckland, New Zealand, Sept 5.
Optimising quality of care of patients with congestive heart failure; Systematic review of effects of quality improvement interventions in acute coronary syndromes. Presentations to XI Cochrane Colloquium, Barcelona, Oct 29, 2003;
Opportunities for quality improvement. Presentation to CHI Cardiac Collaborative Forum III, Nov 14, 2003. Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane (invited)
Research into service improvement. Presentation to CHI Renal Collaborative Forum, Dec 12, 2003. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane (invited)

**Awards**

Best Research paper for Health Services Research, Queensland Health Annual Scientific Meeting, Brisbane. Dec 4 2003. Awarded to Dr Ian Scott on behalf of the Brisbane Cardiac Consortium Clinical Leadership Group and the CHI Cardiac Collaborative.

**Public Service Relevant to Research**

**Associate Professor Ian Scott**
Editor in Internal Medicine for Internal Medicine Journal
Reviewer, Medical Journal of Australia
Commentator, Evidence-Based Medicine journal
Member, Medical Quality Program Board, Queensland Health.
Program Sponsor, Collaborative for Healthcare Improvement; Queensland Health.
Member, Heart Failure Advisory Group, National Institute of Clinical Studies.
Member, National Electronic Decision Support Taskforce.
Chair, RACP Better Practice Toolkit Writing Group.
Member, National Framework of Education in Patient Safety.
Liver Research Group

The Liver Research Group is investigating mechanisms of hepatic fibrosis in response to chronic liver injury, where normal liver cells are replaced by collagen-containing scar tissue which results in a deterioration of liver function. Hepatic fibrosis can lead to cirrhosis and ultimately, liver transplantation may be required for patients with advanced cirrhosis. For patients with chronic liver injury, hepatic fibrosis can be a very slowly progressing disease and while some patients may develop cirrhosis within 10 years, for others it may take 30-40 years. One focus of the research is to try to determine why there is such a great difference between patients in their rate of disease progression. In particular the group is interested in:

• defining the role of the renin angiotensin system in hepatic fibrosis caused by chronic Hepatitis C infection (HCV) and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)

• determining the relationship between body mass index, liver fat and fibrosis in chronic HCV

• defining host genetic factors which influence the host immune response to the virus and the extent of liver injury, and account for some of the variability in progression of HCV.

Key achievements for 2003 include the establishment of an international collaboration with Dr Paul Klenerman, Oxford University; the establishment of an international collaboration with Drs Elizabeth Brunt and Brent Neuschwander, Tetri, St Louis University; award of the Lions Senior Medical Research Fellowship to Dr Julie Jonsson, award of BSc with 1st Class Honours to Ms Meagan Walsh; invitation to Dr Elizabeth Powell to speak at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Postgraduate Course in 2004, and successful application to the NHMRC Development Grant Scheme.

... focus of the research is to try to determine why there is such a great difference between patients in their rate of disease progression ...
Current Research Activities

**CLINICAL TRIALS**

The role of weight reduction and nutrition in fatty liver disease associated with chronic hepatitis C.

The effect of renin angiotensin system blockade on the progression of hepatic fibrosis

**OTHER RESEARCH**

The influence of host genetic factors on disease progression and response to treatment in chronic hepatitis C.

Investigation of the relationship between steatosis and fibrosis in chronic liver disease.

Investigation of the mechanisms contributing to human liver allograft acceptance.

The role of the renin angiotensin system in hepatic fibrosis

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Financial Support

**CURRENT NHMRC**

- $82,000 Investigation of the role of the Renin-Angiotensin System in hepatic fibrosis (Jonsson)
- $33,000 Development of clinically applicable strategies to induce and monitor long-term acceptance of liver allografts (Bishop, Jonsson, McCaughan, Powell)
- $30,000 Novel genes and proteins in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: potential basis of a serum-based assessment of disease status (Wilce, Kroon, Powell, Jonsson)
- $50,000 Practitioner Fellowship (Powell)
- $24,328 Biomedical Postgraduate Scholarship (Hickman)

**OTHER SOURCES**

- $24,000 Mayne Bequest Investigation of the role of the renin-angiotensin system in hepatic fibrosis. (Jonsson, Powell, Clouston, Stowasser)
- $27,000 Lions Medical Research Foundation, Senior Medical Research Fellowship (Jonsson)
- $38,000 GESA, Research Fellowship (Jonsson)

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Publications


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ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

Clouston, A; Vanags, DM; Gu, WY; Powell, EE; Jonsson, JR. (2003) Absence of rejection after human liver orthotopic liver transplantation (OLT) is associated with leukocyte apoptosis, increased lymphocyte activation and higher donor cell chimerism. Hepatology 38:4 Suppl. 1 371A

Clouston, AD; Jonsson, JR; Letizia, B; Richardson, MM; Vanags, DM; Walsh, M; Demetris, AJ; Powell, EE. Fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C is associated with hepatic progenitor cell proliferation and a periporal ductular reaction, which is exacerbated by steatosis: A new model for disease progression. Hepatology 38:4 Suppl.1 1433A

Hickman, U; Jonsson, JR; Prins, JB; Ash, S; Purdie, DM; Clouston, AD; Powell, EE. Benefit of sustained weight loss and exercise in overweight patients with liver disease – Indicators for success. Hepatology 38:4 Suppl. 1 504A

ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Clouston AD and Powell EE (in press). Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease – is all the fat bad? Intern Med J.

Clouston AD and Powell EE (in press). Does NASH or NAFLD contribute to co-morbidity of other liver diseases? Chapter in Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis Eds Farrell G, George J, Hall P, McCullough A.


Lectures and Presentations

**Invited Lectures**

Ms Ingrid Hickman

Brisbane Inter-hospital Liver Group, May 2003. “Factors associated with fibrosis in hepatic steatosis and fibrosis.”

**Dr Elizabeth Powell**  
Australian Gastroenterological Week, Cairns, October 2003. “HCV induced liver injury—it’s the host.”

**Dr Julie Jonsson**  
Lions Medical Research Foundation, Byron Bay, October 2003. “The role of the renin angiotensin system in hepatic fibrosis.”

**Oral Presentations**

**Ms Ingrid Hickman**  

**Post Graduate Students**

Ingrid Hickman, PhD (in progress)  
Meagan Walsh, Honours (completed 2003)

**Awards**

Dr Elizabeth Powell, NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship 2001-2005. Investigation of the relationship between steatosis and fibrosis in chronic liver disease  
Dr Julie Jonsson, Lions Senior Medical Research Fellowship 2003-2008. The role of the renin angiotensin system in hepatic fibrosis  
Ms Ingrid Hickman, NHMRC Biomedical Postgraduate Scholarship 2002-2004. The role of obesity in the development and progression of chronic liver diseases.  
Ms Meagan Walsh, UQ BSc Honours 1st Class. The role of steatosis in liver injury and fibrogenesis in patients with chronic hepatitis C infection.  
Ms Megan Walsh, Mayne Research Scholarship. Investigation of the mechanisms by which steatosis contributes to hepatic fibrogenesis.

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**Public Service Relevant to Research**

**Dr Elizabeth Powell**  
Hepatitis C virus projections working group (national representative of the Australian Liver Association)  
Queensland Hepatitis C Advisory Committee  
Journal reviewer Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology  
Assessor – NHMRC project grants

**Dr Julie Jonsson**  
Journal reviewer Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Journal of Moleculare Medicine, Acta Oncologica, Journal of Hepatology,  
Assessor – NHMRC project grants

**Dr Andrew Clouston**  
International Academy of Pathology (Australasian Division) Queensland Councillor  
Discipline Supervisor, Pathology, Southern Clinical School.  
Diagnostic Theme Integration Committee, MBBS Course.  
Assessment Working Group, Year 2.  
Teaching and Learning Committee, Dept of Pathology.  
Journal reviewer Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology, Pathology  
Assessor – NHMRC project grants
Mental Health

Research in the division has focussed on three main areas: consultation liaison, aged care and the MIST Recovery and Rehabilitation unit.

Current Research Activities

RESEARCH PROJECTS BEGUN IN 2003:
“The Impact of a structured intervention to improve care of dying patients”
“Psychological factors involved in the development of pain following acute hand or forearm injury”
“Weight gain on clozapine”
“Positive symptom management”
“Evaluation of MIST Recovery and Rehabilitation team”
“Community participation of people with chronic mental illness: Experiences of engagement with a mobile intensive support team (MIST)”

Financial Support
$12,500.00 grant in aid from Novartis
$500.00 donation from Organon

Lectures and Presentations
Dr Dark
Recovery Conference June 2003Brisbane
Health and Wellbeing meeting (invited presentation) 2003
Recovery network meeting October 2003
Mental Health Week (invited presentation)
The aims of the Metabolic Research Unit (MRU) are to explore physiological and pathophysiological states related to the Growth Hormone (GH) and the Insulin-like growth factor (IGF) axis in humans. Recent specific areas of focus include adults with pituitary failure and GH deficiency (GHD), acromegaly, exercise physiology (as a model of catabolic illness) and ageing (where GH and IGF production decline and potentially contribute to sarcopaenia). Processes being explored include the regulation of body composition, intermediary metabolism, thermal homeostasis, and vascular resistance. Recently, the unit initiated a multidisciplinary team to develop a novel therapy for pituitary tumours, which has the potential to be used for non-pituitary malignancies.

Clinical duties specialise in developing an integrated Pituitary Clinic, to coordinate neurosurgical, endocrinological, radiological, histological and psychological management of pituitary tumours. An Australian and New Zealand Acromegaly Registry to assess the effectiveness of current therapy in this rare disorder, with view to assessing all pituitary tumours in the future has been initiated. Novel diagnostic tests to assess pituitary function and tumour localisation are proving to be comparable to world’s best practice.

**Current Research Activities**

**CLINICAL TRIALS**

Randomised open label multicentre study comparing efficacy and safety of medical treatment with sandostatin LAR with that of surgical therapy in newly diagnosed acromegalic patients with micro and macroadenomas (CSMS995B-2402)

A multicenter, randomised, crossover, blinded, dose finding study to compare the safety, efficacy and PK/PD relationship of multiple doses of SOM230 (100 mcg, 200 mcg, and 300 mcg bid) and doses of open label Sandostatin (100 mcg tid) in acromegalic patients.

**OTHER RESEARCH**

Regulation and effect of the growth hormone, IGF and IGF-1 binding protein response to exercise (studies of regulation of the IGF axis, and thermal, vascular, and intermediary metabolic homeostasis in adults with GH deficiency and matched control subjects, and of the effects of acute GH replacement).

Australian and New Zealand Acromegaly Registry (ANZAR)

Radionlabelled neuropeptides for the treatment of pituitary and non-pituitary tumours
Does aerobic exercise improve cognitive function in older men and women?

The effects of resistance and endurance training on physical capacity, body composition, neuromuscular coordination and anabolic hormones in elderly men.

Financial Support

$60,000 (for 2003-4) NHMRC #102488; extension grant from Pharmacia/ Pfizer (Aust): 307-MET-1018-065, Regulation and effect of the growth hormone, IGF and IGF-1 binding protein response to exercise (Cuneo RC and Wallace JD)

$65,000 (for 2003-4) Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Randomised open label multicentre study comparing efficacy and safety of medical treatment with sandostatin LAR with that of surgical therapy in newly diagnosed acromegalic patients with micro and macroadenomas (CSMS995B-2402) (Cuneo and Wallace)

Publications


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

Cuneo RC

Cuneo RC Growth Hormone, Ageing and Exercise. Invited presentation to the first Life Extension Symposium, Brisbane 26th May 2003, organised by Australasian Centre on Ageing, University of Queensland.


Post Graduate Students

Wallace JD, PhD (in progress)

Abbott-Johnson W, PhD (in progress)

Pratt E, MD (in progress)

Olson S, MMed Sci/PhD (in progress)

Public Service Relevant to Research

Cuneo RC

Honorary Secretary, Endocrine Society of Australia

Second International Joint Scientific Meeting of the Growth Hormone Research Society and the IGF Research Society, Chairmain, Local Organising Committee, and Member, Scientific Committee.

Chairman, Steering Committee Australian and New Zealand Acromegaly Registry

Editorial Board Member, Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism

Editorial Board Member, Growth Hormone and IGF Research

Member, Human Research Ethics Committee, University of Queensland.


Advisory Board Member, Andrology Australia

Advisory Board Member, Ipsen Pharmaceuticals

US Endocrine Society Student Endocrinology Award co-ordinator for University of Queensland.

Wallace JD

Second International Joint Scientific Meeting of the Growth Hormone Research Society and the IGF Research Society, Local Organising Committee Member.
Microbiology Department

The QHPS Microbiology Department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital provides laboratory diagnostic and consultative services in clinical microbiology to Princess Alexandra, QEII, Logan and Redland Hospitals. The laboratory holds a Therapeutic Goods Administration licence for tissue transplantation screening and provides screening services for all Queensland Health tissue banks and for Queenlanders Donate. It also has special expertise in identification and typing of multi-resistant bacteria and in antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Members of staff participate in teaching activities for the University of Queensland, Griffith University and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.

The major research activities in the laboratory relate to antimicrobial resistance, multiresistant organisms and hospital infection. Collaborative research is undertaken with the Australian Group for Antimicrobial Resistance and the CRC for Diagnostics. The department also participates in a number of collaborative studies funded by the pharmaceutical industry. Collaborative research into community-acquired MRSA has included development of novel typing techniques and investigation of local epidemiology. Application of real-time nucleic acid amplification techniques to screen for multiresistant organisms in the clinical laboratory is being investigated.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

Pharmacia’s Linezolid versus vancomycin/oxacillin/dicloxacillin in the treatment of catheter-related Gram-positive bloodstream infections (Protocol M/1260/0080)


Wyeth’s Multicenter, double blind, randomised, comparison study of the efficacy and safety of tigecycline toimipenem/cilastatin to treat complicated intra-abdominal infections in hospitalised patients (Protocol 3074A1-306-WW)

Wyeth’s Multicenter, randomised, double blind, comparison study of the safety and efficacy of tigecycline with those of vancomycin with aztreonam to treat complicated skin and skin structure infections in hospitalised patients (Protocol 3074A1-305-WW)
OTHER RESEARCH

**Bristol Myers Squibb SENTRY study (International)**

**Merck’s Global Study for monitoring antimicrobial resistance trends (SMART) study**

**Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR) Annual studies**

S. pneumoniae, Viridans streptococci, S. aureus and bacteremia caused by enterococci. Other periodical studies include Gram negatives (E. coli, Klebsiella spp. And Enterobacter spp.) and more detailed studies on enterococci.

The National VRE Network (NaVREN) Study. We are the Queensland reference laboratory for the collection and study of vancomycin resistant Enterococci (VRE) and work in conjunction with the National reference laboratory, The Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Adelaide

**Pfizer’s Australian Candidaemia Study (Protocol number FCA-0-1)**

**Home continuous infusion timentin study (ticarcillin/clavulanic acid)** for the Infection Management Services Southern Queensland, princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane

**Financial Support**

$40,595 QHPSSS Study – Study Education and Research Trust Fund Committee, Bacterial nosocomial screening using real time PCR (PROMART #587) (J.M. Schooneveldt)

**Publications**


Nimmo GR, Bell JM, Collignon PJ (2003) Fifteen Years Of Surveillance By The Australian Group For Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR), Communicable Diseases Intelligence (27) 547-554.


**ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED**


**ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION**


**Invited Lectures and Presentations**

**G. R. Nimmo:** Antimicrobials 2003, the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Society for Antimicrobials, Sydney, 1-3 May 2003: “Hospital MRSA”

Pathological Sciences Seminar, Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, Gold Coast, 19 July 2003: “Laboratory Procedures for Epidemiological Typing of Microorganisms”.

Postgraduate Seminar, School of Biology, University of Bath, United Kingdom, 8 October, 2003: “Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus: a view from down under”.

**J. M. Schooneveldt:** Annual Queensland Health and Medical Scientific Meeting, Brisbane, 26th November 2003: “Collaborations make MRSA Epidemiology Simple and Efficient”.

**Public Service Relevant to Research**

**G. R. Nimmo:**

Member of the editorial board of ‘Pathology’

Deputy Chairman of the Australian Group for Antimicrobial Resistance

Member of the national executive committee of the Australian Society for Antimicrobials

Queensland co-coordinator for The National VRE Network (NaVREN)

**J. M. Schooneveldt:**

QHPS PAH representative of the Australian Group for Antimicrobials

Member of the Australian Society for Antimicrobials

Australian Society for Microbiology, Clinical Microbiology Queensland Branch, Special Interest Group Convenor

Queensland co-coordinator for The National VRE Network (NaVREN)
Nephrology Department

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Nephrology Department enjoys the best patient survival rates of any dialysis and kidney transplant centre in Australia and New Zealand. The unit performs over 110 renal transplants per year (more than any other unit in the southern hemisphere) and cares for approximately 600 established transplant patients and 300 dialysis patients. Each year, the unit provides 15,000 occasions of outpatient service. The team is heavily involved in providing education to patients, allied health professional staff, general practitioners, graduate medical students, interns, residents, registrars and both renal and non-renal specialists.

A large number of research activities are conducted at both the clinical and basic science levels. The aim of the clinical research is to further improve outcomes for patients with kidney disease. There are over 90 projects currently underway, examining such diverse areas as infection control, anaemia management, cardiac risk factor intervention, optimal timing of dialysis commencement, obesity and kidney disease, enhancement of dialysis adequacy, novel prevention strategies for acute renal failure, preservation of kidney function, monitoring healthcare delivery quality, optimization of the safety of anti-rejection drug protocols in transplantation, immunosuppressive drug pharmacokinetic studies, and skin cancer and lymphoma prevention in kidney transplant patients. In the last three years, several of the group's research trials have earned national research awards, including the Australian Kidney Foundation Clinical Research Award, and prompted changes in clinical practice guidelines.

In 2003, the Cardiovascular, Metabolic and Renal Research Groups received funding from the NHMRC as a ‘Centre of Clinical Research Excellence’ (CCRE). The renal group’s basic science research focus is the investigation of mechanisms underpinning pathological kidney cell growth and fibrogenesis with a view to developing novel therapeutic strategies for the management of acute renal failure, chronic renal scarring and failure, and renal cell carcinoma.
Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

Peritoneal Dialysis

Cost savings from peritoneal dialysis therapy time extension using icodextrin (Johnson DW, Vincent K, Rumpsfeld M, Just PM).

A prospective, non-controlled trial of the impact of troponin on peritoneal dialysis patient survival. (Johnson DW, Hawley CM, Campbell SB, Hickman R, Isbel N).

A prospective comparison of the value of early versus late peritoneal equilibration tests in the assessment of peritoneal permeability in CAPD patients (Johnson DW, Vincent K).

A randomised, open-label, prospective controlled trial of multiple risk factor intervention on atherosclerosis, vasoreactivity and cardiac ischaemia in pre-dialysis and dialysis patients. LANDMARK Trial (Isbel N, Johnson DW, Marwick T).

A comparison of peritoneal equilibration test results using 2 different dialysate glucose concentrations (Johnson DW, Vincent K).

The impact of obesity on peritoneal dialysis outcomes in Australia and New Zealand (Johnson DW, McDonald S, Collins J).

Predictors of peritonitis in the Australian and New Zealand PD patient populations (Johnson DW, McDonald S, Collins J).

Predictors of peritoneal transport status in the Australian and New Zealand PD patient populations (Johnson DW, McDonald S, Collins J).

The impact of peritoneal transport status on peritoneal dialysis patient outcomes in Australia and New Zealand. (Johnson DW, McDonald S, Collins J).

Predictors of residual renal function decline in Australian and New Zealand peritoneal dialysis patients (Johnson DW, McDonald S, Collins J).

A multicentre randomised controlled trial of Balance™ in Australian and New Zealand PD patients (Johnson DW, Brown F, Woods F).

Early variability in peritoneal equilibration testing is a strong adverse prognostic factor for technique survival in peritoneal dialysis patients (Rumpsfeld M, Johnson DW).

The impact of peritoneal ultrafiltration volumes on peritoneal dialysis patient survival (Rumpsfeld M, Johnson DW).

Predictors of a favourable response to icodextrin in peritoneal dialysis patients with ultrafiltration failure Validation of the Tzamaloukas creatinine generation formula in peritoneal dialysis patients (Rumpsfeld M, Johnson DW).

Development of a formula for calculating creatinine clearance in CAPD patients (Rumpsfeld M, Johnson DW).

An open-label, non-randomised evaluation of the Unica™ peritoneal dialysis system. (Vincent K, Johnson DW).


A retrospective observational cohort study assessing the clinical outcomes of amputation in dialysis patients (Hawley C, Isbel N, Campbell SC, Johnson DW).

A randomized controlled trial of icodextrin versus 4.25% dextrose in CAPD patients with high peritoneal
membrane permeability. (Johnson DW, Beal B).

The relationship between peritoneal transport status and indices of atherosclerosis and vasoreactivity in peritoneal dialysis patients (Armstrong K, Johnson DW, Isbel N).

A randomised controlled trial of oral versus intramuscular B12 administration in dialysis patients (Wiggins K, Johnson DW, Isbel N).

**Haemodialysis**

A randomised controlled trial of fludrocortisone for the treatment of hyperkalaemia in haemodialysis patients. (Johnson DW, Wiggins K)

A randomized controlled trial of Medihoney versus mupirocin in haemodialysis patients with tunneled, cuffed haemodialysis catheters (Mudge D, Hothersall E, Isbel N, Campbell SB, Hawley C, Johnson DW).

The impact of nocturnal home haemodialysis on patient outcomes (Hawley C, Isbel N, Campbell SB, Johnson DW).

A pharmacokinetic study of pre-versus post-haemodialysis dosing of aminoglycosides (Teigen M, Duffull S, Johnson DW).

Contemporaneous outcomes of bacteremias in haemodialysis patients (Isbel N, Hawley C, Campbell SB, Johnson DW).


A cross-sectional study of the role of macrophage colony stimulating factor as a risk factor for atherosclerosis in patients with end-stage renal failure (Isbel N, Marwick T, Johnson DW).

Correlates of subclinical left ventricular dysfunction in endstage renal disease: Influence of endothelial function and cardiovascular risk factors. (Fathi R, Isbel N, Khoury V, Case C, Haluska B, Johnson DW, Marwick TH)

A randomised, open-label, prospective controlled trial of multiple risk factor intervention on atherosclerosis, vasoreactivity and cardiac ischaemia in pre-dialysis and dialysis patients. LANDMARK Trial (Isbel N, Johnson DW, Marwick T).

Efficacy and side-effect profile of sevelamer hydrochloride used in combination with conventional phosphate binders. (Sturtevant JM, Hawley CM, Reiger K, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Burke JR, Bofinger A, Isbel NM.)

A retrospective observational cohort study assessing the clinical outcomes of amputation in dialysis patients (Hawley C, Isbel N, Campbell SC, Johnson DW).

A prospective controlled trial of superflux versus high flux dialysis membranes on homocysteine clearance in haemodialysis patients (Mudge D, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Petrie JJ, Isbel N, Hawley C).

A prospective trial of intradermal hepatitis B vaccination in dialysis patients who have failed to seroconvert following standard subcutaneous vaccination (Hothersall E, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Playford G, Hawley C).

A study of end-stage renal failure patients’ perspectives on their treatment regimens. (Taylor S, Howells J).

A Double-Blind, Randomised, Placebo-Controlled Study of an Oral Calcimimetic Agent (AMG073) in Secondary Hyperparathyroidism of End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)
Subjects (Johnson DW, Beal B).

A Placebo-controlled, Double-blind, Extension Study to Assess the Long-term Safety of an Oral Calcimimetic Agent (AMG073) in Secondary Hyperparathyroidism of End Stage Renal Disease. (Johnson DW, Beal B).

A Multicentre, Randomised, Open-label Study to Compare the Efficacy and Safety of an Oral Calcimimetic Agent (AMG073) When Two Different Vitamin D Regimens are Used in Subjects with Secondary Hyperparathyroidism of End-stage Renal Disease (ESRD). (Johnson DW) (Beal B)

A pure red cell aplasia surveillance program in haemodialysis patients receiving erythropoetin (Sudak J, Johnson DW).

A Double-Blind, Randomised, Placebo-Controlled Study of the effect of Rosuvastatin on cardiovascular outcomes haemodialysis patients (AURORA Trial) (Johnson DW, Beal B).

A controlled crossover study comparing homocysteine clearance in FX class high flux and standard high-flux.

A Retrospective Follow Up Study to Evaluate the Status of Subjects Who Discontinued Participation in a Qualifying Amgen sponsored AMG 073 Study Due to Kidney Transplantation. (Johnson DW).

A randomized controlled study to assess the effects of Cholesterol-lowering therapy with a combination of simvastatin and Ezetimibe on the Risk of Major Cardiovascular Complication Among Individuals with Chronic Kidney disease. (Johnson DW, Sudak J).

A randomized, controlled, open-label, multi-center, parallel-group study to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of RO0503821 when administered intravenously for the maintenance treatment of anemia in patients with chronic kidney disease who are on dialysis. (Johnson DW, Beal B).

**Transplantation**

A randomised, open-label, prospective controlled trial of multiple risk factor intervention on atherosclerosis, vasoreactivity and cardiac ischaemia in renal transplant recipients. Transplant LANDMARK Trial (Isbel N, Johnson DW, Marwick T).

Determinants of atherosclerosis, vasoreactivity and cardiac ischaemia in renal transplant recipients. (Isbel N, Johnson DW, Marwick T).

A randomized controlled trial assessing the impact of oral iron supplementation on mycophenolate mofetil absorption in renal transplant recipients (Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Hawley CM, Isbel N, Nicol DL, Taylor R, Pillans P).

Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic investigation of free mycophenolic acid and its glucuronide metabolite in renal transplant recipients. (Atcheson BA, Taylor PJ, Mudge DW, Johnson DW, Pillans PI, Tett SE).

A formula for the prediction of renal allograft function following renal transplantation. (hawley C, Isbel N, Campbell SB, Johnson DW, Nicol DL).

The role of free mycophenolic acid monitoring in renal transplant recipients with hypoalbuninaemia. (Atcheson BA, Taylor PJ, Kirpatrick CMJ, Duffull SB, Mudge DW, Pillans PI, Tett SE, Johnson DW).

A prospective, non-controlled study of the role of memory T cells for Epstein-Barr virus in renal allograft rejection. (Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Franzen K, Burrows S).


Prognostic value of renal vein resistance indices in renal transplant recipients. (Hawley C).

The role of subclinical rejection in renal transplant outcomes (Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley C, Nicol D).

The role of tumourrectomised kidneys as a potential source of allografts for renal transplantation (Nicol DL, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley C).


Polycystic kidneys as a potential source of allografts for renal transplantation (Nicol DL, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley C).

The effect of influenza vaccination in renal transplant recipients with IgA nephropathy (Isbel N).

A randomized, open-label study of continuous therapy with cyclosporine and sirolimus versus induction with cyclosporine and sirolimus followed by continuous
therapy with sirolimus in renal allograft recipients.

An Open-Label Extension Study of the safety of Long-Term Administration of Sirolimus in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients.

An Open label extension study of the safety of Long-term administration of sirolimus (Rapamune) in solid organ transplant recipients.

A randomized, open label, comparative evaluation of conversion from calcineurin inhibitors to sirolimus versus continued use of calcineurin inhibitors in renal allograft recipients.

A 1 year multicentre, randomized, open label parallel group study of the safety, tolerability and efficacy of two doses (1.5 and 3mg/day) of Certican (RAD001) with Simulect, corticosteroids and optimized administration of Neoral in de novo renal transplant recipients.

A one year, randomised, open label, parallel group study to investigate the safety and the effect of Myfortic™ (ERL080) in combination with either full dose or reduced dose Neoral™ in de novo kidney transplant recipients CERL080A2405AU01. (Campbell SB).

A 12 month, randomized, multicenter, open-label study to investigate the clinical outcomes of two immunosuppressive regimens of Myfortic™ with short-term steroid use or free of steroids compared with a regimen of Myfortic™ with standard steroids in de novo kidney recipients receiving Simulect® and Neoral® – FREEDOM Study

An Open, prospective, randomized, controlled multi-centre study comparing Fixed Dose vs Concentration Controlled mycophenolate mofetil regimens for de novo patients following renal transplantation. (Campbell SB).

Pre-transplant pharmacokinetics as a predictor of dose requirement post renal transplantation. A multicentre, open, prospective, 2-arm, phaseIV study of Prograf (tacrolimus) in renal transplant patients. (Campbell SB).

General Nephrology

Factors influencing long term outcome of hypertension in patients with fibromuscular dysplasia of the renal arteries.
A multicentre, randomized controlled trial of the effect of cholesterol reduction on cardiovascular end-points in patients with chronic renal failure. (Neal B, Johnson DW, Pollock C, Walker R, McDonald S)

Initiation of Dialysis Early and Late (IDEAL) Trial (Johnson DW).

OTHER RESEARCH

Basic Science Research

Erythropoetin as a novel renoprotective agent in in vitro and in vivo models of acute renal failure. (Johnson DW, Vesey D, Gobe G, Endre Z).

The role of darbepoietin alpha as a novel renoprotective agent in a rat model of ischaemic acute renal failure (Johnson DW, Vesey D, Gobe G, Endre Z).

The effect of erythropoetin alpha on delayed graft function in a dog model of renal transplantation (Nicol DL, Johnson DW).

The role of macrophages and secreted interleukin-1b in renal tubulointerstitial fibrosis (Vesey DA, Cheung C, Johnson DW).


The role of silibinin in renal cell carcinoma (Cheung C, Vesey DA, Johnson DW, Nicol DL).

Cordyceps sinensis as a novel renoprotective agent in experimental acute and chronic renal failure (Gobe G, Johnson DW).

Modulating apoptosis in renal cell carcinoma (Johnson DW, Gobe G).

The myofibroblast as a target for controlling renal fibrosis using in vitro and in vivo models (Cuttle, Endre Z, Johnson DW, Gobe G).

The role of reactive oxygen species and protein kinase C in in vitro models of human renal failure.

Targeting the myofibroblast to limit renal fibrosis after cancer therapies.

Strategies for targeted renal delivery of viral vectors for controlled and long-term gene therapy against chronic renal failure (Johnson DW, Gobe G).

The role of protease-activated receptors (PARs) in progressive renal scarring, inflammation and failure. (Johnson DW, Vesey D, Gobe G, Endre Z).

Financial Support

CURRENT NHMRC

$70,000 NHMRC, Manipulation of tubulointerstitial cross-talk in progressive human renal disease, DW Johnson

$84,000 NHMRC / AHMAC / Industry, IDEAL Trial, CA Pollock

$27,000 NHMRC CCRE grant, A randomised, open-label, prospective controlled trial of multiple risk factor intervention on atherosclerosis, vasoreactivity and cardiac ischaemia in renal transplant recipients. Transplant LANDMARK Trial, TH Marwick

$7,500 NHMRC, Dynamics of Cytotoxic Lymphocyte Responses to Human Cytomegalovirus in Solid Organ transplant Patients (DW Johnson, S Campbell, R Khanna, D Moss)

OTHER FUNDS

$35,000 University of Queensland, Strategies for targeted renal delivery of viral vectors for controlled and long-term gene therapy against chronic renal failure, G Gobe

$10,000 PAH Research and Development Foundation, The role of IGF-I in renal cell carcinoma, DW Johnson

$20,000 Amgen, The role of darbepoietin alpha as a novel renoprotective agent in a rat model of ischaemic acute renal failure, DW Johnson

$20,000 University of Queensland, A research program into the metabolic syndrome, JB Prins

$4,200 Wyeth, An Open-Label Extension Study of the Safety of Long-term Administration of Sirolimus (RapamuneTM) in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients (Incorporating Amendment 1 to Protocol ), S Campbell


$1,000 Wyeth, Sirolimus Protocol 0468H1-310-AU: A Randomized, Open-label Study of Continuous Therapy with Cyclosporine and Sirolimus versus Induction with Cyclosporine and Sirolimus Followed by Continuous Therapy with Sirolimus in Renal Allograft Recipients, S Campbell

$10,000 Wyeth, A randomized, open-label, comparative evaluation of conversion from calcineurin inhibitors to sirolimus versus continued use of calcineurin inhibitors in renal allograft recipients (incorporating amendment 1 to protocol) 0468H1-316-AP, S Campbell

$5,337 Novartis, A 1 year multicenter, randomized, open label, parallel group study of the safety, tolerability and efficacy of two doses (1.5 and 3 mg/day) of Certican™ (RAD001) with steroids and optimized
administration of Neoral® in de novo renal transplant recipients, S Campbell

$7,600 Novartis, An extension to a 1 year multicenter, randomized, open label, parallel group study of the safety, tolerability and efficacy of two doses (1.5 and 3 mg/day) of Certican® (RAD001) with Simulect®, corticosteroids and optimized administration of Neoral® in de novo renal transplant recipients, S Campbell

$400 Novartis, A 1 Year, Double-Blind, Double- Dummy and 2 Year Open-Label, Randomized, Multicenter, Parallel Group Study of the Efficacy and Safety of RAD001 Tablets versus Mycophenolate Mofetil as Part of Triple Immunosuppressive Therapy in De Novo Renal Transplant Recipients, S Campbell

$6,700 Novartis, An observational long-term, multicentre, study of the impact of therapeutic decision making for transplant recipients prescribed Neoral under conditions of normal clinical practice, S Campbell

$4,410 Novartis, 24-Hour Holter monitoring in stable adult renal transplant patients maintained on cyclosporin and mycophenolate mofetil (CYT202A2216), S Campbell

$32,400 Novartis, A twelve-month, randomized, open label, parallel group study to investigate the safety and the effect of Myfortic® (ERL080) in combination with either full dose or reduced dose Neoral® in de novo kidney transplant recipients CERL080A240AU01, S Campbell

$23,100 Novartis, A twelve-month, randomized, multicenter, open-label study to investigate the clinical outcomes of two immunosuppressive regimens of Myfortic® with short-term steroid use or free of steroids compared with a regimen of Myfortic® with standard steroids in de novo kidney recipients receiving Simulect® and Neoral® – FREEDOM Study, S Campbell

$12,400 Amgen, A Placebo-controlled, Double-blind, Extension Study to Assess the Long-term Safety of an Oral Calcimimetic Agent (AMG 073) in Secondary Hyperparathyroidism of End-stage Renal Disease., DW Johnson

$5,600 Amgen, A Multicenter, Randomized, Open-label Study to Compare the Efficacy and Safety of an Oral Calcimimetic Agent (AMG 073) When Two Different Vitamin D Regimens are Used in Subjects with Secondary Hyperparathyroidism of End-stage Renal Disease (ESRD), DW Johnson

$270 Amgen, A Retrospective Follow Up Study to Evaluate the Status of Subjects Who Discontinued Participation in a Qualifying Amgen sponsored AMG 073 Study Due to Kidney Transplantation, DW Johnson

$4,335 Baxter, A Double Blind, randomized, Multicentre, Phase IIb, Parallel-Group Study to compare the Effects of Rosuvastatin (10mg oral) with placebo on Assessment of Survival and cardiovascular Events when given to subjects with End Stage Renal Failure on Chronic Haemodialysis Treatment, DW Johnson

$12,120 Astra Zeneca, An Open, prospective, randomized, controlled multi-centre study comparing Fixed Dose vs Concentration Controlled mycophenolate mofetil regimens for de novo patients following renal transplantation, N Isbel

$2,370 Janssen-Cilag, An active safety surveillance plan to conduct serologic testing for anti-erythropoietin antibodies and prospectively monitor the incidence of Pure Red Cell Aplasia (PRCA) in patients receiving epoetin-alpha therapy. EPO-IMU-402, DW Johnson

$50,000 Pfizer Cardiovascular Grant, A randomised, open-label, prospective controlled trial of multiple risk factor intervention on atherosclerosis, vasoreactivity and cardiac ischaemia in renal transplant recipients. Transplant LANDMARK Trial, N Isbel

$60,000 Amgen, A randomised controlled trial of ascorbic acid administration for the treatment of darbepoietin alpha-resistant anaemia, C Hawley

Publications


McDonald SP, Collins J, Johnson DW. Obesity is associated with worse peritoneal dialysis outcomes in the Australian and New Zealand patient populations. Journal of the American Society of Nephrology 2003; 14:2894-901.

Pat BK, Cuttle L, Watters D, Yang T, Johnson DW, Gobe GC. Fibrogenic stresses activate different mitogen-activated protein kinase pathways in renal epithelial, endothelial or fibroblast cell populations. Nephrology 2003;8:196-204.


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


Drucke T. Greater Achievement of KDOQI Bone Metabolism and Disease Targets with Cinacalcet HCl in an EU/Australian Phase 3 Study in Haemodialysis Patients. European Dialysis and Transplant Association Annual Scientific Meeting.


mass spectrometric and ultraviolet detection. Journal of Chromatography

Atcheson BA, Taylor PJ, Kirkpatrick CMJ, Duffull SB, Mudge DW, Pillans PL, Tett SE, Johnson DW. Free mycophenolic acid should be monitored in patients with hyperaluminaemia. Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Cheung C, Vesey DA, Gobe G, Johnson DW. The roles of IGF-I and IGFBP-3 in the regulation of proximal tubule and renal cell carcinoma cell proliferation. Kidney International


Vesey DA, Cheung C, Endre Z, Gobe G, Johnson DW. The role of protein kinase C and oxidative stress in interleukin-1β-induced human proximal tubule cell injury and fibrogenesis. Nephrology


Yang T, Pat B, Vesey D, Johnson DW, Wei M, Gobe G. Two models of cancer therapy-induced renal tubulointerstitial fibrosis demonstrate a correlation between interstitial cell apoptosis and low levels of fibrosis. International Journal of Experimental Pathology

Lectures and Presentations

David Johnson

“New peritoneal dialysis solutions”, “Dialysis Nephrology Transplantation Workshop, Barossa Valley, 5-7 March 2003”


“Peritoneal dialysis literature review and update,” Home Dialysis Therapies Symposium, Melbourne, 29-30 March 2003

“Peritoneal dialysis in the new millennium: Everything old is new again,” ANZ Renal Society of Australia, 1st Annual Conference, 15-17 May, 2003


“Clinical pathological conference presentation,” Asia Pacific Forum in Nephrology, Sanctuary Cove, 15-18 May 2003

“Diabetic nephropathy: can we really do anything about it?” Servier General Physicians Weekend, 21-22 June 2003

“Grand Rounds Principal Discussant,” St Vincent’s Hospital Medical Grand Rounds, 4 August 2003

“Cardiovascular risk factor modification in end-stage renal failure,” Sanofi Cardiovascular Research Weekend, 22-23 August 2003

“Managing cardiovascular disease in end-stage renal failure,” Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Postgraduate Education Seminar, Perth, 30 August 2003


“Novel renoprotective strategies for acute renal failure,” Lions Medical Research Foundation Annual General Meeting, November 2, Brisbane.

Carmel Hawley


Panel Member for “Healthcare Improvement School” for Collaborative for Health care Improvement 13 June 2003, Brisbane


“RAS blockade – state of the art” Brisbane Southside GPs, 2 July 2003.

“Ishamic and Diabetic Nephropathy”: The Royal Australasian College of Physicians Queensland State College Lecture Series, 16th July 2003, Wesley Hospital Auditorium, Brisbane.

“Principles of Dialysis” GMC Year 2, Herston Medical School, 21 July 2003.

“Renal dysfunction and long term outcomes in solid organ transplants” Queensland Transplant Symposium, 26-27 July 2003, Twin Waters, Maroochydore.

“Electrolytes and acid base” GMC Year 2, Herston Medical School, 28 July 2003.


“Chronic renal failure: Diabetic and vascular renal disease” GMC Year 2, Herston Medical School, Brisbane, 18 August 2003.

Post Graduate Students

Catherine Cheung, PhD (in progress)
Betty Pat, PhD (completed 2003)
Tao Yang, PhD (in progress)
Kirsty Armstrong, M Phil (commenced 2003)
Markus Rumpsfeld, PhD (in progress)

Awards

Catherine Cheung, Don Jacquot travel grant to present research pertaining to the role of IGFBP-3 in renal cell carcinoma at the American Society of Nephrology Annual Scientific Meeting, October 2003.

Public Service Relevant to Research

David Johnson
Caring for Australians with Renal Impairment (CARI) Clinical Practice Guidelines Steering Committee Member
Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Association (ANZDATA) Registry Management Committee Member
ANZDATA Registry Peritoneal Dialysis Advisory Committee Member
Peritoneal Dialysis Project Manager, ANZDATA Registry
Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Representative on Dialysis Nephrology Transplant Committee
Australian representative on Pure Red Cell Aplasia Global Scientific Advisory Board.
Working Party Member of ANZSN CARI Guidelines for Peritoneal Dialysis Adequacy
Working Party Member of ANZSN CARI Guidelines for Prevention of Renal Failure Progression
Working Party Member of Australian Cancer Network National Clinical Practice Guidelines for Post-Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorder and Other Immunodeficiency-Related Lymphomas
Working Party Member of Australian and New Zealand Clinical Practice Guidelines on Icodextrin Usage in Peritoneal Dialysis
Queensland Government Advisory Committee for Strategies for Prevention of Progressive Renal Failure
Early Renal Impairment Task Force
Kidney Check Australia Taskforce Member
Initiation of Dialysis Early and Late (IDEAL) Steering Committee Member

Scott Campbell
Scientific Program Co-ordinator, Dialysis Nephrology Transplant Workshop, Barossa Valley, March 5-7, 2003

Scott Campbell
Convenor, TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting 2003.
Chair of CARI Guidelines Working Party on Renal Transplant Recipient suitability.
Queensland Representative on Renal Transplant Advisory Committee.
Research Staff

Dr Sarah Winch
Nursing Director of Research

Dr Amanda Henderson
Nursing Director of Education

Ms Kerri Holzhauser
Nurse Researcher

Nursing Education and Research Unit

The Nursing Education and Research Unit provides expert research and education training, analysis and advice across the Southern Zone of Queensland Health. The staff promote evidence based practice, the ethical conduct of research, participate in large scale research projects and supervise smaller clinical projects.

Research Activities

Enhancing the health, wellbeing, job satisfaction and retention of hospital based registered and enrolled nurses working shift work

The aim of this research is to use shift work stress, social identity and communication accommodation theories to develop and apply a theoretical framework to the hospital based nursing sector that explains the current turnover crisis through an examination of the relationships between work environment factors, health, well being, job satisfaction and voluntary turnover intention. From this an intervention strategy will be developed and tested in order to ascertain what is necessary to create a working environment that increases health, wellbeing, job satisfaction and lessens turnover.

Nurse Practitioner in Queensland: An evaluation across 4 sites

Nurse practitioners span the disciplinary boundaries of medicine and nursing and have been used extensively and safely overseas in a variety of areas. They are allowed to supply medications, order pathology tests and perform invasive procedures which are normally the province of general practitioners. In 2003 Queensland Health successfully trialed four models of nurse practitioners, two used a primary health care model and were situated in remote communities, one is in a rural hospital and the other is based in the acute care setting in oncology nursing.

The value of nursing: a cross-national and multi-stakeholder study of the cultural value parameters relevant to the recruitment and retention of nurses

This is the Australian component of an international pilot study which aims to understand the ‘value of nursing’ in contemporary society. In this context ‘value’ means the perceived worth or importance or estimation of nursing as an occupation in the eyes of various groups, including nurses themselves. The research team wishes to explore qualitatively what gives nursing worth. This understanding is sought on the assumption that current difficulties in recruitment and retention of nurses are not just about salaries (and ‘conditions of work’ in the narrow sense), but also about answers to the question: ‘Is nursing worthwhile?’ If a large a number of people feel that nursing is no longer ‘worthwhile’, what underlies that? This is an important question for social policy.
Queensland Health successfully trialed four models of nurse practitioners, two used a primary health care model and were situated in remote communities, one is in a rural hospital and the other is based in the acute care setting in oncology nursing...

The impact of Clinical Education Units on student learning

This model of clinical facilitation coined by QUT in the late 1990s involves the secondment of an RN from a ward area to the position of Clinical Associate. Staff seconded to this position are responsible for the supervision and assessment of a group of 6-8 students within their ward area. Other ward staff are also expected to take on responsibility for providing quality learning experiences for students. All staff members are supported by the University academics. Students are placed within the same ward area across one academic year promoting continuity to maximize clinical learning outcomes. This study seeks to measure differences in students perceptions of organisational climate and learning opportunities.

Change to one hospital during the application of Magnet Recognition

This project aims to examine changes to nursing workforce issues such as education, environment, burnout, staffing levels and patient outcomes, during the application for a nursing excellence award.

Collaborative Care from Bench to Bedside

This is a collaborative project which is seeking to link all the cancer care services within the Princess Alexandra Hospital to provide seamless cancer care from the laboratory to the patient. The nursing component of this research is a fully funded PhD scholarship.
Financial Support
$120,000. ARC Linkage Grant ID LP0347577. Enhancing the health, wellbeing, jobs satisfaction and retention of hospital-based registered and enrolled nurses working shift work (Pisarski, A., Gallois C, Watson B, Bohle P, Winch S., Mitchell A)
$17,000 Health Advisory Unit, Queensland Health. Nurse Practitioner in Queensland: An evaluation across 4 sites (Winch S., Holzhauser K, Yates P, Kerr K, Adcock M)

Publications

Presentations
Creedy, D., Chaboyer, W., Winch, S. and Blake, P. Getting Evidence into Practice: A Theoretical Basis for Change. Royal College of Nursing Australia Annual Conference, Gold Coast, Queensland, July 2003.

Events
The Nursing Oration at the PA Hospital – Orator, Ms Rosemary Bryant, Executive Director, Royal College of Nursing Australia Nursing Education & Research Unit 2003 Ethics Seminar Series – Seminar One – Emergency, Intensive Care, Mental Health Nursing Education & Research Unit 2003 Ethics Seminar Series – Seminar Ethics Seminar Two – Medical / Surgical / Geriatric and Rehabilitation Nursing Education & Research Unit 2003 Ethics Seminar Series – Seminar Ethics Seminar Three – Gastroenterology, Renal and Transplant Services.

Public service Relevant to Research
Launch of Southern Zone Research Handbook (written and electronic format) Review of Nursing Education and Research activities and structure at Logan Hospital Membership of Princess Alexandra Hospital Research Ethics Committee Editorial Board Member of Australian Emergency Nursing Journal (K. Holzhauser) Research Teaching and Support through Project Supervision Patients expressed needs for information on arrival at a Geriatric and Rehabilitation Unit. Mentor: Dr Amanda Henderson. Development of indicators to identify those patients with fractured hip and anticipated prolonged length of hospital stay to allow preventative intervention and management of their care to reduce the length of hospital stay. Mentor Dr Sarah Winch What evidence-based assessment, treatment and outcome measures can be used in the clinical physiotherapy setting for vertigo and dizziness presenting as a part of the complex disequilibrium problem in Multiple Sclerosis? Mentor Dr Sarah Winch The effectiveness of support groups for families with a member who has a substance abuse problem in decreasing family trauma. Mentor Dr Sarah Winch Assessing the relevance of posted printed materials in asthma education Mentor Dr Sarah Winch Identifying the barriers to caring behaviours in the acute care context. Mentor: Dr Amanda Henderson. The effectiveness of massage with aromatherapy to relieve stress on staff in the Emergency Department. Mentor: Kerri Holzhauser.
Neurosurgery Department

The Neurosurgical Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital is now one of the busiest in the country. As well as having a heavy service commitment, the unit are now promoting and encouraging further research activities. The department have one full time research fellow each year, but hoping to expand this. The staff are working in collaboration with other research units, for example the spinal cord regeneration project. The department support the Trivett Fellowship, which funds research into the cause of primary brain tumours (refer to separate section in this report). The Trivett Fellowship is currently held by Dr Tammy Ellis at the Institute for Molecular Biosciences.

The unit is keen to collaborate with basic neuroscience research groups at the University, and future projects are now being discussed with the Queensland Brain Institute.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

Spinal cord regeneration with autologous olfactory ensheathing cells implanted in human spinal cord injury: a phase 1 study.

OTHER RESEARCH

Dr Martin Wood


‘Epidemiological aspects of spontaneous subarachnoid haemorrhage in Queensland, Australia.’ A population-based observational study; article submitted to Journal of Clinical Neuroscience.

‘The epidemiology of spontaneous subarachnoid haemorrhage within the indigenous population of Queensland, Australia.’ This article has been submitted to the Medical Journal of Australia.

‘Computed tomographic angiography (CTA) in the investigation of the patient with sudden onset headache but without radiographic evidence of subarachnoid haemorrhage.’ This is a prospective study comparing the efficacy of CTA with that of lumbar puncture in the exclusion of subarachnoid haemorrhage after a sudden onset severe headache but a normal plain CT scan of the brain. This study has been formulated in 2003 and will commence in early 2004.
Dr Adrian Nowitzke
The kinematics of the cervical spine after fusion. Nowitzke and Bazina.
The learning curve of micro-endoscopic discectomy. Nowitzke
Endoscopic decompression for lumbar canal stenosis – an observational study. Nowitzke

Dr Sarah Olsen
Microvascular decompression in the elderly – is it worthwhile?
Microvascular decompression: Recurrence and complications results of 25 years of surgery at Princess Alexandra Hospital
Microendoscopic decompression for lumbar disc disease. Results to date and cost benefit analysis at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Financial Support
PAH by way of Research Registrar, Fellow in Clinical Research, Epidemiology of subarachnoid haemorrhage 2003, Martin Wood

Publications

ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION
Dr Sarah Olsen; Journal of Clinical Neuroscience.
Management of slit ventricle syndrome: a review of current literature
Microvascular decompression for trigeminal neuralgia in the elderly
Microvascular decompression for trigeminal neuralgia: recurrences and complications

Lectures and Presentations
Assoc Prof Leigh Atkinson
Hobart May 2003: Annual Scientific Meeting, Faculty of Pain Medicine and the College of Anaesthetists. Title: “Trigeminal Neuralgia.”
Brisbane May 2003: Annual Scientific Meeting, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Lecture – “The Training Program of the Faculty of the College of Anaesthetists.”
Brisbane May 2003: Annual Scientific Meeting, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Title: “Pain and Measuring Impairment and Disability.”
Singapore November 2003: Invited Speaker (Plenary Session), Four yearly Scientific Meeting of the Asian Australasian Association of Neurological Surgeons. Title: “The Ethics of Surgery in Conjoined Twins.”
Singapore November 2003: Scientific Meeting, Asian Australasian Association of Neurological Surgeons. Title: “Trigeminal Neuralgia in the Elderly. An examination of recent cases at the Princess Alexandra Hospital”
September 2003: “Coil Embolisation of Intracranial Aneurysms with Dr Martin Wood”.

Assoc Professor Michael Weidmann
“Epidemiology of Cerebral Aneurysms.” Annual Scientific Meeting, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Brisbane May 2003
“Neurosurgical Training. Are the numbers right?” Annual Scientific Meeting, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Brisbane May 2003
“Effects of Limited Workhours on Surgical training.” Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, Annual Scientific Meeting Queenstown, New Zealand, August 2003

Dr Adrian Nowitzke
“Common Spine Surgery Down the Tube. MED and others.” MAST Australia Course (by invitation). Brisbane, August 2003
“Far lateral micro-endoscopic discectomy. Is it the ideal indication for MED.” Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, Annual Scientific Meeting Queenstown, New Zealand, August 2003
“Minimal access spine surgery.” Richmond Valley Clinical Society (by invitation), Lismore, Australia, May 2003
“Paraplegics walking again – Realistic possibility or cruel fantasy?” Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Annual Scientific Convention, Brisbane, Australia, May 2003
“Cavernous angiomata only cause small haemorrhages – don’t they?” Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Convention, Brisbane, Australia, May 2003
“The learning curve associated with micro-endoscopic discectomy.” Spine Society of Australia, Annual Scientific Meeting, Canberra, Australia, April 2003

Dr Martin Wood
“Temporal lobectomy for epilepsy in the older patient.” Presented at the 2003 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, held in Brisbane. The study presented was performed at the Victorian Epilepsy Centre, St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne in 2002-3.
“CSF spectrophotometry in the diagnosis and exclusion of spontaneous subarachnoid haemorrhage.” Presented at the 2003 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, Queenstown, New Zealand.

Dr Sarah Olsen
“Microvascular decompression in the elderly and complications and recurrences.” 2003 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Also Neville Davis Prize (Finalist)
“Meningioma in Polynesians, is there a problem?” Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, Annual Scientific Meeting Queenstown, New Zealand, August 2003. Also Neville Davis Prize

Post Graduate Students
Martin Wood, Masters of Philosophy (commenced 2003)

Awards
Assoc Professor Leigh Atkinson was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal in 2003.
Dr Adrian Nowitzke was awarded the Stuart Morson Scholarship in Neurosurgery for 2003. (Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.) to further research into spine surgery for trauma. Jan – Mar 2004 Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham UK
Dr Martin Wood was awarded the 2003 Codman Johnson & Johnson prize – awarded for “Temporal lobectomy for epilepsy in the older patient.” This $5000 prize is awarded for the best presentation of a scientific paper by an advanced trainee in Neurosurgery at the RACS ASC. This will be used to attend the 2004 American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Public Service Relevant to Research
Associate Professor Leigh Atkinson continues in the position of Dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. This body supervises training, education and examinations of candidates for the Diploma of the Faculty.
Associate Professor Michael Weidmann remains Chairman of the Board of Neurosurgery, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
The John Trivett Senior Research Fellow Report

Understanding the Cause of Primary Brain Tumours

Approximately 1400 new cases of brain tumours are diagnosed annually in Australia. Despite poor outcomes associated with the development of most types of brain tumours, very little is known of the causes and molecular changes associated with the transition from benign to malignant. Consequently, there are very few markers that can be used to predict the outcomes before and after treatment, and a lack of new cellular targets against which one might attempt to develop new drugs or other treatments. Our research is centred on understanding the primary causes of brain tumours. At the present time we are concentrating our efforts into researching gliomas and medulloblastomas using DNA microarray analysis, mouse models and mutation searching.

One of the main interests of the laboratory is the Patched/hedgehog signalling pathway. Recent clues into the causes of brain tumours has come from the analysis of the Patched/hedgehog gene family. These genes were first implicated in the origins of common cancer through the findings that they were commonly mutated in basal cell carcinoma of the skin. Subsequently, it was shown that the Patched gene was mutated in the common paediatric brain tumour medulloblastoma, and a gene in the same genetic pathway, Gli, plays a role in the development of glioblastoma.

Diagnostic pathology has traditionally relied on macro- and microscopic histology and tumour morphology as the basis for classifying tumours. Current classification frameworks are unable to discriminate between tumours sharing similar histopathological features but varying in clinical course and response to treatment. Using a combination of the Tumour Tissue Bank at the PAH and the gene chip expertise at the IMB we have begun to examine the set of genes which are switched on or off in gliomas. From this we will be able to cast the net more widely in the search of important genetic changes in the formation of gliomas. We will use this data to explore known pathways to further characterise molecules, which we already expect to play a role as yet undefined in the pathogenesis of the tumours and also a new phase of discovery to hunt for new pathways and important genes.

Our initial results indicate that it is possible to use frozen tumour samples to molecular profile GBMs. We have also provided some clues to the molecular changes involved in tumorigenesis and the changes occurring in the progression to more malignant phenotypes. To further determine the molecular changes in gliomas we will profile approximately 100 tumours of different histological classifications. The outputs we will obtain through the genetic profiling of gliomas include gene discovery, developing better tools for the diagnosis of tumours and increased prognosis.
Nutrition and Dietetic Services

The Nutrition and Dietetic Department provide nutrition services to all inpatients and to outpatients referred through specialised clinics or requiring home enteral nutrition. Malnutrition screening and assessment of all inpatients is a key feature of our clinical role. Staff provide nutrition support in enteral and parenteral nutrition, a range of nutrition supplements, texture and fluid modifications through our food services and counselling on all aspect of nutrition care. The service also includes an outreach program to Charleville Health Service District, supported by videoconferencing.

The research of the group focuses on the application of clinical nutrition in the practical care of patients. This includes nutrition support in cancer, management of weight problems and obesity in diabetes and hepatitis C virus (HCV), development and implementation of validated nutrition tools and assessment of nutrition requirements. Staff teach nutrition and dietetic students from Queensland University of Technology, the University of Queensland and Griffith University through lectures and supervised placements in clinical nutrition and food service. Currently there are five postgraduate students on staff.

... research of the group focuses on the application of clinical nutrition in the practical care of patients ...
Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS
Development and implementation of validated dehydration screening tool. The study of dehydration in older people in acute care will investigate prevalence, validity of clinical assessment parameters and aim to develop a valid screening tool. (A. Vivanti, K Harvey, S Ash, S Capra M Roberts, P Varghese, D Johnson, L Ward, J Stokes.)

Malnutrition and Pressure ulcer. Ongoing assessment of malnutrition and incidence with pressure ulcer. (M Banks, S Ash, A Vivanti, D Cruickshank, K Atkinson, J Hill, T Logan)

Quality of Life, cost effectiveness, and functional speech and swallowing outcomes, following differential management of laryngeal cancer – Two modalities for initial treatment of glottic cancer are to be compared. The study will compare outcomes such as nutrition in addition to voice quality, quality of life, cost and clinical outcome. Nutritional assessments are completed periodically up to 2 years post treatment with patients randomly treated with either a course of radiotherapy or overnight-stay laser therapy. (Professor Coman, S Coman, T Cooney, B Panizza, C Perry, R Bova, D Thomas, B Hickey, L Cahill, K Hancock, S Coutice, K Dutkowski, L Galvin).

Developing and Evaluating Evidence-based Guidelines for Nutritional Support in the Intensive Care Unit: Participation in the multi centre randomised control trial with 26 New Zealand and Australian hospitals associated with the Australian New Zealand Intensive Care society (ANZICS). The study is to develop evidence based guidelines for feeding critically ill patients. The effect of these guidelines on clinically meaningful outcomes will be evaluated using a cluster randomised trial design. (Overall: G Doig, Onsite: C Joyce, S Ash, Ali)

Dark adaptation and vitamin A in patients awaiting dark adaptation.(W Abbott)

LIVACT study: To assess whether nutritional status (anthropometry, grip strength and dietary assessments) will be improved for liver patients randomised to receive nocturnal branch chain amino acids in addition to nutritional supplementation. (D Crawford. P Kerlin, G Cleghorn)

Financial Support
$1250 Queensland Cancer Fund Continuing Education Grant (Oncology Patient Care) was conferred 2002 and received in 2003 to attend the national Dietitians Association of Australia Conference (Wendy Davidson)

Publications


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations
Ali A. -QUT 3rd yr Nutrition and Dietetic students Nutritional implications ad management of Liver disease September 2003

Davidson W. QUT 3rd yr Nutrition and Dietetic students ( August & September 2003)

Enteral & Parenteral Nutrition Support I&II

GIT I&II

PA week 2003 (Presenter bolded, authors underlined)

Davidson W, Ash S, Capra S, Bauer J. Intensive nutrition intervention improves cancer outcomes


Reeves M Ash S, Capra S Hypermetabolism in cancer : Fact or Fallacy


Conferences

ORAL PRESENTATIONS


**POSTER**


**Post Graduate Students**

Abbott W, PhD, (in progress)

Banks M, DHlthSc, (in progress)

Davidson W, M Appl Sc, (submitted)

Hickman I, PhD, (in progress)

Reeves M, PhD, (in progress)

Vivanti A, DHlthSc, (in progress)

**Awards**


**Public Service Relevant to Research**

**S. Ash**

PAHHS Research Committee

Assessor PhD Candidate (QUT x 2)

Dietitians Association of Australia Dietetic Standards & Accreditation Advisory Committee

Chairperson, Practice Advisory Committee, DAA

DAA National Conference Scientific Sub-committee (21st National DAA Conference)

Referee, Australian Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics

**A. Vivanti**

PAHHS Allied Health Research Committee

On Referee Register Australian Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics

DAA National Conference Scientific Sub-committee (21st National DAA Conference.)
The Occupational Therapy Department aims to develop capacity for research that results in the advancement of health care. In 2003 the department has continued to promote research activity which has centred on evaluating a range of assessments and treatments used by occupational therapists in clinical practice. These include cognitive assessments for use in the evaluation of cognitive function in aging populations, post-traumatic amnesia and self-awareness following brain injury, and the measurement of joint stiffness in the hand.

Research has been concentrating on evaluating interventions is occurring in the treatment of prospective memory problems, driving rehabilitation, day hospital rehabilitation for acquired brain injury, patient education materials, and hand therapy. Research links have been consolidated with the University of Queensland through the ongoing appointment of a conjoint lecturer. In addition, staff have contributed to four successful research grants including a large NHMRC project grant. Six papers were published in international and national journals with a further three accepted for publication.

The department provides clinical services in the areas of acute care, spinal injury rehabilitation, geriatric assessment and rehabilitation, and brain injury rehabilitation. An additional position this year has also been secured in the Emergency Department. There is a strong focus on evidence based practice, and all areas are involved in establishing clinical protocols based upon available evidence.

Undergraduate and graduate entry masters occupational therapy students are supported in the department for clinical placement and fieldwork experiences from the University of Queensland and James Cook University. Staff are involved in clinical teaching at the University of Queensland and support several honours students conducting clinical projects at the hospital each year, as well as postgraduate research students. Consultation and education is provided to regional areas. Queensland Health clinicians sponsored by an AHPEP scholarship have been supported throughout the year.
Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS
Comparison of prospective memory rehabilitation programmes for adults with traumatic brain injury: by D. Shum (Griffith University), Jenny Fleming, Jenny Strong (UQ), Janelle Griffin.

OTHER RESEARCH
A research intervention to enhance the well-being and psychosocial outcomes of patients based on ICF “environment” framework: by P. Kuipers (Conrod, ABIOS), Michele Foster (Griffith University), Jenny Fleming and BIRU Day Hospital Rehabilitation team
Objective and behavioural assessment of the emergence from post-traumatic amnesia: by Nicole Weir, Anna Weimers, Emmah Doig, and Jenny Fleming
Optimal daily total end range time (TERT) for contracture resolution in mobilising splinting: by Celeste Glasgow
Measurement of joint stiffness in the hand: reliability and validity of torque angle curves: by Celeste Glasgow
Predictors of outcome with mobilising splinting: by Celeste Glasgow (PhD student), Jenny Fleming and Leigh Tooth (supervisors)
A study of impaired self-awareness and employment outcome following acquired brain injury: by Tamara Ownsworth (UQ), Jenny Fleming, Kasey Wise (honours student), Janelle Griffin, Julianne Gardner (UQ PhD student)
A prospective longitudinal study of self-awareness and functional outcome following acquired brain injury: a 12 month follow-up: by Tamara Ownsworth (UQ), Jenny Fleming, Jenny Strong (UQ), Mike Riddel (Prince Charles Hospital) and Wilbur Chan (PCH).
The relationship between compensation status, symptom endorsement, readiness to change and strategy behaviour for individuals with traumatic brain injury: by Tamara Ownsworth (UQ), Jenny Fleming, Jenny Strong (UQ)
Reliability of the Self-Awareness of Deficits Interview (SADI): by Melina Simmond (honours student) and Jenny Fleming
Using occupation to facilitate self-awareness after acquired brain injury: a pilot programme: by Jenny Fleming, Sarah Lucas (honours student), Sue Lightbody (research assistant)
Self-awareness and emotional adjustment in adults with traumatic brain injury after discharge from rehabilitation: by Jenny Fleming, Janelle Griffin and Graduate entry Masters Students (Heidi Winnington, Azaria McGillivray, Ana Tatareauc)
The validity of cognitive assessments in an aging rehabilitation population: by Mary Kayssar, Elizabeth Caldwell, Nicole Weir, Kirrily Campbell, Jenny Fleming, and Stefanie Pearce (honours student).
A study of executive functioning following traumatic brain injury: by Miranda Banks (GU PhD student), David Shum (Griffith University), Janelle Griffin, Jenny Fleming
Wearing of splints post-discharge: factors contributing to sustainability of use following brain injury: by Kathy Kuipers (UQ), Jenny Fleming, Graduate entry Masters students (Kristina Szabo, Anna Moody)
The readability and comprehensibility of occupational therapy written materials for elderly people: by Janelle Griffin (Masters research student), Kryss McKenna (UQ supervisor) and Leigh Tooth (UQ).
Evaluating best practice written education materials for older people: by Kryss McKenna (UQ), Janelle Griffin, Judy Scott (honours student).
Reliability and validity of the Brisbane Perceptual Screening Test: by Deirdre Cooke (PhD student), Kryss McKenna (UQ supervisor), Jenny Fleming (supervisor), and Janelle Griffin.
A review of visual perceptual functioning of people following traumatic brain injury using the Brisbane Perceptual Screening Test: by Deirdre Cooke (UQ), Kryss McKenna (UQ), Jenny Fleming, and Graduate Entry Masters students (Sarah Ogden, Allana Jefferson).
An investigation of clients’ experiences of an upper limb treatment group: by Monica Moran (UQ), Merrill Crabtree (UQ), Mary Kayssar, and Graduate entry Masters students (Angela Black and Stacy Turner).
Comparison of the Sydney Psychosocial Reintegration Questionnaire and the Community Integration Questionnaire: by Pim Kuipers (Conrod, ABIOS), Mellissa Kendall (TRP), Jenny Fleming and Robyn Tate (Sydney Uni)
Determining driving outcome in traumatic brain injury survivors: predictors of driving success: by Heidi Muenschberger (Griffith University), Joanne Kemp, and Janelle Griffin.

The readability and comprehensibility of occupational therapy written materials for elderly people: by Janelle Griffin (Masters research student), Kryss McKenna (UQ supervisor) and Leigh Tooth (UQ).
Evaluating best practice written education materials for older people: by Kryss McKenna (UQ), Janelle Griffin, Judy Scott (honours student).
Reliability and validity of the Brisbane Perceptual Screening Test: by Deirdre Cooke (PhD student), Kryss McKenna (UQ supervisor), Jenny Fleming (supervisor), and Janelle Griffin.
A review of visual perceptual functioning of people following traumatic brain injury using the Brisbane Perceptual Screening Test: by Deirdre Cooke (UQ), Kryss McKenna (UQ), Jenny Fleming, and Graduate Entry Masters students (Sarah Ogden, Allana Jefferson).
An investigation of clients’ experiences of an upper limb treatment group: by Monica Moran (UQ), Merrill Crabtree (UQ), Mary Kayssar, and Graduate entry Masters students (Angela Black and Stacy Turner).
Comparison of the Sydney Psychosocial Reintegration Questionnaire and the Community Integration Questionnaire: by Pim Kuipers (Conrod, ABIOS), Mellissa Kendall (TRP), Jenny Fleming and Robyn Tate (Sydney Uni)
Determining driving outcome in traumatic brain injury survivors: predictors of driving success: by Heidi Muenschberger (Griffith University), Joanne Kemp, and Janelle Griffin.

Research – Key to Health

Annual Research Review 2003 – Centres for Health Research
Financial Support

$25,000, PAH Research Foundation, A research intervention to enhance the well-being and psychosocial outcomes of patients based on ICF “environment” framework, Pim Kuipers
$21,000, PCH Research Foundation, A prospective longitudinal study of self-awareness and functional outcome following acquired brain injury: a 12 month follow-up, Tamara Ownsworth
$8,500, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences MAIC Grant, The relationship between compensation status, symptom endorsement, readiness to change and strategy behaviour for individuals with traumatic brain injury, Tamara Ownsworth

Publications

Glasgow C (2003) Optimal daily TERT for contracture resolution in mobilizing splinting. J. Hand Ther 16 (3) 207-218

ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

PAWeek program
4/9/03 Libby Caldwell, Janelle Griffin – Patient performance on community integration and activity of daily living skills: Do patients and significant others agree?
5/9/03 Nicole Weir, Anna Wiemers – The objective and behavioural assessment of the emergence from Post Traumatic Amnesia (PTA).

Jenny Fleming presented a lecture to second year occupational therapy students (UQ) on “Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation” (invited)
Jenny Fleming presented to fourth year occupational therapy students (UQ) on career paths (invited)
Jenny Fleming presented to the OT Australia-Qld Neurology Special Interest group on “Self-awareness following traumatic brain injury research” (invited)
Joanne Kemp presented at the Queensland Amputee Limb Service Forum on “Getting back into the driving seat: Resuming driving following amputation” (invited).
Lara Moes presented to the PAH&HSD Mental Health OTs on “Implementing Evidence Based Practice” (invited).
Tamara Robson presented at the PAH Neurotrauma Seminar on “Occupational Therapy Post-ICU” (invited).

Public Service Relevant to Research

Jenny Fleming is on the editorial board for the journal Brain Impairment.
Allied Health Research Committee members – Jenny Fleming and Janelle Griffin.
Lara Moes and Mary Whitehead are on the Allied Health Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Network Reference Group.
Celeste Glasgow is the President of the Australian Hand Therapy Association

Post Graduate Students

Janelle Griffin, Masters of Occupational Therapy (Research), Completed in 2003
Celeste Glasgow, Doctor of Philosophy, Commenced in 2003
Miranda Banks, Doctor of Philosophy, In Progress
Deidre Cooke, Doctor of Philosophy, In Progress

Awards

PA Society Best Allied Health presentation (PA Week) – Lara Moes – Evidence-based practice: The occupational therapy experience.
Ophthalmology Department

The University Department of Ophthalmology provides a focus for any students or doctors interested in pursuing clinical or laboratory research in the area of vision. Due to the specific interests of Lawrie Hirst, in ocular surface and cornea, most of the projects are in this area.

Current projects are principally related to the diseases of pterygium and cancer on the surface of the eye and corneal transplantation techniques.

**Current Research Activities**

**Pterygium grading project**
The use of high resolution B sound ultrasonography on the anterior segment of the eye
The investigation of mitomycin and interferon in the treatment of ocular surface dysplasia.
The clinical evaluation in modified surgical technique for removal of pterygium.
The development of record keeping software for ophthalmology.

**CLINICAL TRIALS**
Surgical removal of pterygium using a modified technique
Mitomycin treatment of ocular surface dysplasia

**Publications**

**ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED**

**BOOK CHAPTERS**
Infectious Diseases: 002 019 Endophthalmitis (submitted Elsevier Science) 2003

**ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION**
Hirst LW, Summers PM, Griffiths D, Bancroft J, Lillicrap G. Controlled trial of hyperbaric oxygen treatment for corneal alkali burn in the rabbit. (accepted for publication Clinical & Experimental Ophthalmology)
Purdie J, Neale R, Hirst LW, Green A. Sun exposure as a risk factor for Nuclear Cataract in an Australian community. (accepted by Epidemiology)

**Lectures and Presentations**
Queensland Optometrists Conference Brisbane – lecture
“Pterygium: to remove or not to remove?”
“Corneal transplantation: philosophy, principles and practice”
GP Upskilling Emerald October 2003
Pterygium
GP Upskilling Rockhampton 2003
Pterygium

**Post Graduate Students**
Robyn Troutbeck (commenced 2003)
Glenda Nolan, PhD (completed 2003)
Orthopaedics Department

The Department of Orthopaedics has subspecialty interests in tumour surgery, spine surgery, upper limb surgery, lower limb arthroscopy, sports knees and trauma surgery. It is a tertiary referral area for spine, upper limb, tumours and trauma surgery. It has recently appointed a Professor in Orthopaedic Trauma who will begin in July 2004. This will further enhance the research interest and activity that the Department is now involved in.

The Department is also expanding its subspecialty Fellowship program with Fellows now in trauma, tumour, upper limb and spine. The introduction of the Continuing Fellowship Program will enhance the international profile of the Orthopaedic Department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The main areas of research reflect the subspecialty nature of the Department with ongoing research within all subspecialty areas.

Current Research Activities

Dr Greg Couzens
Long term follow up of wrist fusion with the AO wrist fusion plate
Capsular degeneration, wrist ganglion and scapho-lunate insufficiency; A Natural Progression?
CT modeling of DRUJ motion in forearm rotation
Stress XR views in Scapho-lunate insufficiency
PIP joint pyrocarbon hemiarthroplasty

Dr Peter Steadman
Radiofrequency ablation in osteoid osteoma
Gait analysis after megaprosthesis reconstruction about the knee compared with amputation – Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane Gait Lab.

Dr Ken Cutbush


Franklin C, Varghese F, Young C, Cutbush K, Couzens C, Ross M. “Psychological Factors involved in the Development of Pain following Hand Injury.” A prospective investigation looking at the link between personality type and incidence of chronic pain following injury.


Ten cases of shoulder arthrodesis using bone substitute and AGF. Awaiting final patient reviews.


A retrospective review of 45 patients with wrist arthrodesis using the AO plate. Data collection ongoing.

Financial Support

$75,000 Wesley Research Institute Predicting clinical responses of Osteogenic sarcoma to chemotherapy using gene expression profiling (S Sommerville, N Saunders, N McMillan)

Lectures and Presentations

Dr John North
A Code of Behaviour for Candidates sitting the Part II Examination, RACS Orthopaedic Examiners Seminar February 2004

The Part II Examination in Orthopaedics, the Senior Examiner’s overview, AORA Conference in Leura NSW November, 2003

Dr Greg Couzens
MRI Scan Findings in the Wrists of Asymptomatic Volunteers. Queensland Branch AOA Scientific Meeting 3-6 May 2002

MRI Scan Findings in the Wrists of Asymptomatic Volunteers. AOA Scientific Meeting 13-18 October 2002

MRI Scan Findings in the Wrists of Asymptomatic Volunteers. Australian Hand Surgery Society Scientific Meeting 12-16 March 2003

Bilateral MR Scan findings in Patients with Unilateral Wrist Pain. Queensland Branch AOA Scientific Meeting 6-9 June 2003

Proximal Interphalangeal Joint Injection – A New Technique. Queensland Hand Surgery Society Scientific Meeting August 8-10 2003

Dr Peter Steadman
Steadman P, Dickinson I. Dislocation in megaprostheses. Isolos Brazil (Poster)

Mark Dekkers
Tim Spalding, Dekkers M. Outcome of initial 30 consecutive minimally invasive total knee replacements performed in one centre, British Association of Surgery on Knees April 2004

Orthopaedic Management of Arthritis, Arthritis Foundation of Qld (Invited Speaker)

Kenneth Cutbush
Distal Biceps Repair – How to do it better, Princess Alexandra Hospital Week Scientific Meeting 4/9/2003

Capitellar Fractures – is Fixation Necessary?, Australian Orthopaedic Association Qld Scientific Meeting, Port Douglas, 7/6/2003, Qld Hand Surgery Society meeting, Noosa 8-10/8/2003

Comparison of Autologous Bone Graft with Pro-Osteon and Activated Growth Factor in Patients Undergoing Posterior Spinal Fusion, Australian Orthopaedic Association Qld Scientific Meeting, Port Douglas, 8/6/2003, Princess Alexandra Hospital Week Scientific Meeting 4/9/2003

Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy for Lateral Epicondylitis, Australian Orthopaedic Association Qld Scientific Meeting, Port Douglas, 8/6/2003

Dr Ian Dickinson


The Management of Pelvic Chondrosarcoma – Submitted to the European Journal of Surgical Oncology (with Drs Keogh, Orthopaedic Registrar and Dr Duggal, Orthopaedic Fellow).
Giant Cell Tumour – Treatment with Curettage and Bone Graft. International Society of Limb Salvage, Birmingham, United Kingdom, October 2002.


Limb Salvage Surgery in tumours of the Shoulder Girdle (with Dr Wang Jin and Dr Amit Duggal).

Publications

Dr Nikolaus Aebli


Aebli N.; Krebs J.; Stich H.; Schawalder P.; Theis J-C.: BMP-2 enhances bone growth into perforated hydroxyapatite coated titanium implants. 23rd ASEAN Orthopaedic Association Congress, Sabah, Malaysia, 2-5 October 2003.


ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Synovial Sarcoma Prognostic Indicators – Accepted for publication, Australian Journal of Surgery (with Dr Cate Campbell, Pathologist and Dr John Gallagher, Orthopaedic Registrar).

Fibular Transplantation and Orthopaedic Reconstruction of Tumours – Accepted for publication, British Journal of Plastic Surgery (with Dr Paul Belt, Plastic Surgical Registrar and Dr David Theile, Plastic Surgeon).

Biopsy of Musculoskeletal Tumours – Accepted as editorial in Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery (with Dr Duggal and Professor Peter Chung).

...tumour surgery, spine surgery, upper limb surgery, lower limb arthroscopy, sports knees and trauma surgery ...
Pharmacy Department

To support the vision and mission of the Princess Alexandra Hospital, many activities of the Pharmacy Department focus on the Quality Use of Medications. Quality Use of Medications is described in the National Medicines policy as a partnership between government, industry, health workers and patients to use medications judiciously, appropriately, safely and efficaciously. Drug Use Evaluation and Medication Safety are current research areas of the Pharmacy Department.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital has a Drug Use Evaluation Program which audits the use of medications and implements interventions to improve the quality of their use.

Medication Safety is a current research area for the Pharmacy department which is the “Lead Hospital for the Adverse Event Prevention Project” under the Queensland Health, “Quality Improvement Enhancement Program” (QIEP). As a result collaborative research has been undertaken into the systems used in the medication use process, such as medication charts, fluid order sheets and heparin order sheets. Education and point of prescription information used in conjunction with these systems are also being studied.

The clinical trials pharmacist, oncology unit and Sterile Production centre perform a support role for clinical trials taking place in the hospital. Support activities include preparation for a trial such as training in manufacture, record keeping and randomisation procedures particular to individual trails. During the trial, medication storage, randomisation, manufacture, dispensing and medication record keeping can be provided.

The Pharmacy Department provides Clinical, Dispensing and Supply services to Inpatients and Outpatients of the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

... the clinical trials pharmacist, oncology unit and Sterile Production centre perform a support role for clinical trials taking place in the hospital ...
Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS
Dispensing, production and record keeping support for Clinical Trials during 2003 has involved about 120 trials. About 35 of these trials have had aseptic and “safe handling” production provided by the Sterile Production Centre.

Sevelamer Hydrochloride used in combination with conventional phosphate binders improves calcium phosphate balance. In collaboration with the Nephrology Department, Jo Sturtevant, Carmel Hawley, Nikky Isbel, Robyn Kirwan

OTHER RESEARCH
Evaluation of Faxing of Medication Discharge information to GP a Quality enhancement improvement Project (QIEP)
The implementation and evaluation of APAC Co QUM GP a Quality enhancement improvement Project (QIEP)
Fluid and Electrolyte safety project funded by the Australian Council for Quality and Safety
Medication administration audit as part of the Adverse Drug Event Project
National Medication Safety breakthrough collaborative Project funded by the Australian Council for Quality and Safety
Self Medication Project in the Geriatric and Rehabilitation Unit. Lynch C

DUE
Audit of Interventions to Prevent Complications in Type II Diabetic Patients.
Omeprazole IV Audit
Pamidronate Audit

Alendronate Audit
Atypical-Antipsychotic Audit
Octreotide Audit
Clopidogrel Audit
Fluconazole use in the oncology unit
Filgrastin use in the oncology unit

Financial Support
$19,525, Australian Quality and Safety Council, Intravenous Fluid and Electrolyte safety project, Coombes I
$20,000, QIEP, Faxing of Discharge summaries to GPs with evaluation, Petrie G
$15,000, QIEP, APAC co QUM implementation and evaluation, Lynne T
Australian Quality and Safety Council, National Medication Safety breakthrough collaborative,

Publications
Pillans PI, Landsberg PG, Pillans PL, Radford JM. Evaluation of cycloxyge

ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED
Coombes ID, Reid C, Mitchell C, Stowasser D. Stimulating system change through local
collaboration to enhance medication safety. Proceedings of the SHPA federal conference 2003
Coombes JA, McKauge L. Quality use of medicine placements for 4th year pharmacy students. Proceedings of the SHPA federal conference 2003

Lectures and Presentations

Sturtevant J (invited)

Drug Dosing in renal Disease Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy

Amgen Renal Pharmacists Symposium – lecture “Phosphate Binders – future directions”

McKay J
Recommendations for safer fluid and electrolyte management-The Future. PA week 2003

Coombes I (invited)
Introductory Clinical Pharmacy Practice SHPA seminar 31st Jan-2 Feb 2003
Rural Clinical Pharmacy Seminar 30th March 2003
Invited Keynote speaker on Medication Safety, New Zealand Society of Hospital Pharmacists National Conference 2003
Medication Safety Seminar, pre conference symposium SHPA Federal Conference 2003

Girnary S (invited)
Advances in Depression Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy 2003

Mc Govern T (invited)
Review of PBS in public hospitals-from a pharmacist’s perspective. SHPA federal conference 2003

Post Graduate Students

Belinda Corfield, Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy University of Queensland, Completed 2003
Sean Unwin, Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy University of Queensland, Commenced 2003
Ian Coombes, PhD, University of Queensland, Commenced 2003

Awards

Ian Coombes- Clinical Pharmacist of the Year conferred by Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

Public Service Relevant to Research

Pharmacy Department has a member on the Princess Alexandra Hospital Research Ethics Committee
Pharmacy Department has a member on the University Of Queensland, School of Pharmacy Ethics Committee
Judith Coombes, Ian Coombes, Gwynneth Petrie carried out reviews for articles published in The Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research in 2003

Petrie G
Member of review panel for SHPA clinical pharmacy awards.
Member of Queensland Health Hospital Pharmacy Advisory Committee-Objectives include; Create an environment that supports pharmacists active engagement in teaching and research leading to publication and recognition with a view to supporting evidence based practice.

Ian Coombes
Chair, SHPA (Queensland Branch).

Research – Key to Health
Physiotherapy Department

The Department of Physiotherapy comprises of approximately eighty staff. Services are provided to all areas of the hospital, with over 10,000 patient attendances per month. The department continued to be one of the largest providers of physiotherapy undergraduate, graduate entry and postgraduate placements in the State. Over 140 final year students from the University of Queensland and Griffith University completed clinical placements in all workgroups of the department. Many staff worked as clinical tutors and at least nine gave lectures to university students. The department is also a leader in local and national quality activities such as National Allied Health Benchmarking Consortium.

Research is an integral part of the Department of Physiotherapy. A conjoint lecturer position with the University of Queensland, currently held by Dr Brauer, who runs the Movement Analysis Unit at the Geriatric Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit, is dedicated to performing and facilitating research. In 2003 the group received $114,642 in competitive research funds, published four research articles and twenty seven presentations at conferences. Data was collected for eight studies, several of which were the result of interdisciplinary collaborations with researchers at the University of Queensland and the Princess Alexandra Hospital.
Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

The effect of chest physiotherapy on the efficacy of the sputum induction procedure. Mark Elkins, Dr Hazel Goldberg, Assoc. Prof Peter Bye, Tony Lane, Dr Luke Garske.

Utilization of ipsilateral and contralateral motor pathways after EMG-triggered FES following stroke. Assoc Prof R Carson & Dr Sandra Brauer.

A randomised controlled clinical trial to improve bone mineral density, balance and self management of osteopenia in women. Dr Jennifer Nitz & Dr Sandra Brauer.

OTHER RESEARCH

Balance, gait and strength in depressed older adults. Michelle Chua, Justyna Ostrowski & Dr Sandra Brauer.

The role of Botulinum Toxin A in the management of calf spasticity and hypertonus. Dr Mark Tadros

Dominique Hayes, Dr Ron Hazelton, & Dr Sandra G Brauer.

Gait, balance and neuropsychological profile of depressed elderly patients pre and post electroconvulsive therapy. Dr Sandra Brauer, Annette Broome, Sandy Clewett, & Dr Paul Varghese.

Validation and Reliability of the Modified Elderly Mobility Scale. Suzanne Kuys & Dr Sandra Brauer

Early Intervention of Breast Surgery patients. Patricia Sinnamon.

Patient Satisfaction Survey in Physiotherapy Outpatients and Aquatic Physiotherapy. Patricia Wood and Karin Perisic

Financial Support

$58,300, UQ Research Development Grants, Utilization of Ipsilateral and contralateral motor pathways after EMG-triggered FES following stroke. Assoc Prof R Carson, Dr S Brauer

$28,000, National Arthritis & Musculoskeletal Conditions Improvement Grants Program. A randomised controlled clinical trial to improve bone mineral density, balance and self management of osteopenia in women. Dr J Nitz, Dr S Brauer, Dr S O'Neill, Dr J Wong

Publications


BOOK CHAPTERS


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations


Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine Conference, Hobart, May 2003.


Kuys S. Getting Allied Health Staff into Rural and Remote Areas.


PAH Week, Sept 2003. Sinnamon P. Breasts and Beyond.

PAH Week, Sept 2003. Kuys S. Falls Prevention Project at PAH.


INVITED LECTURES

Corporate Induction Programs 2003, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane. Smiddy A. Back Care And Safe Manual Handling.


Post Graduate Students

Michelle Chua, BPhty (First Class Hons), completed 2003

Justyna Ostrowski, BPhty (First Class Hons), completed 2003

Nicola Mok, PhD, in Progress

Awards

Robyn Galletly: Best Student Poster at the 7th National Multidisciplinary Conference on Parkinson’s, Broadbeach, Aug 2003.

Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr Sandra Brauer
Chair, Allied Health Research Committee, Princess Alexandra Hospital

Editorial Board, Physiotherapy Research International

Dorothy Hopkins Scholarship Award review panel

PAH Allied Health Research Scholarship review panel

Reviewer: NHMRC project grants, Journals: Human Movement Science, Journals of Gerontology, Physiotherapy Research International

Suzanne Kuys
Chair, APA National Neurology Group

Dorothy Hopkins Scholarship Award review panel

Maryann Schubert
Treasurer, APA National Neurology Group

Linelle Redgen
Chair, Qld Chapter, National Neurology Group, Australian Physiotherapy Association.

Dominique Hayes
Treasurer, Qld Chapter, National Neurology Group, Australian Physiotherapy Association.

Sandy Clewett
Scientific Committee Member, Parkinson’s Queensland.
The Queensland Clinical Trials Centre (QCTC) was established in late 2001. The unit is located at the Princess Alexandra hospital, and is a joint project of the hospital and the School of Population Health. Its aim is to improve the use of clinical trials in providing high-quality evidence for problems identified by researchers. Randomised controlled trials in several disease areas have now been established, along with infrastructure in study coordination, data management and biostatistical design and analysis.

The Centre is part of a collaboration in cardiac and metabolic disorders which holds an NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) grant, and the PA Hospital Cancer Collaborative Group (PACCG) which recently received a $2M infrastructure development grant from the Queensland Cancer Fund. Clinical trials arising from the CCRE grant are mainly concerned with the effects of lifestyle interventions such as diet and exercise on cardiac disease measures in patients with diabetes, obesity, and other metabolic disorders. The PACCG trials are investigator-initiated studies of treatment for several cancer types, including bladder, oesophageal, breast and colorectal.

...Randomised controlled trials in several disease areas have now been established, along with infrastructure in study coordination, data management and biostatistical design and analysis...
**Current Research Activities**

A significant activity of the QCTC is to provide biostatistical and data management consulting advice to clinical researchers and research students developing their own clinical trial protocols, thus improving the quality of research undertaken. It is important to ensure that studies do not suffer from substantial design errors or are susceptible to serious bias in event recording.

The QCTC has been instrumental in developing data management and database standards for collaborative groups, and in unifying data collections across several departments.

**CLINICAL TRIALS**

Randomised study of radiotherapy or chemoradiotherapy to palliate symptoms of advanced oesophageal cancer. (With J Harvey – Radiation Oncology, PAH and M Penniment – Royal Adelaide Hospital)

Multi-centre study identifying impacts of an assessment and care planning protocol for frail elderly patients in acute care. (With L Gray – Academic Unit in Geriatric Medicine, PAH & UQ, B Nair – John Hunter Hospital, and co-investigators from the Mater Hospital.)

Timing of androgen deprivation in relapsed or non-curable prostate cancer patients. (With G Duchesne, H Gurney, J Denham, and A Stapleton – Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group)

Optimising preterm infant outcomes: A RCT to evaluate two screening and surveillance methods. (With P Colditz, M Pritchard – Perinatal Research Centre RBWH, D Tudehope, C Jackson – Mater Hospitals)


RCT of physiotherapy and corticosteroid injections for lateral epicondylalgia. (With B Vincenzino, M Yelland – UQ)

The physiotherapy management of chronic whiplash associated disorders (WAD II); a randomised clinical trial (With G Jull – UQ)

Cardiovascular exercise/diet intervention program for diabetic patients (With CCRE in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease)

The contribution of insulin resistance to cardiac dysfunction in obesity (With CCRE in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease)

**OTHER RESEARCH**

Cost-effectiveness study for the ADVANCE clinical trial. (With P Glasziou – Oxford University)

The prevalence of functional and psychosocial problems in the older hospital population. (With L Gray, I Scott, A Wilson, GJ Carpenter)

Statistical consulting for PAH researchers in various fields, including oncology, haematology, hepatology, dietetics, geriatrics, nursing, diabetes & endocrinology, pharmacy, cardiology.

**Financial Support**

$400,000, NHMRC, Centre for Clinical Research Excellence, (T Marwick, J Prins, M Stowasser, D Johnson, J Coombes, E Beller)

QCF, PA Cancer Collaborative Group (E Beller, D Gill, B Burmeister, J Frazer, D Gotley, N Saunders, D Thomson)

NHMRC, Oesophageal cancer trial (E Beller, M Penniment, J Harvey)

$65,000, NHMRC, Bladder cancer trial (E Beller, NK Gogna, G Duchesne, M Berry, E Nicol, E Walpole)

$17,329, Bonnie Babes Foundation, OPIO randomised trial (E Beller, M Pritchard, P Colditz, D Tudehope)

**Publications**


**ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION**


**Post Graduate Students**

Margo Pritchard, PhD (in progress)

Leanne Bisset, PhD (commenced 2003)

Mike Keogh, MPH (commenced 2003)
Queensland Liver Transplant Service

The Queensland Liver Transplant Services is based at Princess Alexandra Hospital and Royal Children's Hospital where adult and paediatric patients are transplanted respectively.

The Service continues to attract overseas fellows to supplement their surgical training in the unit. In collaboration with the School of Pharmacy at the University of Queensland the group continue to maintain their interest in new immunosuppressive agents.

Current Research Activities

**CLINICAL TRIALS**

A study to investigate and compare the pharmacokinetics of tacrolimus (FK506) in patients undergoing primary liver transplantation treated with modified release tacrolimus, FK506E (MR4) or Prograf®, based immunosuppression regimen. Chief Investigator: Assoc. Professor S.V. Lynch

A long term follow up study to evaluate the safety and efficacy in transplant recipients treated with modified release tacrolimus, FK506E (MR4), based immunosuppression regimen. Chief Investigator: Assoc. Professor S.V. Lynch

A Randomised, Open-label, Comparative Evaluation of Conversion from Calcineurin Inhibitors to Sirolimus, versus Continued Use of Calcineurin Inhibitors in Liver Allograft Recipients on Maintenance Therapy. Chief Investigator: Professor Jonathan Fawcett

**Financial Support**

$135,000, NHMRC, Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic studies of the neuro immunosuppressants, S Tett, P Taylory, S Lynch, Duffull, P Pillans

**Publications**


Ee LC, Shepherd RW, Cleghorn GJ, Lewindon PJ, Fawcett J, Strong RW, Lynch SV. Acute liver failure


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

Meade B, Yeung ST, Balderson GA, Crawford D, Lynch SV. Model for End-stage Liver Disease (MELD) score is it useful in predicting outcome following cadaveric liver transplant? Immunology and Cell Biology 2003; 81(2):A12.


BOOK CHAPTERS


ARTICLES ACCEPTED IN 2003 FOR PUBLICATION


Public Service Relevant to Research

1990 – Current Assessor National Health and Medical Research Council.

1993 – Current Australian Medical Council Senior Examiner.

1993 – Current Editorial Board of “Transplantation”

Feb 1995 – Current Member, International Scientific Board of Association for Research in Transplantation (ART), Italy.

1996 – Current Editorial Advisory Board of “Transplantation Reviews”

1996 – Current Member RACS Accreditation and Training Committee for Transplant Surgeons.

1998 – Current Chairman, Sasakawa (Nippon Foundation) Memorial Fund Committee, Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation.

1998 – Current Member Medical Advisory Board of Billary Atresia and Liver Transplantation (BALT), a section of Children’s Liver Alliance, New York, U.S.A.

1998 – Current Member Editorial Board “Graft”


2000 – Current Section Editor for Transplantation of the ANZ Journal of Surgery.

2001 – Current Member of International Council Asian Transplantation Society.

2003 – Current Member of Credentialing Committee, Auckland District Health Board Credentialing of Intra-abdominal Transplant Service, New Zealand.

2004 – Current Advisor to Novartis Pharmaceutical Basel Switzerland and Australian Chief Investigator “NEWROAD” study.

Lectures and Presentations

Mar 8, 2003
“Use of clinical indicators within QLTS.” Surgical Quality Forum, Division of Surgery, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane.

Sept 23, 2003
“Monitoring a transplanted liver biopsy or biochemistry.” The 8th Congress of the Asian Society of Transplantation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Sept 23, 2003
“Vascular complications following liver transplantation.” The 8th Congress of the Asian Society of Transplantation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Oct 20, 2003
“Aspects of Liver Transplantation in Australia & New Zealand.” Kyushui UN Hospital, Japan.
Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service

Staff

Dr Tim Geraghty
Director of Rehabilitation (Spinal Injuries)

Dr William Davies
Visiting Medical Officer

Dr Susan Urquhart
Senior Medical Officer

Alison New
Nurse Practice Co-ordinator

Tricia Fronek
Senior Social Worker

Cang Dang
Acting Senior Physiotherapist

Glenda Price
Senior Occupational Therapist

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Julie Cochrane
Clinical Research Co-ordinator / Project Manager

Dr Pat Dorset
Social Worker / Research Officer

Dr Cliff Fisher
Medical Officer / Research

Helen Le Good
Clinical Research Co-ordinator

Ellen Eugarde
Registered Nurse / Research Officer

Current Research Activities

The Spinal Injuries Unit continues to undertake a variety of research projects that span a spectrum from spinal cord regenerative research, through acute management issues to areas of rehabilitation research. A multi-disciplinary Research Committee has been established to guide and co-ordinate research activity within the QSCIS.

The Phase 1 human trial investigating the safety and potential of olfactory ensheathing glial cells for regeneration of the injured spinal cord is continuing. The Australia-wide multi-centre clinical drug trial investigating the efficacy of a new agent for control of neuropathic pain following SCI is nearing completion of enrolment and the anxiety study, in collaboration with the TRP and the Austin Spinal Injuries Unit continues to recruit.

There continues to be a strong emphasis on psychosocial outcomes following SCI.

CLINICAL TRIALS

The impact of cervical spinal injury on communication: A physiological, acoustic and perceptual analysis.

MacBean N, Ward E, Geraghty T, Hukins C, Cahill L, Murdoch B, Bock M, Hancock K Collaboration with U of Q.


OTHER RESEARCH

Longitudinal Tracking of Anxiety among People with Spinal Cord Injury who are Approaching Community Re-Entry. Kendall M, Brown D, Oliver J, Geraghty T. Collaboration with Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre, Spinal Injuries Unit, Melbourne.

Staff knowledge, comfort and attitudes towards sexuality within a spinal cord injuries rehabilitation service. Fronke P, Booth S, Miller D, Kendall M, Geraghty T.

The development of a scale to assess the training needs of professionals in providing sexuality rehabilitation following spinal cord injury. Kendall M, Booth S, Fronke P, Miller D, Geraghty TJ.


Financial Support

$170,000, PAH Research Foundation (Grant), The regenerative potential of olfactory glial cells in human spinal cord injury – Phase 1 Trial, Geraghty T, Mackay-Sim A.

$20,000, Paraplegic Benefit Fund (Donation), The regenerative potential of olfactory glial cells in human spinal cord injury – Phase 1 Trial, Geraghty T, Mackay-Sim A.


PAH Research Foundation (Grant), Longitudenal tracking of anxiety amongst people with spinal cord injury who are approaching community re-entry. A study of two rehabilitation units., Kendall M, Geraghty TJ.

Pfizer (Pharmaceutical sponsorship), A 12-week randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group multicentre study of pregabalin for treatment of chronic central neuropathic pain after spinal cord injury., Geraghty TJ.

Pfizer (Pharmaceutical sponsorship), An open-label extension to evaluate the safety and efficacy of pregabalin for treatment of chronic central neuropathic pain after spinal cord injury, Geraghty TJ.

Publications


Kendall M, Booth S, Fronke P, Miller D, Geraghty TJ. The development of a scale to assess the training needs of professionals in providing sexuality rehabilitation following spinal cord injury. Sexuality and Disability, 2003, 21, 1, 49-64.


Articles accepted for publication


Salisbury S, Nitz J and Souvlis T. Characteristics of shoulder pain following tetraplegia. Submitted


Lectures and Presentations


Geraghty T, West A, Bellamy N. Characteristics and Outcomes of patients with spinal canal stenosis and hyperextension injuries of the cervical spine. 11th Annual Scientific Meeting, Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Hobart, 23-26th May, 2003.


Post Graduate Students


B. Baird, Graduate Certificate in Health Management (in progress)

Rachel Jones, Masters in Rehabilitation Nursing (in progress)

Minna Locksley, Masters of Nursing (in progress)

Ellen Eugarde, Graduate Diploma Computing (in progress)

Public Service Relevant to Research

Spinal Outreach Team (SPOT)

The Spinal Outreach Team (SPOT) supports people with spinal cord injury (SCI), their families and service providers throughout Queensland. It is part of the unique continuum of care model of the Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service (QSCIS). The team provides consultancy and early intervention services and consists of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers and a clinical nurse. SPOT aims to enhance access to specialist SCI services for people living outside Brisbane and to assist in preventing human and financial costs of complications. The team achieves these aims through service provision, education, training, evaluation and research.

Current Research Activities

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of Spinal Outreach Team follow-up on the prevention of rehospitalisation for pressure areas. Ruth Cox, Delena Amsters, Carey Bayliss, Lucy Maugham.
- Exploring the efficacy of coping mechanisms employed by the partners of people with spinal cord injury. Delena Amsters, Glenys Carlson (UQ), Michele Foster (CONROD).

Financial Support

- GRANTS
  - $60,000 held in trust, CONROD, Outcomes in long duration spinal cord injury: Documentation of multiple integrated trajectories of wellbeing and comparative analysis of outcome measures, Delena Amsters (SPOT).

Publications


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

- Hunter, N. Written evidence versus reported experience – priorities in maintaining the hand function of a long-term quadriplegic population. International Spinal Cord Society Australasian Branch Meeting, Fremantle.
- Logan, G., Bayliss, C. Design and provision of custom cushions to help prevent recurrence of pressure ulcers in people with spinal cord injury and history of chronic pressure ulceration, 19th International Seating Symposium, Orlando, Florida.
Transitional Rehabilitation Program (TRP)

The Transitional Rehabilitation Program (TRP) provides post-primary rehabilitation services for people with spinal cord injuries, who have undergone in-patient rehabilitation in the Queensland Spinal Injuries Unit. TRP forms an integral part of the continuum of care for people with spinal cord injury in Queensland, as part of the Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service (QSCIS). Rehabilitation services are provided in the community in client's homes or in the home-like setting of TRP accommodation. The program is designed to relocate the final weeks of rehabilitation from the hospital setting to the community.

The TRP research agenda has focussed primarily on the completion of existing projects during 2003. This has resulted in several publications throughout the year and is likely to result in further publications into 2004. New areas of research are expected to emerge during 2004, with particular attention being directed towards:

Outcomes among individuals with a dual diagnosis of spinal cord injury and brain injury
Discharge planning and fostering continuity of care

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

There were no clinical trials during 2003

OTHER RESEARCH

Longitudinal tracking of anxiety among people with spinal cord injury who are approaching community re-entry. Investigators: Kendall, M., Geraghty, T., Brown, D. & Olver, J.  Aim: To examine anxiety, depression and PTSD outcomes across two rehabilitation settings with different service delivery models.

Predicting community mobility outcome from hospital-based assessments: Is the COVS a useful predictor?  Investigators: Campbell, J. & Kendall, M. Aim: To examine the factors that predict mobility outcome in the community using hospital-based measures such as the COVS

Community-based rehabilitation in spinal cord injury: Demographic, injury-related and hospital-based predictors of outcome. Investigators: Kendall, M., Ungerer, G., Wallace, M., Campbell, J., Booth, S., Davis, D. & Noble, B.  Aim: To determine the predictors of community based rehabilitation outcomes using a range of demographic, injury-related and hospital-based predictors

Social support following spinal cord injury: A qualitative examination of friendships. Investigators: Kendall M. Aim: To develop a model describing the process of maintaining friendships following spinal cord injury and identify
interventions appropriate to enhance and develop natural friendship supports following spinal cord injury

Financial Support

GRANTS

$21,000 Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation. Longitudinal tracking of anxiety among individuals with spinal cord injury approaching community re-entry (Melissa Kendall)

Publications


Campbell J, Kendall M (2003). Investigating the suitability of the Clinical Outcomes Variables Scale (COVS) as a mobility outcome measure in SCI rehabilitation Physiotherapy Canada 55(3) 135-144

Kendall M, Ungerer G, Dorsett (2003). Bridging the gap: transitional rehabilitation services for people with spinal cord injury Disability and Rehabilitation 25(17) 1008-1015

Kendall M, Booth S, Froncek P, Miller D, Geraghty T (2003). The development of a scale to assess the training needs of professionals in providing sexuality rehabilitation following spinal cord injury Sexuality and Disability 21(1) 49-64

Articles accepted for publication


Lectures and Presentations (invited*)


Radiation Oncology Services
Princess Alexandra Centre

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District provides Radiation Oncology Services through the PAH Radiation Oncology Unit and the Mater Radiation Oncology Unit as outlined below.

Radiation Oncology Unit – PA Centre

The Radiation Oncology Unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital has continued to be one of the most efficient in the state during 2003. The Unit currently treats 1000 courses per year. It is equipped with 2 linear accelerators which treat 60 to 70 patients per day. During 2003 66 patients which represent 6.7% of the total consented to be part of clinical trials. Several new multicentre clinical trials commenced during the year, coordinated through the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group Operations Office in Newcastle. Some of these require a rigorous quality assurance review process both interstate and internationally. This has lead to the need for a dedicated research assistant who has a background in radiation therapy. The group continue to explore new avenues in which newer technologies are able to be incorporated into the research process. The Radiation Oncology Unit has in 2003 continued its close collaboration with the Medical Oncology Unit, Haematology Unit, Respiratory Unit and various Surgical Units including Upper GI and Melanoma, Breast, Head and Neck, Colorectal, Hepatobiliary, Orthopaedic, Plastics, Urology and Neurosurgery. Trials have involved cancers at various sites including oesophagus, rectum, lung, melanoma, head and neck, prostate, lymphomas and breast. It is hoped that in 2004 the group will be able to also focus on translational research as part of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Cancer Collaborative Grant.

Current Research Activities

INTERGROUP RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN 2003

TROG 99.02 A prospective single arm non-randomised study of concurrent radiation and chemotherapy for the organ conserving treatment of early anal canal cancer.

TROG 99.03 A randomised trial of involved field radiotherapy versus involved field radiotherapy plus chemotherapy for Stage I – II low grade follicular lymphoma.

TROG 99.05 Tumour volume as an independent prognostic factor in patients with non-small cell lung cancer.

TROG 99.04 A prospective non-randomised study of chemotherapy and radiotherapy for osteosarcoma

TROG 01.04 A randomised trial of preoperative radiotherapy for stage T3 adenocarcinoma of rectum

A phase I study to evaluate ZD 1839 (Iressa) and concurrent chemoradiation in patients with locally advanced non-small cell lung cancer. (Critical Study)

A phase I study of synchronous weekly carboplatin and radiation in Merkel Cell Carcinoma of the skin – a collaborative study between Brisbane, Melbourne and Newcastle departments.


**Financial Support**

$30,000 received from Sanofi-Synthelabo: A Phase II study of weekly oxaliplatin with continuous infusional fluorouracil and concurrent radiation for treatment of localised oesophageal carcinoma

$2,400 received from Eli-Lilly: Phase II study of Gemcitabine integrated with concomitant SFU and 3D conformal radiotherapy for the treatment of localised pancreatic cancer.

$8,100 received from Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group: A randomised trial of preoperative radiotherapy for stage T3 adenocarcinoma of rectum.

$11,200 received from Sanofi-Synthelabo: Phase I randomised trial of concomitant radiation, cisplatin, and tirapazamine versus concomitant radiation and cisplatin in patients with advanced head and neck cancer.

$300 received from Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group: A randomised comparison of high dose versus standard dose dexamethasone for malignant epidural spinal cord compression

$20,655 received from Queensland Cancer Fund as part of the QCOG hospital based data manager scheme.

**Publications**


Roos DE, Davis SR, Turner SL, O’Brien PC, Spry NA, Burmeister BH, Hoskin PJ and Ball DL. Quality assurance experience with the randomized neuropathic pain trial (Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group 96.06) Radiother Oncol 2003; 67: 207 – 212.
PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS


Lectures and Presentations

BH Burmeister

Chemoradiation in the curative management of cancer – the radiation oncologists perspective. Weekend Oncology Workshop, Sydney, August 2003.

Radiation trials in rectal cancer. QCOG colorectal cancer group meeting Brisbane, November 2003

BE Hickey


Evidence based management of osteoradionecrosis. 9th International Congress of Oral Cancer Melbourne, November 2003.

JA Harvey
A randomised phase III study in advanced oesophageal cancer to compare quality of life and palliation of dysphagia in patients treated with radiation versus chemoradiation. TROG AM. Canberra, March 2003.

Radiation Trials in Breast Cancer. QCOG Breast Cancer Meeting, Brisbane, April 2003

M Jenkins – Senior Radiation Therapist

Introduction to Radiation Oncology at PAH. PAH Week, September 2003.

MRI Registration. The MRI User’s Group Qld Branch, Brisbane August 2003.

Ryan Lusk – Charge Radiation Therapist

Melissa Scott – Radiation Therapist

John Doody – Principal Physicist
Total scalp treatment using lateral photon and electron beam junction doses. World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, Sydney August 2003.

Public Service Relevant to Research

BH Burmeister:
Chairman of Scientific Committee of Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group
Board Member of Australasian Gastro-intestinal Trials Group
Member of National Cancer Control Initiative Colorectal Cancer Working Party
Deputy Chairman of Queensland Co-operative Oncology Group
Member of Medical and Scientific Committee of Queensland Cancer Fund
Reviewer Anti-Cancer council of Victoria, New South Wales Cancer Council and National Health and Medical Research Council for competitive research grants.
Reviewer for the following journals:

JA Harvey:
Reference Group: Enhancing multidisciplinary care of women with breast cancer (University of Queensland)
Member of Queensland Cooperative Oncology Group Management Committee.

BE Hickey:
Post Graduate Medical Education Committee of Royal Australasia and New Zealand College of Radiologists
Member of the Breast and Colorectal Cancer Group of the Cochrane Collaboration
Editor Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group
Reviewer for Australasian Radiology
Member of Queensland Cooperative Oncology Group

M Lehman:
Member of the Service Planning and Development Committee of the Faculty of Radiation Oncology
Member of Breast Cancer Group of Cochrane Collaboration

L Burmeister:
Member of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Ethics Committee
Mater Centre

The Mater Radiation Oncology Unit operates within the Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District. The Unit currently treats 1500 courses per year. It is equipped with 4 linear accelerators and which treat 110-120 patients per day. The referral base is broad and patients attend not only from the Mater campus but also from Princess Alexandra Hospital, Toowoomba and Darling Downs and Rockhampton. Off site clinics are run in Toowoomba, Charleville, Longreach and Rockhampton.

A close collaboration has been developed with oncologists on the Mater site and Multidisciplinary clinics are held in breast, gynaecology, paediatrics, skin, gastrointestinal and genitourinary malignancy. There has been a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary management of patients with cancer.

There has been active involvement in a broad range of trials predominately under the auspices of the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group. In the next 12 months a number of trials will commence testing new drugs.

To date the unit have relied heavily on the talents of Kacy Baumann who acts as the clinical trials co-ordinator. Kacy has been assisted by a half time trials person who is funded by the Queensland Cancer Fund.

A Clinical Trials Group with representation from trials office, radiation therapy, physics, medical and nursing meets on an monthly basis to encourage new trial development develop processes for the smooth implementation of new trials. This has been chaired by Dr Kumar Gogna. It is hoped that this will increase the profile of clinical trials on the campus which will result in increased accrual.

Current Research Activities

RADIATION THERAPIST RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN 2003

Image acquisition and manipulation protocols for CT-PET fusion to improve the accuracy of Gross Tumour Volume (GTV) localisation for 3-D Conformal Radiotherapy in the treatment of lung cancer. Principal researcher: Catriona Hargrave

Assessment of the accuracy of setup for the treatment of patients undergoing radical treatment of prostate cancer. Principal researcher: Nicole Mason

Development of isocentric techniques to replace the current 100cm SSD techniques when treating carcinoma of the breast and associated nodal sites at the Mater Centre. Principal researchers: Carole McDonnell, Jennifer Biggs, Brock Lamprecht, Kristine Soutar.
PHYSICIST RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN 2003

(1) Developed a set of phantom geometries for testing x-ray CT based dose calculation algorithms used by 3D treatment planning systems. Performed measurements and Monte Carlo calculations using these geometries in a 6 MV x-ray beam.

(2) Evaluated the suitability of several materials for use in phantoms for superficial therapy x-ray dosimetry.

(3) Developed re-usable VBA code for MS Excel to perform head scatter factor integrations for linear accelerator x-ray beams. Derived parameters for the extra-focal radiation distribution model for Clinac 2100 C/D and Clinac 600C linear accelerators using head scatter factor measurements.

(4) Evaluated the use of tin foils as bolus material in megavoltage electron beams produced by Clinac 2100 C/D linear accelerators.

NURSING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN 2003

Implementation and Evaluation of a Model of Nursing Practice in Radiation Oncology. (Current – Doctoral research studies)

Skin Care Protocols used in Radiation Treatment Departments: a National Survey. (P. Rose, Committee member and survey coordinator: Radiation Oncology Nursing Special Interest Group, Cancer Nurses Society of Australia).

Financial Support

$9000 received from Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group: A randomised trial of preoperative radiotherapy for stage T3 adenocarcinoma of rectum.

$70,000 received from Sanofi-Synthelabo: Phase III randomised trial of concomitant radiation, cisplatin, and tirapazamine versus concomitant radiation and cisplatin in patients with advanced head and neck cancer.

$1000 received from AMGEN a randomised Phase II study of the effect of NESP on haemoglobin in patients with carcinoma of the cervix treated with post-operative chemoradiotherapy.

$190,000 NHMRC Project Grant awarded 2003 for 3 year for randomised phase III trial on bladder cancer.

$5000 received from Queensland Nursing Council for Nursing Research Grant for 2004.

Publications


Rose, P., Parker, C. and Stallan, G. Nursing Post-Graduate Transition Module: Radiation Oncology Nursing, Queensland Health (2003)

Public Service Relevant to Research:

Dr D Thomas

Oncoygy advisory Committee

Oncology Information Committee

Dr M Poulsen

Treasurer of Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group

Examiner for the RANZCR

Member of the standards and outcome committee for RANZCR

Executive member for the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Society (2001-2003)

Member of the Queensland Co-operative Oncology Group 2003

Assistant Editor of Australasian Radiology develop radiation oncology services in Toowoomba.

Joint Director of Cancer Answers web page directory

Dr Jonathan Ramsay

Member of the National Breast Advisory Committee

Member of the Scientific Committee for the Queensland Cancer Fund

Medical Advisor for Pепlin Biotech

Joint Director of Cancer Answers web page directory

Dr K Gogna

Member of Council for RANZCR.

Organiser for Combined Urological Group

Chairman for Clinical Trials Group at the Mater.

Trial Chairman for TROG 02.03 “A randomised phase III study comparing radical chemo/radiotherapy versus radiotherapy alone in the definitive management of localised muscle invasive TCC of the urinary bladder”

Dr G Bryant

Member of the Australian Lymphoma Group

Pauline Rose CNC

Committee member of Radiation Oncology Skill Mix and Workforce Advisory Project: Queensland Health.

Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CCORE) (National Group): Advisory Committee member.

Clinical Trials committee member: Radiation Oncology Services, Mater Centre (also Roxanne Nicholas, RN).
Renal Transplant Unit

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Renal Transplant Unit adopts a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach to patient care providing comprehensive pre and post transplantation services. The Princess Alexandra Hospital Renal Transplant Unit performs over 110 renal transplants each year supported by the highest survival rate compared with other Australian and New Zealand based centres. With close affiliation with the Urology Department and Nephrology Department, the Renal transplant Unit provides intensive short and long-term follow-up for renal transplant recipients and their families.

The main research outcome of the Renal Transplant Unit is to improve the outcomes and quality of life of patients with renal disease. The Unit, in association with the Nephrology Department, participates in local national and international multicentre clinical trials assessing interventions that may inhibit disease progression, assessment of the safety and efficacy of drug therapy ranging from symptom relief medication to anti-rejection therapy following transplant surgery.

Staff

DIRECTOR
Dr David L Nicol
Director Urology and Renal Transplant MB BS, FRACS, Associate Professor of Surgery (University of Queensland) Adjunct Professor School of Life Sciences Queensland University of Technology

Nephrologists
Associate Professor David Johnson
MB BS (Hons), FRACP, PhD (Syd), Director of Nephrology and Head of Renal Research Laboratory

Dr. Scott Campbell
MB BS (Hons), FRACP, PhD (Qld), Deputy Director of Nephrology

Dr. Carmel Hawley
MB BS (Hons), M Med Sci, FRACP

Dr Nicole Isbel
MB BS, FRACP

Surgeons
Dr. Anthony Griffin MB BS, FRACS
Dr. John Preston MB BS, FRACS
Dr. Daryl Wall MB BS, FRACS

Renal Transplant Unit Staff
Ms Gayle Frohloff
CNC, Renal Transplant Recipient Coordinator
CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

CLINICAL TRIALS

A randomised, open-label, prospective controlled trial of multiple risk factor intervention on atherosclerosis, vasoreactivity and cardiac ischaemia in renal transplant recipients. Transplant LANDMARK Trial (Isbel N, Johnson DW, Marwick T).

Determinants of atherosclerosis, vasoreactivity and cardiac ischaemia in renal transplant recipients. (Isbel N, Johnson DW, Marwick T).

A randomized controlled trial assessing the impact of oral iron supplementation on mycophenolate mofetil absorption in renal transplant recipients (Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Hawley CM, Isbel N, Nicol DL, Taylor P, Pillans P).

Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic investigation of free mycophenolic acid and its glucuronide metabolite in renal transplant recipients. (Atcheson BA, Taylor PJ, Mudge DW, Johnson DW, Pillans PI, Tett SE).

A formula for the prediction of renal allograft function following renal transplantation. (Hawley C, Isbel N, Campbell SB, Johnson DW, Nicol DL).

The role of free mycophenolic acid monitoring in renal transplant recipients with hypoalbuminaemia. (Atcheson BA, Taylor PJ, Kirkpatrick CM, Duffull SB, Mudge DW, Pillans PI, Tett SE, Johnson DW).

A prospective, non-controlled study of the role of memory T cells for Epstein-Barr virus in renal allograft rejection. (Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Franzen K, Burrows S).

A multivariate analysis of rejection rates in living versus cadaveric donor renal transplant patients.


Prognostic value of renal vein resistance indices in renal transplant recipients. (Hawley C).

The role of subclinical rejection in renal transplant outcomes (Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley C, Nicol D).

The role of tumourectomised kidneys as a potential source of allografts for renal transplantation (Nicol DL, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley C).


Polycystic kidneys as a potential source of allografts for renal transplantation (Nicol DL, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley C).

The effect of influenza vaccination in renal transplant recipients with IgA nephropathy (Isbel N).

A randomized, open-label study of continuous therapy with cyclosporine and sirolimus versus induction with cyclosporine and sirolimus followed by continuous therapy with sirolimus in renal allograft recipients.
An Open-Label Extension Study of the safety of Long-Term Administration of Sirolimus in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients.

An open label extension study of the safety of Long-term administration of sirolimus (Rapamune) in solid organ transplant recipients.

A randomized, open label, comparative evaluation of conversion from calcineurin inhibitors to sirolimus versus continued use of calcineurin inhibitors in renal allograft recipients.

A 1 year multicentre, randomized, open label parallel group study of the safety, tolerability and efficacy of two doses (1.5 and 3mg/day) of Certican (RAD001) with Simulect, corticosteroids and optimized administration of Neoral in de novo renal transplant recipients.

A 1 year Double-Blind, Double-Dummy and 2 year open-label, randomised, multicentre, parallel group study of the efficacy and safety of SDZ RAD tablets versus Mycophenolate Mofetil as part of triple immunosuppressive therapy in de novo renal transplant recipients (extended to 5 yrs) (Renal Transplant Unit Team) (Franzen, K)

A One Year, Randomized, Open label, Parallel Group Study to Investigate the Safety and the Effect of Myfortic (ERL080) in Combination with Either Full Dose or Reduced Dosed Neoral, in De Novo Kidney Transplant Recipients.

A 24 hour Holter monitoring in stable adult renal transplant patients maintained on cyclosporine and mycophenolate mofetil (CFTY29A2216).

A Double-Blind, Randomised, Placebo-Controlled Study of the effect of Rosuvastatin on cardiovascular outcomes in haemodialysis patients (AURORA Trial) (Johnson DW, Beal B).


An Observational, Long-Term, Multicentre Study of the Impact of Therapeutic Decision Making for Transplant Recipients Prescribed Neoral Under Conditions of Normal clinical Practice (Renal Transplant Unit Team) (Martin A).


Sirolimus Protocol 0468H1-310-AU: A Randomized, Open-label Study of Continuous Therapy with Cyclosporine and Sirolimus versus Induction with Cyclosporine and Sirolimus Followed by Continuous Therapy with Sirolimus in Renal Allograft Recipients (Campbell SB).

A randomized, open-label, comparative evaluation of conversion from calcineurin inhibitors to sirolimus versus continued use of calcineurin inhibitors in renal allograft recipients (incorporating amendment 1 to protocol) 0468H1-316-AP (Campbell SB).

An observational long-term, multicentre, study of the impact of therapeutic decision making for
transplant recipients prescribed Neoral under conditions of normal clinical practice. (Campbell SB).

24-Hour Holter monitoring in stable adult renal transplant patients maintained on cyclosporin and mycophenolate mofetil (CFTY20A2216). (Campbell SB).

A one year, randomised, open label, parallel group study to investigate the safety and the effect of Myfortic™ (ERL080) in combination with either full dose or reduced dose Neoral™ in de novo kidney transplant recipients CERL080A2405AU01. (Campbell SB).

A twelve-month, randomized, multicenter, open-label study to investigate the clinical outcomes of two immunosuppressive regimens of Myfortic™ with short-term steroid use or free of steroids compared with a regimen of Myfortic™ with standard steroids in de novo kidney recipients receiving Simulect® and Neoral® – FREEDOM Study.

An Open, prospective, randomized, controlled multi-centre study comparing Fixed Dose vs Concentration Controlled mycophenolate mofetil regimens for de novo patients following renal transplantation. (Campbell SB).

Pre-transplant pharmacokinetics as a predictor of dose requirement post renal transplantation. A multicentre, open, prospective, 2-arm, phaseIV study of Prograf (tacrolimus) in renal transplant patients. (Campbell SB).

Financial Support

- $84,000, NHMRC / AHMAC / Industry, IDEAL Trial, CA Pollack
- $1,000, Wyeth, Sirolimus Protocol 0468H1-310-AU: A Randomized, Open-label Study of Continuous Therapy with Cyclosporine and Sirolimus versus Induction with Cyclosporine and Sirolimus Followed by Continuous Therapy with Sirolimus in Renal Allograft Recipients, S Campbell
- $10,000, Wyeth, A randomized, open-label, comparative evaluation of conversion from calcineurin inhibitors to sirolimus versus continued use of calcineurin inhibitors in renal allograft recipients (incorporating amendment 1 to protocol) 0468H1-316-AP, S Campbell
- $5,337, Novartis, A 1 year multicenter, randomized, open label, parallel group study of the safety, tolerability and efficacy of two doses (1.5 and 3 mg/day) of Certican™ (RAD001) with steroids and optimized administration of Neoral™ in de novo renal transplant recipients, S Campbell
- $7,600, Novartis, An extension to a 1 year multicenter, randomized, open label, parallel group study of the safety, tolerability and efficacy of two doses (1.5 and 3 mg/day) of Certican™ (RAD001) with Simulect®, corticosteroids and optimized administration of Neoral™ in de novo renal transplant recipients, S Campbell
- $4,000, Novartis, A 1 Year, Double-Blind, Double-Dummy and 2 Year Open-Label, Randomized, Multicenter, Parallel Group Study of the Efficacy and Safety of RAD001 Tablets versus Mycophenolate Mofetil as Part of Triple Immunosuppressive Therapy in De Novo Renal Transplant Recipients, S Campbell
- $6,700, Novartis, An observational long-term, multicentre, study of the impact of therapeutic decision making for transplant recipients prescribed Neoral under conditions of normal clinical practice, S Campbell
- $4,410, Novartis, 24-Hour Holter monitoring in stable adult renal transplant patients maintained on cyclosporin and mycophenolate mofetil (CFTY20A2216), S Campbell
- $32,400, Novartis, A one year, randomised, open label, parallel group study to investigate the safety and the effect of Myfortic™ (ERL080) in combination with either full dose or reduced dose Neoral™ in de novo kidney transplant recipients CERL080A2405AU01, S Campbell

$23,100, Novartis, A twelve-month, randomized, multicenter, open-label study to investigate the clinical outcomes of two immunosuppressive regimens of Myfortic™ with short-term steroid use or free of steroids compared with a regimen of Myfortic™ with standard steroids in de novo kidney recipients receiving Simulect® and Neoral® – FREEDOM Study, S Campbell

$270, Amgen, A Retrospective Follow Up Study to Evaluate the Status of Subjects Who Discontinued Participation in a Qualifying Amgen sponsored AMG 073 Study Due to Kidney Transplantation, DW Johnson

$12,120, Astra Zeneca, An Open, prospective, randomized, controlled multi-centre study comparing Fixed Dose vs Concentration Controlled mycophenolate mofetil regimens for de novo patients following renal transplantation, N Isbel

$0, Roche, Pre-transplant pharmacokinetics as a predictor of dose requirement post renal transplantation. A multicentre, open, prospective, 2-arm, phaseIV study of Prograf (tacrolimus) in renal transplant patients., S Campbell

$2,370, Janssen-Cilag, An active safety surveillance plan to conduct serologic testing for anti-erythropoietin antibodies and prospectively monitor the incidence of Pure Red Cell Aplasia (PRCA) in patients receiving epoetin-alfa therapy. EPO-IMU-402, DW Johnson

$10,000, Wyeth, Dynamics of Cytotoxic Lymphocyte Responses to Human Cytomegalovirus in Solid Organ transplant Patients, DW Johnson, S Campbell

$50,000, Pfizer Cardiovascular Grant, A randomised, open-label, prospective controlled trial of multiple risk factor intervention on atherosclerosis, vasoactivity and cardiac ischaemia in renal transplant recipients. Transplant LANDMARK Trial, N Isbel

$60,000, Amgen, A randomised controlled trial of ascorbic acid administration for the treatment of darbepoetin alpha-resistant anaemia, C Hawley

**Publications**


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

David Nicol

Prospective comparison of laparoscopic and open living donor nephrectomy. David Nicol, John Preston, Ian Martin, Allison Brown, Daryl Wall, Anthony Griffin, Princess Alexandra Hospital PA Week, Brisbane, 1-5 Sept 2003

David Johnson
"New peritoneal dialysis solutions," Dialysis Nephrology Transplantation Workshop, Barossa Valley, 7-8 March 2003

Carmel Hawley
"Chronic Allograft Nephropathy – Does a similar process take place in Liver Transplant Recipients?", Prograf Liver Transplant Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand, February 7th to February 9th, 2003.

"Outcomes in renal transplantation for patients with hepatitis", Transplant Nurses Association, 18th June 2003, Brisbane.


Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr David Johnson
Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Association (ANZDATA) Registry Management Committee Member
Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Representative on Dialysis Nephrology Transplant Committee
Working Party Member of Australian Cancer Network National Clinical Practice Guidelines for Post-Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorder and Other Immunodeficiency-Related Lymphomas

Dr Scott Campbell
Convenor, TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting 2003
Chair of CARI Guidelines Working Party on Renal Transplant Recipient suitability.
Queensland Representative on Renal Transplant Advisory Committee.

Post Graduate Students

Catherine Cheung, PhD (in progress)
Betty Pat, PhD (completed 2003)
Tao Yang, PhD (in progress)
Kirsty Armstrong, M Phil (commenced 2003)
Markus Rumpsfeld, PhD, (in progress)
Respiratory & Sleep Medicine

The Department of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine is the tertiary referral centre for the Queensland Health Southern Zone and for Northern New South Wales. All adult respiratory medicine services are provided with the exception of lung and heart lung transplantation and cystic fibrosis services.

The Department has a busy clinical service, an active research program and conducts and participates in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching activities under the direction of the University of Queensland Southern Clinical School and Griffith University.

The main areas of research are in the areas of sleep medicine, mainly sleep disordered breathing, airway disease mainly asthma, COPD, lung cancer and respiratory infection.

Current Research Activities

Lung cancer: A phase 1 study to evaluate 2D 1839 (Iressa) and concurrent chemo-radiation in patients with locally advanced non-small cell lung cancer.

COPD: A randomised double blind placebo controlled parallel-group study to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of oral Cilomilast (15mg bd) when given as maintenance treatment for 12 months to subjects with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

COPD: Effect of Roflumilast on exacerbation rate in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: a 52 week double blind study with 500mcg roflumilast once daily versus placebo.

COPD: An exploratory study to evaluate the single-dose pharmacokinetics and haemoglobin response after multiple doses of Darbepoetin alfa in subjects with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and anaemia.

Asthma: Dose ranging study of R0 27-2441 in patients with persistent asthma not treated with inhaled cortico steroids – Phase II.

Asthma: Comparison of efficacy of Symbicort turbuhaler bd and as needed with Seretide Evohaler plus Terbutaline turbuhaler as needed in asthmatic patients by evaluation of time to first severe exacerbation. A multicentre, multinational, industry sponsored trial.

Determination of optimal CPAP Pressure: A cohort study monitoring oesophageal pressure in treatment sleep studies to determine best non-invasive predictors of CPAP pressure requirements in the treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea.

Snoring analysis: Snoring analysis during diagnostic sleep studies in attempt to develop portable, minimally invasive, auto-analysing diagnostic techniques for sleep disordered breathing. (Collaboration with Department of...
Obesity and right heart function: Assessment of changes in sleep disordered breathing and right heart function in subjects managed by the Weight Management Clinic. (Collaboration with Departments of Diabetes & Endocrinology, Cardiology and Hypertension).

Mechanism of sleep disordered breathing in patients with end-stage renal failure on haemodialysis.


Lung infection: The Australian Community-Acquired Pneumonia Study: prospective multicentre study to determine etiology of CAP in Australia, and determine usefulness of pneumonia severity indexes in guiding therapy. (Collaboration with Department of Infectious Diseases, PAH and Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre, Melbourne)

Lung Infection: Randomised double blind trial of long term azithromycin for bronchiectasis. (Multicentre study with Mater and The Prince Charles Hospitals).

Bronchoscopy: Order of endobronchial testing procedures in diagnosis of lung cancer: Randomising order of bronchial washings with other samples to determine optimal diagnostic yield.

Mannitol challenge test in asthma: Single-blinded, randomised, parallel cross over trial comparing hypertonic saline and dry powder mannitol to determine bronchial hyperresponsiveness in asthma. (Multi-centre, industry sponsored trial)

Inhaled insulin study (collaboration with Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology, PAH).

Reliability of micromedical macro GP spirometer: Is there an alternative to daily calibration/valuation?

Longitudinal change in spirometry in aluminia smelter workers.

Publications


Mitchell C, Jenikins C, Sicchitano R, Rubinfeld A, Kottakis J. Formoterol (Foradil R) and medium-high doses of inhaled corticosteroids are more effective than high doses of corticosteroids in moderate-to-severe asthma. Pulmonary Pharmacology & Therapeutics. 2003;16:299-306.


ABSTRACTS


Venkateswaran S, Hukins C, Duce B: Auto titrating continuous positive airway pressure (auto CPAP); comparisons of autonomic markers of arousals with this treatment compared to fixed pressure CPAP treatment. Respirilogy 2003, 8, supp A11.

BOOK CHAPTERS


Post Graduate Students

Sharna Wilkinson, Graduate Diploma in Clinical Physiology, Griffith University (completed 2003)

Public Service Relevant to Research

Associate Professor Charles Mitchell
Chair, Evaluation Committee, National Asthma Council
Chair, Medical Workforce Committee, RACP
Chair, Safety and Quality Committee, PAH
Chair, Anti-Smoking Committee, Queensland Cancer Fund
Chair, Queensland Health Medication Safety Implementation Group

Clinical Chair, National Medication Safety Collaborative, Commonwealth Dept of Health & Ageing.

Member, Clinical Examinations Committee, Australian Medical Council

Mr Brenton Eckert
Member, Spirometry Subgroup, National Asthma Council
Social Work Department

The Social Work Department has continued to encourage the undertaking of practitioner driven research throughout 2003. The Impact of Implementing an Outcome Directed Practice Model on Client Outcomes Project has again been the focus of departmental research activity. On a more individual level social work has developed an increasingly strong research profile in the area of spinal cord injury. Another significant activity has been the development and launch (with Speech Pathology) of a patient education video the first of its kind in Australia.

Current Research Activities

Residential Care Study which is collecting, collating and interpreting data relating to PAH inpatients waiting discharge for residential care (Dr P Varghese, Sue Cumming, Patricia Harrower).

Development of research tool to measure outcomes in rehabilitation (Dr P Varghese, Prof L. Gray, Margo Newman (PT), Maria Draper (NUM), Cathy Lynch (Pharmacy), Kathy Clark (SP) and Occupational Therapy).

Research into use of GARU pamphlet for patients planning to come to rehabilitation – completed 2003. Currently being developed into an article for publication (Silvana McKain (SW), Susan Drake (NPC), Suzanne Kuys (PT), Lynette Kerridge (RN), Dr A. Henderson (Nursing Ed & Research Unit).

Ongoing involvement with The Regeneration of Human Spinal Cord Injuries with Olfactory Glial Cells Phase One Clinical Trial (Patricia Fronek).

Staff Knowledge, Comfort and Attitudes towards Sexuality within a Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Service – Spinal Injuries Unit and Transitional Rehabilitation Program.

Participation in funding application for NHMRC funding to undertake palliative care research – Family meetings in palliative care: are they a support for families ‘
caregivers’? (Sherryl Searles).

Evaluation of Allied Health Screening Tool in Radiation Oncology PAH Centre (Jane Whelan and Allied Health Team).

Participation in The Impact of Implementing an Outcome Directed Practice Model on Client Outcomes Project – a three year joint research initiative between the School of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Queensland, the Social Work Departments at the Princess Alexandra, The Prince Charles and the Mater Public Hospitals in Brisbane and the (Australian Association of Social Workers Queensland Branch.) The project is designed to (1) develop an outcome focussed model of social work practice (2) train social workers in the use of the model (3) review current outcome measures for social work and develop new measures as required and (4) test the new...
model against models of practice to
determine whether patient
outcomes are improved.

Ongoing evaluation of effectiveness of
patient education video. We have a Voice- Life After Laryngectomy.
(Sherryl Searles and Kellie Hancock).

Financial Support
$69,342 (cash and in kind), ARC SPIRT Grant. The Impact of Implementing an Outcome Directed Practice Model on Client Outcomes Project (Dr Margaret Shapiro, Sue Cumming, Mary Haire, Dr Jennifer Smith).

$25,340, Q Health Clinician Development Program, Queensland Cancer Fund. Laryngectomy Video, (Sherryl Searles and Kellie Hancock).

 Publications
Booth, S; Kendall, M; Fronek, P; Miller, D; Geraghty, T. 2003 ‘Training the interdisciplinary team in sexuality rehabilitation following spinal cord injury: a needs assessment’ Sexuality and Disability Vol 21 Iss 4 pp 249-261.

Kendall, M; Booth, S; Fronek, P; Miller, G; Geraghty, T. 2003 ‘The development of a scale to assess the training needs of professionals in providing sexuality rehabilitation following spinal cord injury’ Sexuality and Disability Vol 21 Iss 1 pp 49-64.

Searles, S and Hancock, K. 2003 We have a voice- Life after Laryngectomy A Patient Education Video.

 ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

 Lectures and Presentations


Fronek, P; Booth, S; Kendall, M; Miller, D; Geraghty, T. The effectiveness of a sexuality training program for the multidisciplinary spinal cord injury team. Paper presented by Patricia Fronek at the ANZSCOS (Australia and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society) Conference Perth, November 2003.

Searles, S and Hancock, K. We have a Voice- Life after Laryngectomy Launch of Patient Education Video, PAH Week, July 2003. Subsequent presentations to various clinical groups including Mater Centre Radiation Oncology staff.

Post Graduate Students
Patricial Fronek, Master of Social Work (commenced 2003)

Jane Whelan, Master of Social Work (in progress)

Annette Ruzicka, Master of Social Work (in progress)

Deepti Kumar, Master of Social Work (completed 2003)

 Awards

Public Service Relevant to Research
Patricia Harrower
Member of Reference Committee for the Research Project Managing Assets in Older Age, School of Social Work and Human Sciences, University of Queensland...

Margo Newman
Australian Association of Social Workers Working Party on Aged Services
Speech Pathology Department

Staff

Wendy McCallum
(B.Sp.Thy) – Director Speech Pathology

Louise Cahill
(B. Sp. Thy, PhD) – Lecturer Speech Pathology (Research) – conjoint University hospital position (until June 2003)

Petrea Cornwell
(B. Sp.Path. Hons, PhD) – Lecturer Speech Pathology (Research) – conjoint University hospital position (from November 2003)

Jenny Lethlean
(B. Sp.Thy, PhD) – Speech Pathologist

Kathy Clark
(B.Sp.Thy.) – Senior Speech Pathologist

Kelli Hancock
(B.Sp.Thy.) – A/Senior Speech Pathologist

Paula Addis
(B.Sp.Thy.) – Speech Pathologist

Annie Johnson
(Reilly) (B.Sp.Thy.) – Senior Speech Pathologist

Maura Solley
(Bock)(B.Sp.Thy) – Speech Pathologist

Aimee Turner
(B. Sp.Path. Hons) – Speech Pathologist

Penny Stabler
( B. Sp.Path)- Speech Pathologist

Marissa Parkin
(B. Sp. Path Hons) – Speech Pathologist

The Speech Pathology Department provides speech pathology services to adult inpatients and outpatients at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The department specialises in the assessment and management of patients with acquired neurogenic communication disorders, swallowing disorders, voice disorders, and head and neck surgery.

Research initiatives relate to the two main areas of specialisation in the Department:

Acquired neurological disorders and their associated communication deficits (such as dysphasia) and swallowing deficits, including strong research interests related to Parkinson’s Disease and stroke. The statewide tertiary units, Brain Injury and Spinal Injury Units also provide excellent opportunities for research into post-traumatic conditions across the continuum of care from acute wards to Day Hospital and community reintegration.

Head and neck /voice pathology related to cancer and subsequent ENT surgery, radiation and related conditions eg laryngectomy.

The department is actively involved in clinical education and research. The department is committed to state and national professional leadership in the management of laryngectomy, tracheostomy, dysphagia and acquired brain injury through involvement in national position papers and forums, and participation in conferences, inservices and hands on skill training. Speech Pathology at Princess Alexandra Hospital has a long history of well established close links with the University of Queensland Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology in undergraduate and post graduate training programs and collaborative research. These links have been further strengthened by the appointment of a conjoint Lecturer in Speech Pathology (Research), early 2001, and the associated Motor Speech Research Unit facilities on site in the allied health research area of the new acute hospital. The establishment of the on-site Motor Speech Research Laboratory has further facilitated specialised instrumental assessment and biofeedback treatment of motor speech subsystems such as respiration, phonation, articulation and nasality.
Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS
Evaluation of heat and moisture systems (HME) as a treatment option in pulmonary rehabilitation after total laryngectomy or pharyngectomy. K. Hancock, L. Cahill, M. Parkin & W. Coman.

OTHER RESEARCH

Physiological investigation of laryngeal dysfunction following carotid endarterectomy. B. Murdoch, J. Lethlean, A. Reilly, L. Cahill, T. McGahan, H. Gibbs.

Functional speech and swallowing outcomes following differential management of laryngeal cancer. E. Ward, L. Cahill, M. Bock, K. Hancock, W. Coman & B. Murdoch.


Dopaminergic modulation of semantic and syntactic processing: Evidence from patients with basal ganglia pathology. A. Angwin, H. Chenery, D. Copland, B. Murdoch, P. Silburn. (W. McCallum.-sponsor)

Evaluation of a memory rehabilitation group for adults with acquired brain injury living in the community. K. Boyd, J. Fleming, J. Griffin, R. McQueen, L. Cahill & P. Addis.

High level language impairment following subarachnoid haemorrhage and surgical treatment of aneurysms. A. Thomas, B. Murdoch, L. Cahill, A. Nowitzke, J. Matthew, & L. La Pointe.


The role of subcortical neural mechanisms and frontal lobe disconnection in language. B. Whelan, B. Murdoch, P. Silburn & B. Hall.


High level language impairments following primary cerebellar ischaemic lesions. M. Cook, B. Murdoch, L. Cahill & G. Hall.


SIGNIFICANT CLINICAL PROJECTS
Pre-operative Laryngectomy
Educational Video for patients and their families. S. Searles & K. Hancock
PAH Hospital Wide Tracheostomy Management. K. Hancock & M. Solley

Financial Support
$2,599, Garnett Passe/Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation, QOL, cost effectiveness, survival and functional outcomes following differential management of laryngeal cancer., Prof W. Coman
$7500, School of Health & Rehab Sciences Research Grant Scheme, Perceptual, physiological and acoustic assessment of the speech outcomes of non-ventilator dependent patients with spinal cord injury following MVA, Dr E. Ward
$3500, PAH Research & Development Foundation, Allied health outcomes following acute stroke unit management., Dr J. Lethlean
PAH Research & Development Foundation, Physiological investigation of laryngeal dysfunction following carotid endarterectomy, Prof B. Murdoch
$10000, CONROD, Rehabilitation of articulatory dysfunction in adults following TBI using 3D dimensional graphic modelling of the vocal tract, B. Murdoch
Cecily Cox – donation to Unis Chancellor’s Fund, A perceptual physiological and acoustic analysis of motor speech impairment in Friedreich’s ataxia, L. Cahill
$19640, QEP/Qld Health, Pre-operative Laryngectomy Educational Video for patients and their families, S. Searles, K. Hancock
$1700, Division CSS Allied Health Research Scholarship, Evaluation of heat and moisture systems (HME) as a treatment option in pulmonary rehabilitation after total laryngectomy or pharyngectomy, K. Hancock
$4028, CDP/Qld Health CSEU, PAH Hospital Wide Tracheostomy Management, M. Solley, K. Hancock

Publications

ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

INVITED PRESENTATIONS*
*Cahill K & Searles S. Laryngectomy – Client’s perspective. OH &N Conference, Brisbane, May 2003.

*Hancock K & Searles S “We have a voice” Video Presentation at PA Week, Brisbane, July 2003.

Post Graduate Students
L. Cahill, PhD (completed 2003)
P. Comwell, PhD (completed 2003)
N. Macbean, PhD (in progress)
Thomas, PhD (in progress)
Kuruvilla, PhD (in progress)

Awards
Kelli Hancock, PAH Society 2003 Allied Health Award (jointly with S. Searles) – July 2003
Louise Cahill, School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences "Excellence in Research – New Investigators Award"

Public Service Relevant to Research
L. Cahill
Reviewer for Journal of Speech Pathology Australia (Advances in Speech Language Pathology)
Surgical Oncology (Metastasis Research) Laboratory

Cancer metastasis is the spread of tumour cells to distant sites in the body from a primary tumour, and establishment of new tumour growths at these sites. Metastasis remains the principal cause of death in cancer today, since most primary cancers can be successfully treated with surgery or other modalities. The Metastasis Research Laboratory seeks to understand the biological and molecular mechanisms of tumour cell metastasis with the ultimate goal of designing novel therapeutic agents for metastatic disease.

The Laboratory also houses the Princess Alexandra Hospital Tumour Tissue Bank. This Bank is a repository of tumour tissues and matched clinical information from donor patients for the benefit of basic and clinical researchers pursuing cancer research projects. The repository has existed since 1991 and is the largest of its type in Australia.
Current Research Activities

The Metastasis Research Laboratory is currently focussed on the role of the family of CD44 molecules in metastasis. CD44 is a gene from which many molecules may be derived by alternative splicing, and it is the larger of these molecules, specifically containing exons v3 and v6, that are associated with metastasis. Our program in CD44 has existed for ten years and remains funded by NHMRC project grants, which were renewed commencing in 2003. The research program is in two parts:

to determine the molecular mechanisms by which CD44v3 and v6 mediate metastasis
to develop methods of targeting CD44v3 and v6 to inhibit metastatic tumour growth that may be applicable in the clinic for future treatment strategies.

We have determined that CD44 splice variants containing v3 and v6 like have multiple mechanisms of action in promoting metastasis involving both the extracellular domain via effects on the local tumour microenvironment, and by intracellular signalling activity, possibly through wnt pathways.

In our models of tumour metastasis we have been able to inhibit metastatic tumour growth by targeting CD44v3 and v6 using antisense technology, domain specific antibodies, and recently, we are trialling a range of peptides in vivo.

Financial Support

$140,000, NHMRC, Mechanisms of CD44v2-10 induced metastasis, D Gotley
$70,000, NHMRC, CD44v3 and v6 as targets for metastasis therapy, D Gotley
$US240,000, Schering Plough, PAH Tumour Tissue Bank, D Gotley
$400,000, QCF, Cancer Collaborative Initiative.

Publications


BOOK CHAPTERS

Staff

Professor Michael Roberts
(Professor and NH&MRC Senior Principal Research Fellow, Director of Unit)

Dr Yuri Anissimov
(NH&MRC Senior Research Officer)

Dr Ping Chang
(Research Officer)

Dr Sheree Cross
(NH&MRC Senior Research Officer)

Dr Daniel Hung
(NH&MRC Research Officer)

Ms Clare Ientile
(Research Officer)

Dr Eloise Larsen
(Executive Assistant)

Dr Beatrice Magnusson
(Pfizer Post-doctoral Researcher)

Dr Paul Masci
(Technical/Professional Officer)

Mr Gerhard Siebert
(Postgraduate Researcher)

Ms Julie Stokes (Research Officer)

Mrs Narelle Walker
(Executive Secretary)

Dr Michael Whitehouse
(Honorary Research Fellow)

Dr Gareth Winckle
(Research Officer)

Mr Scott Haydock
(Research Assistant)

Ms. Kristin Hore
(Research Assistant)

The Therapeutics Research Unit in 2003 has continued its general theme to investigate pharmacological strategies that may improve patient outcomes. The work has been at all levels of therapeutic research, namely: drug design, drug delivery, pharmacokinetics and quality use of medicines and natural products for a range of diseases, for patients in both institutions and at home. Drug delivery research has focused on use absorption of drugs across the skin for either a local or systemic effect. The emphasis in pharmacokinetics has been on drug selection and appropriate dosing of patients with various types of liver disease. The unit’s quality use of medicines research has focused on three areas: the Quality Care Pharmacy Program, understanding which patients will most benefit from the use of a drug dose administration aid and wound care service quality. The group have worked actively with the Royal Women’s Hospital in using pH-modulating drugs as novel therapies for neuroprotection in hypoxia/ischemia in the newborn.

The Therapeutics Research Unit owes it’s existence to the Lions Research Foundation. The Foundation was the first organisation to support the establishment of Professor Roberts and his group in Brisbane, and have provided key financial seeding support to many of the group’s staff including Dr. Anissimov, Dr. Hung, Dr. Foster and Dr. Masci, and the refurbishment of much of the groups existing office facilities in Building 35 at Princess Alexandra Hospital. Industry, government and other research associations including the Australian NHMRC and Princess Alexandra Hospital Research Foundation also support the work of the unit.

Current Research Activities

Targeting of drugs by topical application and the risk assessment of xenobiotics absorbed through the skin

Interrelationship of physiology, pathophysiology and drug structure in relation to drug therapy involving the liver, the limbs and the placenta

Drug targeting in the regional perfusion of melanoma and transdermal delivery

Improvement of quality of medication care in elderly people in residential care institutions and in the community through the application of clinical pharmacokinetics and nurturing the input of clinical pharmacists in the health care team.

Patents


Financial Support

NHMRC GRANTS

Targeted drug delivery by topical application (sole chief investigator) 2001-2005 $190,000 p.a.

Continuing Research Fellowship 2002-2005 $150,750 p.a.

Extracellular acidosis and pH-modulating drugs as novel therapies for neuroprotection in hypoxia/ischemia in the newborn (with Profs P Colditz, P Gluckman and Dr C Burke) 2002-2004 $150,000 p.a.

Iron metabolism and the cirrhotic liver: studies on iron absorption and hepatic iron kinetics. (with Associate Professor D Crawford, Dr L Fletcher, Prof L Powell) 2002-2004 $85,000 p.a.

Effect of liver pathophysiology on hepatic pharmacokinetics (with D Crawford) $105,000 for each of 3 years.

OTHER GRANTS

Wellcome Trust Equipment for Biomedical Research. NMR. (with Istvan Toth, Maree Smith, Richard Prankerd $71,673.

Pfizer (UK) Predicting of drug structure determinants of percutaneous absorption $178,656.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia. Wound care benchmarking in community pharmacy – Piloting a method of QA indicator development. $75,000 (with Julie Stokes, Sheree Cross, John Chapman and Greg Duncan)

PAH Foundation Block Grant $25,000

Publications

BOOK


BOOK CHAPTER

Graham GG, Roberts MS & Day RO Absorption, distribution and elimination of the salicylates in Rainsford KD Aspirin and the Salicylates 2nd ed Kluwer Lancaster (in press)

Roberts MS, Anissimov Y Mathematical Models in Percutaneous Absorption in Percutaneous Absorption, Fourth Edition, Bronaugh, R.L. and Malbach,H.I., eds., Marcel Dekker,

JOURNALS (PEER REVIEWED)


Mills PC, Magnusson BM, Cross SE. The effect


Roberts MS, Stokes JA. Explicit evidence-based prescribing criteria – an important step in achieving quality therapeutics in nursing homes. Age and Ageing 2003; 32:6-7


ABSTRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED


Cross S.E. Assessment of the Dermal Absorption of Sunscreens and salicylates: In-Vitro and In-Vivo techniques. ASCEPT – 10th December, 2003

Roberts M.S. Hepatic Considerations and Issues for Drug Delivery FIP – 4 – 9 September, 2003

Roberts M.S. Percutaneous analgesics and NSAIDs in osteoarthritis. Inflammo Pharmacology – 22–24 April, 2003

Roberts M.S., Stokes J.A.; Building Collaborations Through Research. APSA- 3-5 December, 2003

Stokes J.A; Duncan G.J.; Doing CQI! Step 2 in Community Pharmacy: Are Estimates Enough. APSA- 3-5 December, 2003

Sorensen L, Stokes J., Elliott R, Woodward M, Roberts M.; The correlation of inclusion criteria with problems identified in medication reviews. FIP – 4 – 9 September, 2003


Whitehouse M.; Thiocyanate, A metabolite of Hydrocyanic acid, amplifies inflammation and ruptures tolerance to experimental arthritis in rats. ASCEPT – 10th December, 2003

ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Magnusson BM, Pugh WJ, Roberts MS. Simple rules defining the potential of compounds for transdermal delivery or toxicity Pharm Res. In press.

Roberts MS, Anissimov YG, Cross SE. Factors affecting the formation of a skin reservoir for topically applied solutes. Skin PharmacolPhysiol. In press.

Siebert GA, Hung DY, Chang P; Roberts MS Iontrapping, microsomal binding and unbound drug distribution in the hepatic retention of basic drugs J Pharmacol Exper Ther. In press.

Stokes J.A; D.M. Purdie and M.S. Roberts. Factors influencing PRN medication use in nursing homes. Accepted by Pharmacy World & Science. In press.


Lectures and Presentations

Roberts MS – Artifacts in Imaging – Gordon Research Conference on Barrier Function of Mammalian Skin, Rhode Island, USA

Roberts MS – Controlled drug delivery Controlled Release Society NZ Section. Auckland November

Roberts MS – Formulation Issues in Transdermal delivery Facility of Pharmacy University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada

Roberts MS – Hepatic considerations and issues for drug delivery FIP (Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique) Sydney

Roberts MS – Thrombostat. BioLink Breakfast IMBcom, Queensland Bioscience Precinct, University of Queensland 30

Roberts MS – Transdermal research Qld Skin Research Networking workshop, Bardon Centre, Qld

Post Graduate Students

Chapman J, PhD, (in progress)

Craft, J, PhD, (in progress)

Golmohammadi A, MMEdSci, (in progress)

Hayden CJ, PhD, Awarded

King M, PhD, (in progress)

McFarlane B, PhD, (in progress)

Mo Y, PhD, (in progress)

Newton K, PhD, (in progress)

Peache K, PhD, (in progress)

Pennisi R, MMEdSci, (in progress)

Siebert G, PhD, (in progress)

Stokes J, PhD, Awarded

Awards

S.E. Cross – Jack Jacobs Memorial Trophy; Australian Society of Cosmetic Chemists.
Public Service Relevant to Research

Members of the TRU attend PAH Lions open days each year to talk with the public about the research undertaken in the unit.

Journal reviews

TRU staff have reviewed for the following journals:
- Age & Ageing
- British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology
- Clinical Pharmacokinetics
- Current Drug Delivery
- Drugs & Ageing
- International Journal of Pharmaceutics
- Internal Medicine Journal
- Journal of American Academy of Dermatology
- Journal of Chromatography, Biomedical Applications
- Journal of Drug Targeting
- Journal of Investigative Dermatology
- Journal of Lipid Research
- Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Biopharmaceutics
- Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
- Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
- Medical Journal of Australia
- Pharmaceutical Research
- Physics Journal

Particular to Professor M Roberts

Editorial Boards

- Editorial Board of Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics
- Elected to Editorial Board of Current Drug Delivery
- Elected to Editorial Board of Clinical Pharmacokinetics
- Skin Pharmacology and Skin Physiology
- Associate Editor
- Skin Pharmacology and Applied Physiology

Committees

- Member, National Health & Medical Research Council Grant Panel. (2000-2003)
- Chairman, Animal Experimentation Committee for the University of Queensland – committee is policy committee for all animal studies at the University
- Chairman, Group 5 Animal Experimentation Committee for the University of Queensland – this committee overviews animal experimentation in for the Faculty of Health Sciences and Brisbane teaching hospitals (Royal Brisbane, Princess Alexandra, Prince Charles, Mater, Greenslopes).
- Chairman, Management Committee for postgraduate clinical pharmacy courses in Queensland (Committee has representatives from academia, government and the profession), Department of Pharmacy, University of Queensland. Courses offered: Grad Cert Clin Pharm, Grad Dip Clin Pharm, M Clin Pharm, D Clin Pharm
- Member, Princess Alexandra Hospital and District Research Committee
- Member, University of Queensland School of Medicine Research Committee
- Member of the University of Queensland School of Pharmacy Board.
- Chairman, Education Committee, Australian Institute of Pharmacy Management
- Member, Scientific Advisory Board, 9th International Conference, Perspectives in Percutaneous Penetration, La Grande Motte, France

Symposium Organiser

- Chairperson of Conference Sessions
- Does drug delivery deliver? At Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique, Sydney
Urology Department

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Department of Urology provides comprehensive health care for persons with acute and chronic urological disorders and urological malignancies. Occasions of service provided by this department range from medical consultation, urodynamics investigations, continence advisement, minor and major urological surgery. The service provided by the Urology department is supported by a strong commitment to ongoing research and education or graduate medical students, allied health professionals extending to both hospital and community nursing and medical officers for the improvement of the individual and community. This year marked a world's first for the Urology Department in the use of advanced digital video conferencing, where the Director Dr David Nicol, acting as a “virtual assistant” interacted and collaborated with Urological surgeons in New Zealand performing laparoscopic surgery.

The major research aim of the Urology Department is to improve the outcomes and quality of life of patients with urological complications and malignancies. The Urology Department participates in national and international multicentre clinical trials assessing interventions that may inhibit disease progression, assessment of the safety and efficacy of drug therapy ranging from symptom relief medication and disease progression. The Urology Department is committed to collaborative research arrangements with the University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology. These collaborations being with The Urology Research Group, formed within the University of Queensland’s School of Medicine (Southern Clinical Division), the Centres for Health Research Team at Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Queensland University of Technology Hormone Dependant Cancer Laboratory.

The Urology Research Group, under the direction of Dr David Nicol, has a strong interest in urological malignancies, including cancers of the kidneys, bladder, testes and prostate gland. For patients diagnosed with such tumours, current treatment options may either be ineffective or associated with significant side effects. The Urology Research Group is involved in scientific research focused on finding new, effective and less toxic means of treating patients with urological malignancies. The Department of Urology has formed international collaborations with UK based research group ONYVAX Ltd and Queensland University of Technology to establish stable cell lines that will lead to the development of therapeutic vaccines for urological malignancies.

Staff

DIRECTOR
Dr David L Nicol
Director Urology and Renal Transplant, Associate Professor of Surgery (University of Queensland)
Adjunct Professor School of Life Sciences Queensland University of Technology

UROLOGY STAFF
Dr Ross Cartmill
Urologist
Dr Peter Heathcote
Urologist
Dr Roger Hinsch
Urologist
Dr Graham Holmes
Urologist
Dr Peter Mactaggert
Urologist
Dr John Preston
Urologist
Dr William Cadzow
Urologist
Dr Glen Wood
Urologist
Mr Peter Morrison
NPC Urology
Ms Colleen Marsh
RN, Continence Advisor
Ms Irina Oleinikova
Clinical Trial Coordinator (University of Queensland)
Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS - UROLOGY
A Randomised, double blind, parallel group trial comparing Cosudex 150mg once daily with Placebo in patients with Non-Metastatic Prostate cancer
Efficacy of captopril in the treatment of patients with advanced renal cell
A phase III, randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled study of the safety and efficacy of 10mg Atrasentan in Men with Non-metastatic, Hormone-Refractory Prostate Cancer. Competed 2003
A phase III, randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled study of the safety and efficacy of 10mg Atrasentan in Men with metastatic, Hormone-Refractory Prostate Cancer.
A phase III, Extension study of the safety and efficacy of 10mg Atrasentan in Men with Non-metastatic, Hormone-Refractory Prostate Cancer.
“A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel Group Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Dutasteride 0.5mg Administered Once Daily for Four Years to Reduce the Risk of Biopsy-Detectable Prostate Cancer
“A Phase III, Parallel Group, Randomised, Double-Blind, Double-Dummy, Placebo and Active-Controlled Multicentre Trial to Investigate the Efficacy, Tolerability and Safety of Fesoterodine Sustained Release in Subjects with Overactive Bladder Syndrome”
Trial comparing chemoradiotherapy vs radiation in the treatment of bladder cancer

OTHER RESEARCH
Efficacy of inhibition of endothelin activity on human renal cell carcinoma
Hormones in testicular cancer.
Molecular and phenotypic analysis of primary cell lines established from urological malignancies
Mechanism of action and effect of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) on angiogenesis in renal cell carcinoma
The role of proximal tubule mitogens (IGF-I, HGF, Angiotensin II) in the progression of renal cell carcinoma in vitro and in vivo
The role of silibinin in renal cell carcinoma.

Financial Support
Queensland Cancer Fund (QCF), Mechanism of action of captopril on human renal cell carcinoma, Nicol, Harvey, Jonsson
Onyxvax Pty Ltd (UK), Molecular and phenotypic analysis of primary cell lines established from urological malignancies, Nicol, Clements
$200 per patient visit, Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, A Randomised, double blind, parallel group trial comparing Cosudex 150mg once daily with Placebo in patients with Non-Metastatic Prostate cancer, Nicol
$715 per patient Visit, Abbott Pharmaceuticals, A phase III, randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled study of the safety and efficacy of 10mg Atrasentan in Men with metastatic, Hormone-Refractory Prostate Cancer., Nicol
$715 per patient Visit, Abbott Pharmaceuticals, A phase III, Extension study of the safety and efficacy of 10mg Atrasentan in Men with Non-metastatic, Hormone-Refractory Prostate Cancer., Nicol
$8000 total per completed Patient, Glaxo Smith Kline, “A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel Group Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Dutasteride 0.5mg Administered Once Daily for Four Years to Reduce the Risk of Biopsy, Detectable Prostate Cancer, Nicol
$5300 total per completed Patient, Schwarz Pharma, “A Phase III, Parallel Group, Randomised, Double-Blind, Double-Dummy, Placebo and Active-Controlled Multicentre Trial to Investigate the Efficacy, Tolerability and Safety of Fesoterodine Sustained Release in Subjects with Overactive Bladder Syndrome”, Nicol

Affiliated Scientific Staff
Ms Beth Morrison
RN BN, Clinical Coordinator
(Queensland University of Technology/Onyxvax)
Mr Ian Wilson
Urology Technician
AFFILIATED SCIENTIFIC STAFF
(UQ)
Dr Meaghan L. Douglas
Research Officer
Michelle Richardson
Research Assistant
AFFILIATED SCIENTIFIC STAFF
(QUT)
Ms Elizabeth McLennan
Research Assistant
UROLOGY RESEARCH FELLOW
Dr Jamie Kearsley
Research Fellow
AFFILIATED SCIENTIFIC STAFF
(RENAL)
Dr David Vesey
Senior Research Scientist,
Ms Catherine Cheung
Research Scientist

Annual Research Review 2003 – Centres for Health Research
Research – Key to Health
Publications


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Cheung CW, Vesey DA, Nicol DL. Durable and high rates of remission following chemotherapy in posttransplantation lymphoproliferative disorders after renal transplantation. Transplantation Proceedings;35:256-257.


Lectures and Presentations


Haemodynamic assessment following resection of the inferior vena cava for urological malignancy. Peter Wysocki, Rebecca Hetherington, Harry Gibbs and David Nicol. The Urological Society of Australasia 2003 Annual Scientific Meeting and Australasian Urological Nurses Society Inc 8th Annual Meeting. The Events Centre, Queenstown, New Zealand 2-6 March 2003.


Prospective comparison of laparoscopic and open living donor nephrectomy. David Nicol, John Preston, Ian Martin, Allison Brown, Daryl Wall, Anthony Griffin. Princess Alexandra Hospital PA Week, Brisbane, 1-5 Sept 2003

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) affects cell morphology and invasion. Tara Veveris-Lowe, Jonathan Harris, Judith Clements and David Nicol. Princess Alexandra Hospital PA Week, Brisbane, 1-5 Sept 2003


Public Service Relevant to Research

Dr. David Nicol
Examiner for the Royal Australasian college of Surgeons
Examiner for the Australian Medical Council Queensland State executive for the Australian Kidney Foundation
Editorial Board – British Journal of Urology
Chairman – Laparoscopic Nephrectomy Workshop PAH 7-8 Aug 2003

Dr. John Preston
Chairman, Northern Section, Urological Society of Australasia
Chairman Medical Advisory Board, Greenslopes Private Hospital
Medical Review Committee, Greenslopes Private Hospital

Dr. Glen Wood
Invited Reviewer for NHMRC

Dr. Peter Heathcote
Examiner for the Royal Australasian college of Surgeons
Examiner for the Australian Medical Council

Dr. Ross Cartmill
International Editorial Board for the Journal of Sexual & Reproductive Medicine
Vascular Medicine Department

The Department of Vascular Medicine provides a clinical service in the diagnosis and management of arterial, venous and lymphatic diseases and in the peri-operative management of patients undergoing vascular surgery.

Research activities include investigation of vascular diagnostic techniques and participation in clinical trials.

Teaching activities include teaching of medical students, FRACP part 1 candidates, radiology and vascular surgery registrars and vascular scientists.

Current Research Activities

CLINICAL TRIALS

A phase II clinical evaluation to investigate the safety and efficacy of topically applied biologically active milk-derived extract (BG011A) for the treatment of chronic venous leg ulcers. GroPep PTY LTD

EXCLAIM – A double-blind, placebo controlled, parallel, multicenter study on extended VTE prophylaxis in acutely ill medical patients with prolonged immobilization. Aventis Pharma

CHARISMA – Clopidogrel for high artherothrombotic risk and ischemic stabilisation, management and avoidance. Sanofi-Synthelabo Recherche


VAN GOGH EXTENSION TRIAL – A Multicenter, International, Randomized, Double-Blind, Study Comparing The Efficacy And Safety Of Once-Weekly Subcutaneous Sanorg 34006 With Placebo In The Long-Term Prevention Of Symptomatic Venous Thromboembolism In Patients With Symptomatic Pulmonary Embolism Or Deep-Vein Thrombosis Who Completed 6 Months Of Treatment With Vitamin K Antagonist Or Sanorg 34006. Sanofi–synthelabo

THROMBOVIEW TRIAL – A Phase 1b, Open-Label, Clinical trial, to evaluate the safety of 99Tc—labelled fibrin deimmunised monoclonal antibody DI-DD386/22-80B3 Fab' fragment in the detection of Deep Venous Thrombi (DVT). Agen Biomedical Pty Ltd

ASPIRE STUDY – A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial examining the efficacy and safety of low-dose aspirin after initial oral anticoagulation to prevent recurrent venous thromboembolism. NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre
OTHER RESEARCH

There an Association Between Thrombophillic Conditions and Superficial Thrombophlebitis of the lower limb?

Financial Support

$10,000.00 GroPep PTY LTD, GroPep clinical trial (Dr H Gibbs)
$12,000.00 Smith and Nephew, Smith and Nephew clinical trial (Dr H Gibbs)
$6,000.00 AstraZeneca, Thrive II clinical trial (Dr H Gibbs)

Publications


ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


Lectures and Presentations

Harry Gibbs
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Annual Scientific Meeting 2003
The Optimal Duration of Anticoagulation for Venous Thromboembolism
Royal Australasian College of Dermatologists
Thrombophilia in Venous Thromboembolism

Public Service Relevant to Research

Harry Gibbs:
Member, Research Group of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery
Member, Writing Group, Therapeutic Guidelines: Cardiovascular
Editorial Board, Primary Intention Reviewer: Internal Medicine

Rebecca Hetherington:
Member Board of Examiners, Australian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine
Bringing Research to Life

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation raises funds for over 160 scientists who are members of the PA Research Team. The PA Research Team conducts medical and scientific research to help alleviate human suffering and find cures for disease and illness.

Your donation to the Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation is greatly appreciated.

For further information contact the Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation

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