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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short History</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Staff</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills Centre</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Learning Projects</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Groups</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged Care - Bankstown</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged Care Research Unit - Liverpool</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Research, Evaluation, Management and Surveillance</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Paediatrics and Child Health</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes and Endocrinology</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electron Microscope Laboratory (SWAPS)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine Research Unit</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastroenterology and Liver Services - Bankstown</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Practice Unit</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis Research Group</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immune Tolerance Group</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool Renal Clinical Research Centre</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology and Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palliative Care</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreatic Research Group</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry Research and Teaching Unit</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Medicine</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatology</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizophrenia Research Unit</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpson Centre for Health Services Research</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Infection Group</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health and Community Medicine</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Western Sydney Clinical School</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s and Children’s Health</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Listing</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgments

The South Western Sydney Clinical School would like to thank all those staff who contributed to the compilation of this report.

Photography

Christopher Shain
www.shain.com.au
Welcome to the inaugural issue of UNSW in the South West. This issue highlights the significant teaching and research efforts of UNSW staff in south western Sydney between 2005 and 2007, and UNSW's important partnership with Sydney South West Area Health Service (SSWAHS). It is anticipated that such a report will become an annual catalogue of the academic activities in south west Sydney of clinical and conjoint academics from the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

This report covers the activity of south western Sydney-based staff from the Schools of Medical Sciences, Psychiatry, Public Health and Community Medicine, South Western Sydney Clinical School and Women’s and Children’s Health.

The south west of Sydney has been an important contributor to the teaching program of the University since the first students arrived at Liverpool, Bankstown, Bowral and Fairfield in 1990. As health services in this part of Sydney continue to grow in response to significant population growth, this area will become even more important to the University.

In addition to the significant teaching undertaken in the south west, the research contribution of staff across the region continues to grow. During the period covered in this report, more than 700 papers were published by staff associated with UNSW. New and emerging research talent and research groups continue to build on our natural strengths in applied research on health services and population health in the fields of cancer, trauma management, critical care, mental health and equity.

Led by the South Western Sydney Clinical School (SWSCS) under the banner of UNSW in the South West, the University plans to increase the opportunities for clinical and conjoint academics across all five Schools to network and share their experiences. This will include regular research seminars and biannual staff meetings where issues of relevance to clinical and conjoint academics in the south west can be discussed.

In small part, this publication aims to celebrate the important academic work being undertaken by UNSW affiliated staff in the south west. I hope you will join with me in congratulating your colleagues for their efforts, and on behalf of the University, I would like to thank you for your continuing commitment to, and support of, UNSW in its teaching and research mission.

Professor Jeremy Wilson
Clinical Associate Dean
South Western Sydney Clinical School, UNSW
Holsworthy

In November 2007, the SWSCS formalised an agreement with the 1st Health Support Battalion (1HSB) based at Holsworthy. This agreement will see 1HSB become a teaching campus of UNSW with Phase 2 placements in Primary Care, Independent Learning Projects and Phase 3 modules in mental health, primary care, musculoskeletal medicine, trauma and military medicine. The first students have completed placements with 1HSB and were lucky enough to take part in joint military exercises in far north Queensland as part of term. The Department of Defence plans to make the partnership with UNSW at Holsworthy a model for other services.

Retreats

In 2006 and 2007, the SWSCS held Clinical Teachers Retreats as an opportunity to thank both academics and conjoint appointees from all Schools in the south west for their contribution to the UNSW teaching program and to provide an opportunity for professional development and networking. In 2006, 66 delegates attended the inaugural retreat at Lillianfels. The program included updates on the Clinical School strategic plan, conjoint opportunities and an introduction to Phase 2 of Medicine 3802 and the development of Independent Learning Projects (ILP). In 2007, 65 delegates attended a second retreat in the Hunter Valley which had a focus on Phase 3 of the UNSW program and the ILP rollout.

Skills Centre

In February 2006, academics and conjoint appointees came together to celebrate the renaming of the skills laboratory at Liverpool Hospital as The Stephen Deane Clinical Skills Centre. This ceremony highlighted the important contribution made by Professor Deane to the establishment of the Centre in the south west and in the development of skills programs for both undergraduates and SSWAHS staff. The Centre is an important focal point for skills training. During the construction of Stage II at Liverpool Hospital, the Skills Centre will have to be relocated. The SWSCS, in consultation with academics from other Schools, will oversee the transition period to ensure minimal disruptions.
Communications

Students studying their medical, surgical and critical care terms in the south west of Sydney continue to have access to a wide range of skills training sessions at Liverpool Hospital. In 2006 and 2007, this was supplemented by the establishment of specific training on ‘Delivering Bad News’. Developed by the oncology departments across SSWAHS and provided to Phase 2 students, this program uses actors as surrogate patients undergoing intensive treatment or receiving an initial terminal diagnosis.

Ian Webster Medal

This medal, named after Professor Ian Webster, was instituted in 2007, as a means of recognising outstanding performance by a student studying medicine, surgery and critical care terms in south western Sydney. Professor Webster was the inaugural Clinical Associate Dean of the SWSCS and made a significant contribution to the establishment of a UNSW presence in the south west. Each year this medal will be presented to the student who achieves the highest grades in the final year barrier examinations. The inaugural medal was presented by Professor Webster to Ms Darshika Christie-David at the end of year dinner.

Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre

In September 2006, former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam celebrated the formalisation of the affiliation of the Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre (WJRC) at Fairfield Hospital with UNSW. The WJRC is a purpose built facility for education, training and research for joint replacements and their outcomes. As a result of the affiliation, all staff and surgeons of the Centre became conjoint appointees of the University.

Pancreas in Paradise

In October 2007, the Pancreatic Research Group played a key role in the staging of Pancreas in Paradise. This conference, which was also supported by SSWAHS, brought together 18 international invited speakers, 15 local pancreatic experts and 150 delegates making it the largest pancreas specific meeting held in Australia. The scientific program was built around clinical scenarios with topics covered including pathogenetic mechanisms, the role of imaging/endoscopic interventions in diagnosis and treatment, and the therapeutic challenges in acute pancreatitis, chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer.
Teaching Awards

Each year students are asked to vote anonymously to reward tutors who they believe have taken innovative and existing approaches during their tutorials. Previous winners have included Dr Mark Birch, A/Professor Craig Juergens, A/Professor Rupert Leong, Dr Nick Collins and Dr Walid Barto in 2005; Dr Arvin Damodaran, Dr Tim Spicer, Dr Chris Pokorny and Dr John Saunders in 2006; and Dr Arvin Damodaran, Dr Tim Spicer, A/Professor Graham Gumley and Dr William Huynh in 2007.

Home Grown

UNSW continues to attract a very high number of students from the Greater West of Sydney to its medicine program. In 2006, 30.1% of all students enrolled were from south west Sydney and western Sydney. Almost 2000 applications were received from western Sydney students in the last three years and currently more than 250 of the total cohort of medical students at UNSW, come from the west of Sydney.

Celebrating Our Diversity

The UNSW medical student program is truly representative of the diversity of the Australian population with 46% of local students born in Australia; 10.5% from other English speaking backgrounds; 36.8% from Asian backgrounds; 2.9% from other European backgrounds and 3.2% from Middle Eastern backgrounds.

It’s An Honour

In the Queen’s Birthday Honours List of June 2007, Professor Bryanne Barnett was appointed a Member (AM) for service to psychiatry and to the community through research and development of intervention programs. Professor Michael Barton also received a Medal (OAM) in the General Division for service to medicine, particularly radiation oncology, through a range of clinical, research education and professional development roles.
The Clinical School was established in 1989 following an agreement signed by the Vice Chancellor of UNSW and the Chairman of the Board of the South Western Sydney Area Health Service (SWSAHS). The agreement was to create a teaching Area Health Service and not simply a teaching hospital. It included the public hospitals of Liverpool, Fairfield, Bankstown, Campbelltown and Bowral as well as the associated community and public health services.

In 1990 the first students commenced residence in south western Sydney as an integral part of their fourth year medicine, involving community medicine and general medicine and surgery. All students of the Faculty of Medicine rotated for a period of six weeks and were accommodated on the campuses of Liverpool, Fairfield, Bankstown and Bowral hospitals. In 1991, approximately 20 were allocated for all their clinical teaching in fourth, fifth and sixth years. Up to one hundred students were accommodated in facilities at any time in the south west.

The first full professorships were in community medicine, pathology, psychiatry, medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology and intensive care. The first UNSW Chair in General Practice was established in an academic unit at Fairfield Hospital. Then followed appointments of senior lecturers in medicine and surgery and conjoint appointments at senior academic levels in all the disciplines.

This was a time when the new hospital buildings were still in the future and accommodation for academics and students was very adhoc, provided in old nursing or resident medical officer quarters by the Area Health Service. The first new building was a four-storey Clinical Services Building at Liverpool Hospital which provided a research precinct and environment to house the initial professors and their research teams.

The initial organisational steps involved joint planning and management committees with the Area Health Service and within the Clinical School and establishment of a Clinical School Committee, a committee for teaching, a Board of Medical Studies and a Research Advisory Committee. The Board of Medical Studies oversaw undergraduate and postgraduate education and the Overseas Doctors Training Programme.

In the early period, Clinical School meetings were held on different hospital campuses of the Area Health Service so that the whole of the health service in the south west of Sydney could be part of the new academic enterprise.

The transition from purely clinical services to an environment of teaching, research and clinical endeavour was achieved harmoniously. The leadership and collaboration of senior clinicians was outstanding as they welcomed the new academics and specialists to this part of Sydney.

One of the important early tasks was to provide resources to support research development. This was achieved through collaboration of academics with the Area Health Service in founding the Health Research Foundation Sydney South West and the Ingham Institute. There were other research initiatives in medicine, cancer, trauma, epidemiology, general practice, the Simpson Centre in health services, psychiatry and the Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation.

The Area Board of Directors were enthusiastic about research and sponsored many community events to raise funds for research. Also there were joint arrangements with the University of Western Sydney to share teaching areas and in supporting research.

Because of the long distance from the University of New South Wales campus and other teaching hospitals, the Clinical School was funded to establish audio-visual and telecommunications links to the Kensington campus. Related innovations were in the Teaching Project for educational skills development and the Clinical Skills Laboratory. An excellent medical library was built to house its valuable collection of medical texts and serials.
Senior Staff

Senior UNSW appointments have been made across a range of disciplines in the south west of Sydney.

Professor Minoti Apte

Minoti Apte is Director of the Pancreatic Research Group which has received continuous research support from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)/Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) since 1987. The Group is also currently funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the NSW Cancer Council.

Minoti is internationally acknowledged as a leading researcher in the field of alcohol-induced pancreatic injury and pancreatic fibrogenesis. The international recognition of her work is reflected in the >1500 citations of her papers, in the invitations that she has received to speak at meetings worldwide and in the travel and research awards that she has received.

Minoti is a member of the Editorial Board of the journals Pancreas and Pancreatologia as well as the World Journal of Gastroenterology. She is a founding member and immediate Past President of the Australasian Pancreatic Club (established in 2002 to provide a forum for clinicians and scientists with research interests in pancreatic pathobiology), a founding member of the Asian Oceanic Pancreatic Association (an organisation committed to fostering research and education in the pancreas in the Asia-Oceanic region), a member of the Biological Subcommittee of the Australian Gastrointestinal Trials Group (AGITG) and the Research Committee of the Gastroenterological Society of Australia.

She also actively contributes her services to the University in her positions as Presiding Member of the Faculty of Medicine, Chair of the Higher Degree Committee, member of the UNSW Academic Board and Postgraduate Research Coordinator for the SWSCS.
Professor Bryanne Barnett

Bryanne Barnett AM is a conjoint Professor of Perinatal and Infant Psychiatry at UNSW, the Director of the Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for SSWAHS, and Chair of the Board of Karitane. Bryanne also manages the New South Wales (NSW) component of the beyondblue National Postnatal Depression (NPD) Research Program.

Bryanne is a foundation member and Past President of the Australian Association for Infant Mental Health, the Australian Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Australian Branch of the Marce Society. Her key interests are the health and well-being of infants, children and their parents, especially from the aspect of reducing risk and enhancing protective factors. To that end, she has established various services addressing the needs of families and is involved in a research program on issues relevant to prevention, early intervention and health promotion.

Bryanne specialises in establishing cross-disciplinary collaboration. The Integrated Perinatal Care Program, which is implemented throughout NSW, is an initiative of SSWAHS. She has also worked for many years with Juvenile Justice in NSW.

Professor Michael Barton

Michael Barton OAM is Professor of Radiation Oncology at UNSW, and Research Director of the Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CCORE) at Liverpool Hospital. He is the Interim Research Director for the SSWAHS Western Zone. He has been involved in state, national and international strategic planning projects for cancer services. These include the Victorian Cancer Services Framework Report, the Papua New Guinea Cancer Services Report, the New South Wales Cancer Council’s Radiotherapy Summit and Working Party. He currently chairs the National Brain Tumour Guidelines Committee of the Australian Cancer Network.

Michael was the inaugural Secretary of the Faculty of Radiation Oncology of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. He chairs the Post Fellowship Education Committee.

Michael has a strong track record in undergraduate and post-graduate education. In 2000, he received a Professional Excellence Award from the New South Wales Cancer Council, Australia, for his work in professional education. During 2007, he was appointed as the Rohan-Williams Travelling Professor by the Royal College of Radiologists, London, completing a month long lecture tour of the United Kingdom in September of that year.

Professor Robert Batey

Robert Batey AM is the Chair of Medicine at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital. He is also Clinical Advisor to NSW Health in Addiction Medicine, a position he has held for three years. He has worked in the fields of Hepatology and Addiction Medicine for the past 30 years following training which was gained at Sydney and Royal Prince Alfred Hospitals and the Royal Free Hospital in London.

Bob chairs the National Hepatitis C subcommittee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis to the Australian government. His current roles involve clinical, research, administrative, teaching and service planning responsibilities.

Professor Daniel Chan

Daniel KY Chan is the Director of Aged Care and Rehabilitation at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital and a
conjoint Professor of Geriatrics with both the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. He has multiple qualifications which give him relevant background in his current roles – as a manager, a staff specialist and an enthusiastic medical researcher.

Daniel has broad research interests, ranging from basic science to health care service related topics. One of his main interests is finding the genetic and environmental risk factors for a number of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s disease and vascular dementia. National and international collaborations have been established for studies of the genetic associations which include Australia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan. In addition, he has been involved with large-scale epidemiological studies, surveying over 7000 households for prevalence of Parkinson’s disease and interviewing identified Parkinson’s patients in metropolitan Sydney.

Daniel has also been involved with stroke service related research and stroke epidemiological research projects. He and his team won the Baxter Finalist Award from NSW Health for the innovative care approach to stroke care in 2002. In 2007, Daniel was awarded NHMRC funding for a comprehensive stroke care model trial. Daniel has over 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals in the past five years. He has also been successful in securing in excess of $2 million from various competitive granting bodies including the NHMRC, Hong Kong Research Council, NSW Health, the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health (ACSQH) and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP).

David is a member of the Panel of Advisers for the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) of NSW and a councillor on the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACSH). He has also made a significant contribution to the development of the pathology elements of Phase 3 in the New Medicine Program at UNSW.

David has a number of research interests including the pathogenesis of renal medullary necrosis and its relationship to the cortical lesion of chronic intestinal nephritis; mechanisms of proteinuria with particular reference to protein overload proteinuria; and immunopathology, particularly that of necrotising glomerulonephritis and small vessel vasculitis. In 1981, David was the first to recognise cytoplasmic antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (cANCA) in microscopic polyarteritis nodosa. This has now become a test in general use internationally for diagnosis of small vessel vasculitis.

In recognition of his efforts, David was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003 for services to Australian society and medicine.

**Professor Geoff Delaney**

Geoff Delaney is the Director of Radiation Oncology for Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals, and conjoint Professor of Radiation Oncology at UNSW. He is also the Deputy Director of Cancer Services for SSWAHS and a member of the CCORE.

Professor Geoff Delaney

Geoff Delaney is the Joint Area Director of Pathology for SSWAHS and has been a conjoint Professor of Pathology at UNSW since 1995. Having studied medicine at the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom (UK), David has held a number of academic and clinical appointments in the UK, Victoria and NSW.

Geoff has also been a member or chair of many committees involved with radiotherapy service delivery at a national and international level. He also chairs the NSW Cancer Institute Area Cancer Registry Steering Committee. His main clinical and research interests include breast and lung cancer, effective...
models in radiotherapy treatment service delivery, patterns of care and the role of information technology in radiation oncology.

**Professor Hugh Dickson**

Hugh Dickson is currently the Director of Ambulatory Care at Liverpool Hospital and has been a Professor of Aged Care and Rehabilitation at UNSW since 1997. Hugh has held a number of positions in Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and NSW since training in medicine at the University of Queensland. In 1999 he completed a PhD with UNSW investigating the topic ‘The measurement of handicap’.

Hugh has been active in the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine as a member of Council and as an examiner and with the NHMRC as an application assessor. He has published in a range of areas including spinal injury and benchmarking in rehabilitation medicine, and has a strong interest in clinical governance issues and frameworks.

**Professor John French**

John French is a conjoint Professor of Cardiology at the SWSCS of UNSW and is an interventional cardiologist at Liverpool Hospital. After completing basic physician training John undertook a PhD as an NHMRC postgraduate scholar at the University of Adelaide, with a project entitled ‘Studies of the biochemistry and pharmacology of superoxide production by phagocytes’. John completed cardiology training at Green Lane Hospital (GLH) New Zealand, undertook Wellcome Trust-funded post doctoral studies in molecular medicine at University College London, and subsequently for over a decade worked at GLH and the University of Auckland.

John’s major clinical research focus has been in the acute coronary syndromes, particularly on the assessment of myocardial reperfusion (assessed by infarct-related artery blood flow, ST recovery, left ventricular function), and late clinical outcomes in patients with ST elevation myocardial infarction. He has been an active researcher having been an investigator and co-investigator in numerous randomised controlled trials and clinical trials. He was on the writing committee of the HERO-2 trial, and on the steering committees for the SHOCK, OAT and HERO-2 trials. John was also the chair of the myocardial infarction adjudication committee and ECG sub-study for HERO-2. As part of a continuing interest in molecular medicine, John has co-authored >120 peer-reviewed publications and six book chapters. He has supervised a number of MD and M哲学Sc postgraduate students and has been invited speaker at recent American College and American Heart Association meetings.

**Professor Bruce Hall**

Bruce Hall was appointed by UNSW as the Foundation Professor of Medicine at Liverpool Hospital in 1991. He trained in internal medicine and renal medicine at Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital and completed his PhD in transplant immunology related to the mechanisms of rejection at the University of Sydney. He has held a number of senior appointments in Canada, the United States and Australia.

Bruce’s research interests include the study of the immune mechanisms of organ allograft rejection and immune tolerance to allografts. He has an interest in clinical research in renal transplantation and in glomerulonephritis. In autoimmune diseases, he is interested in the mechanisms of acquired immune tolerance, and studies models of renal disease. He collaborates with Dr Suzanne
Hodgkinson, in research into the mechanisms of injury and tolerance in neurological autoimmune diseases.

Bruce has an international reputation for his research, and was the first to describe that CD4+ T cells mediate immune tolerance, and that the cells expressing CD25 are required to mediate this tolerance. Other major contributions include establishing the role of T cells in allograft rejection, that memory T cells do not recirculate from blood to lymphoid organs and that grafts express MHC molecules during rejection. Current research focuses on antigen specific T regulatory cells, the role of cytokines in inducing these cells and maintaining tolerance, and the efficacy of new immunosuppressive therapies in transplantation and renal diseases. He holds six patents, has written 16 book chapters, over 150 peer reviewed scientific articles, and frequently reviews articles for international journals.

He is an active clinician and has an interest in clinical based teaching. He established many of the tertiary clinical services at Liverpool Hospital, especially the renal service.

Professor Ian Harris

Ian Harris was recently appointed as the Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the SWSCS of UNSW. He is also the Director of the Orthopaedic Department at Liverpool Hospital and directs research activities throughout south western Sydney, and in other institutions through multicentre trials.

Ian’s research is focused on clinical trials and epidemiological studies related to surgery and musculoskeletal injuries and diseases.

Professor Ken Hillman

Ken Hillman is Professor of Intensive Care at UNSW. Ken remains an actively practising Intensive Care clinician which complements his main research interest which is health services research – developing and evaluating new and innovative ways of practising health care.

Ken has active research interests in areas such as recognising and responding to seriously ill hospitalised patients in a timely fashion, and improving the management of dying patients. He has published over 95 peer reviewed papers, written 45 chapters, co-written and co-edited two textbooks, and has over $8 million in peer-reviewed grants.

Professor Bin Jalaludin

Bin Jalaludin holds a medical degree and a doctorate in air pollution epidemiology, both from the University of Sydney and is currently the Director of the Centre for Research, Evidence Management and Surveillance (REMS) in the SSWAHS. He has a conjoint Professorial appointment in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW, is a Collaborating Fellow at the Centre for Environmental Health Development, WHO Collaborative Centre for Environmental Health, University of Western Sydney (UWS) and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research.

He is on the board of the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit, a member of the SSWAHS Human Research Ethics Committee, was until recently on the management committee of the Centre for Health...
Jal has received NHMRC and ARC research grants for air pollution studies, and has published over 100 papers in the peer reviewed scientific literature. His interests are in air pollution and environmental epidemiology, use of linked administrative datasets, spatial epidemiology, neighborhoods and social determinants of health, as well as in translating research into policy.

Jal has been successful in attracting competitive funding for significant research projects from the ARC, NHMRC, Environment Protection and Heritage Council, Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF), Department of Environment and Heritage, NSW Health, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, Sydney Water Corporation and the Ministry of Health, Malaysia.

Professor Guy Marks

Guy Marks is a respiratory physician at Liverpool Hospital and a respiratory epidemiologist, based at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research. His research interests include obstructive lung disease (asthma and COPD), health effects of air pollution and tuberculosis as well as epidemiological research methods. He is the Director of the Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring, a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) responsible for collating, reporting and interpreting national data on asthma trends and outcomes.

Guy is the chief investigator on the Childhood Asthma Prevention Study (CAPS), a long-term study investigating risk factors for asthma in children born in south western and western Sydney, and the Australian Burden of Obstructive Lung Disease (BOLD) study, which is part of an international collaboration and is the first nationwide study of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Australia. He is a chief investigator on two ongoing studies of health effects of air pollution, one based in Sydney and one nationwide study of children. His interest in tuberculosis has included policy-related epidemiological studies of tuberculosis in NSW and international collaborations, particularly involving Vietnam. From 1994 to 2007 he was head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine at Liverpool Hospital and he continues his role as an active clinician within that department.

Professor Peter McCluskey

Peter McCluskey is Professor of Ophthalmology at UNSW based at Liverpool Hospital. He is an inflammatory eye disease specialist with more than 15 years experience in the field. Currently his primary clinical focus is refractory vision threatening chronic inflammatory eye disease and he is currently involved in clinical trials with new therapies for these patients. His laboratory research focuses on mediators of inflammatory eye disease. He has a longstanding interest in dry eyes and Siogren’s Syndrome and has been involved in clinical trials and basic research in this area for the last ten years.

Peter graduated with first class honours from UNSW. He completed his ophthalmology training at RPA and Sydney Eye Hospital. During his MD studies in ocular immunology at UNSW, he completed a fellowship in uveitis at Moorfields Eye Hospital London.
Professor Patrick McNeil

Patrick McNeil is Professor of Rheumatology at the SWSCS of UNSW based at Liverpool Hospital. He heads a research group exploring mast cell biology and novel inflammatory pathways in rheumatoid arthritis and autoimmune connective tissue diseases. He is an author on more than 70 scientific publications in biomedical science and medical education which have been cited >3,800 times to date, with 17 papers cited more than 50 times including seven papers with >100 citations.

From 2001-2005, Patrick served as the Faculty of Medicine’s Associate Dean (Education) at UNSW, where he was the central architect of a new and highly innovative outcomes-based medical education program which began in 2004, from which a number of research publications have arisen. He currently chairs the Faculty’s Program Evaluation and Improvement Group.

Patrick is recognised as a national leader in academic rheumatology in Australia and has been a longstanding member of Scientific Assessment Committees for Arthritis Australia, the Australian Rheumatology Association Research Trust, the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases, and Discipline Panels for the NHMRC.

Professor Derrick Silove

Professor Derrick Silove was appointed to the Foundation Chair in Psychiatry in 1990 soon after the establishment of the UNSW Clinical School in the south west of Sydney. For a time, he was also the Area Director of Mental Health. He established the Psychiatry Research and Teaching Unit and later the Centre for Population Mental Health Research.

Derrick has had a longstanding interest in the mental health and psychosocial well-being of refugees, asylum seekers, and other populations exposed to mass violence and human rights violations. His focus has extended to the development of mental health services in low-income countries recovering from conflict such as Cambodia, Vietnam, and Timor Leste where he led an AusAID funded national program in mental health for five years. His team is also involved in projects with other marginalized and disadvantaged groups, with a large collaborative NHMRC study being initiated in the Broken Hill area amongst indigenous communities. The team also has a general interest in stress and anxiety, making a world first breakthrough in the description of an adult form of separation anxiety disorder.

Derrick has attracted numerous NHMRC grants including a Program Grant (2004-2008) led by Professor Richard Bryant, Psychology UNSW, in collaboration with a team of leading group of trauma researchers in Australia. More recently, he has been awarded two ARC grants for research in the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. Key collaborating centres are the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, the Karolinska Institute where he is a Visiting Professor, Public Health at UNSW with Professor Anthony Zwi and Sydney University with Professor Adrian Bauman, and Psychology, UNSW with Richard Bryant.

Derrick has published over 200 journal articles, books, book chapters and major reports. Several of his publications have appeared in the world’s leading medical journals such as the Lancet, the Journal of the American Medical Association, and the British Journal of Psychiatry. Key articles (for example, an overview of refugee trauma; mental health of asylum seekers) are the highest cited papers in their respective fields. Based on overall citations in the last three years, he is the world leader in research in the field of refugee and post-conflict mental health.

Professor Michael Sugrue

Michael Sugrue is a conjoint Professor at UNSW and Director of Trauma at Liverpool Hospital. Having graduated from the National University of Ireland in 1981, Michael has held a variety of clinical roles in Ireland, Queensland, South Australia and NSW. He also obtained his MD from UNSW in 2001.
Michael has been involved in the education of undergraduates at UNSW since 1992. He has been pivotal in the evolution of surgical training at Liverpool and trauma terms in the south west of Sydney are rated highly amongst students. Michael has also led the development of the Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST) Course, Definitive Surgical Trauma Care Course, the Definitive Perioperative Trauma Nursing Course and the annual SWAN Conference.

Michael's research interests include abdominal compartment syndrome and abdominal hypertension, death audits, patient safety and performance improvement, clinical practice guidelines in trauma and strategies for haemorrhage control in trauma patients.

Jeremy has been the recipient of continuous NHMRC/DVA Project Grant support since 1987. He has also received research support from the National Institutes of Health (USA), the Ramaciotti Foundations, the Australian Brewers Foundation and the RACP as well as internal grant support from Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals and UNSW. He has supervised or co-supervised a number of candidates for doctoral degrees (MD or PhD).

Jeremy is recognised as an international authority on the pathogenesis of alcoholic pancreatitis and pancreatic stellate cells. He is a member of Council and Honorary Secretary elect of the International Association of Pancreatology and is also a member of the Editorial Board of the journal Pancreatology. His work has received >1600 citations attesting to his international recognition in the field. In 2001, he was awarded a Fellowship by the Royal College of Physicians, UK on the basis of his distinguished achievements in pancreatology. In 2007, Jeremy was made a Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) and was one of the first non-American researchers to be awarded this honour.

As Clinical Associate Dean of the SWSCS and Executive Clinical Director, SSWAHS, Jeremy has major responsibilities in the areas of administration, clinical service, teaching (undergraduate and postgraduate) and research at SSWAHS and UNSW. In 2004, he led the development of ‘The Way Forward’, the strategic plan for the development of clinical services for the south west of Sydney. He is currently involved in a range of strategic projects for SSWAHS and NSW Health including as a member of the NSW Health Care Advisory Council (HCAC) advising the Minister for Health, and as Chair of the Acute Care Sub-Committee of NSW Health which has responsibility for advising the Department on matters related to best practice and efficient care of acute medical patients in the NSW Health System.

Professor Felix Wong

Felix Wong is the Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the School of Women’s and Children Health at Liverpool Hospital. Felix has made a significant contribution to medical education across Asia, which has been recognised through a number
of visiting professorships at universities in China, the 2003 Guangdong Friendship Award and the 2005 Endoscopist Award from the Chinese Government Evaluation Committee of Endoscopy. More recently he was honoured by a Ho Chi Minh City Badge Award by The People’s Committee of Ho Chi Minh City in recognition of his continued contribution to strengthening relations with the Vietnamese people.

His key research interests are in the fields of cancer research, acupuncture and Chinese medicine. Felix has co-written three medical books and published more than 130 papers in local and international journals. Felix continues to develop educational material in the area of integrative medicine and delivers evidence based learning on both Western and complementary medicine to his students and fellow doctors.

Professor Nick Zwar

Nick Zwar is Professor of General Practice in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW. Nick was a general practitioner in Central Sydney before moving to an academic role.

Nick has extensive experience in conducting research projects in or related to general practice and primary health care including intervention studies, descriptive studies, systematic reviews and qualitative research. Research and clinical interests include chronic disease prevention and management, tobacco control and travel medicine.

Nick currently leads the Primary Health Care Research Capacity Building program at UNSW. Nick is a former chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) National Research and Evaluation Ethics Committee and a current member of RACGP National Research Committee.
The University of New South Wales continues in its implementation of the new curriculum for Medicine with Phase 3 to commence in 2008.

In addition to teaching undertaken by staff in the wards of hospitals in the south west and the private rooms of general practitioners and other population health services, a number of south west-based UNSW academics and conjoint appointees contribute to teaching on the Kensington campus in Phase 1 Scenario Facilitation, Phase 2 case method tutorials and the Year 4 biomedical sciences program.

**Medicine and Surgery**

At any given time, Medicine and Surgery have approximately 20 Phase 2 and 20 Year 6 students allocated across the Liverpool and Bankstown campuses.

Year 6 teaching consists of student integration into the team, weekly therapeutic and technique lectures, professorial viva tutorials, specialist viva tutorials, bedside tutorials, neurology tutorials, presentations at grand rounds and attendance at team meetings. Year 6 students also undertake a variety of skills sessions during their medical and surgical terms.

2007 also saw the implementation of PRINT (Preparation for Internship) which allows students to integrate into a team of their chosen discipline and operate at a sub intern level. During the PRINT term, various case method tutorials are facilitated, aimed at providing students with experiences they can expect to encounter as an intern.

Phase 2 sees students undertaking various medical and surgical activities during their Health Maintenance and Ageing and Ending terms. Weekly themes within Health Maintenance include exercise and health, respiratory, cardiology, renal, gastroenterology, oedema and trauma followed by the successful Ophthalmology Day. Students gain broad exposure to medicine and surgery during these structured weeks.

Ageing and Endings gives students exposure to a broad spectrum of medicine, including aged care and general medicine, oncology, rehabilitation medicine, palliative care, allied health and general surgery.

Both Ageing and Endings and Health Maintenance include several important skills sessions for students.

The number of Phase 1 students placed in the south west of Sydney has increased from 84 in 2005 to 126 in 2007 and will continue to grow. These students undertake fortnightly tutorials as part of placements at Liverpool, Bankstown-Lidcombe and Fairfield hospitals, as part of their introduction to the clinical environment.

**Critical Care**

The critical care term encompasses emergency medicine, intensive care and anaesthetics, with students allocated across the hospitals of SSWAHS. Each year approximately 55 final year students undertake four weeks in emergency departments, one week of intensive care and one week of anaesthetics. Students are expected to integrate into the team and perform at sub intern level.

Teaching within the term includes a weekly tutorial timetable and several skills revision sessions. Emergency and anaesthetic exams are held at the end of the term. This level of integration ensures that SWSCS critical care terms are highly sought after amongst students.

**Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

The Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology facilitates teaching for Year 5, Phase 2 and Phase 1 students. During 2005, more than 50 Year 5 students undertook an eight week term within SSWAHS. These terms included clinical attachments, attendance at the antenatal clinical, clinical skills sessions, attendance at
the birthing unit and an end of term objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).

2006 saw the implementation of Phase 1 teaching, with approximately 28 Phase 1 students undertaking a four week term within SSWAHS. Concurrently there were approximately 64 Year 5 students undertaking either eight or four week terms.

Student numbers within SSWAHS increased considerably in 2007 with 51 Phase 1 students undertaking a four week term and 94 students undertaking either four or eight week attachments in Year 5.

### Paediatrics

Since 2005, the number of students allocated to SSWAHS for Year 5 paediatrics attachments has increased from 72 to 98. In 2007, with the implementation of Phase 2, approximately 20 students per term have been allocated to SSWAHS hospitals. During this term, students spend one week at each of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a general paediatrics ward, Fairfield Hospital and a community health setting.

### Pathology

Until 2006, pathology was taught to more than 40 Year 4 students annually, with structured weekly tutorials throughout the year, facilitated mostly by conjoint staff.

Alongside weekly tutorials, students also attended diagnostic laboratories, dissection of surgical specimens and autopsies in the Department of Anatomical Pathology, as well as scheduled visits to the NSW Institute of Forensic Pathology.

### Primary Care

During 2005, the School of Public Health and Community Medicine administered the Years 4 and 5 Public Health term, allocating students to various general practice and community health settings within SSWAHS. 2006 and 2007 saw the introduction of Phase 2 students, with students allocated to Braeside Hospital, 1HSB at Holsworthy, community health and general practices across the south west of Sydney for community clinical attachments and course tutor sessions as part of Society and Health.

The GP Unit at Fairfield Hospital also contributed to teaching of Phase 1 Clinical and Communications skills groups throughout this period.

### Psychiatry

The School of Psychiatry allocates approximately 60 Year 5 students per year for a nine week psychiatry term in SSWAHS. During these nine weeks students undertake a full time clinical attachment, receive weekly tutorials and perform supervised patient interviews. Viva and written examinations are held at the end of the term.

### Examinations

Liverpool Hospital continues to host a range of student examinations throughout the year including the Phase 1 Integrated Clinical Examination (ICE), Phase 2 ICE and Year 4 Clinical exam, and the Year 6 Clinical and Viva examinations. Staff of the SWSCS wish to thank the academics and conjoint appointees who have contributed to these examinations by acting as examiners and supervisors and by helping to recruit patients. The School is also grateful to the students who have acted as surrogates and the patients who have given their time to assist in the delivery of exams in the south west.

### Getting Involved

There are a range of ways for clinical and conjoint academics in the south west to become more involved with student activities including bedside teaching with Phase 1 students, supervision of Independent Learning Project or Honours students, Phase 2 teaching in: Society and Health; Health Maintenance; Beginnings, Growth and Development; and Ageing and Endings in small group tutorials. Staff may also contribute through bedside tutorials or the delivery of therapeutic lectures for Phase 3.

Conjoint academics may also wish to participate in Scenario Facilitation on campus with Phase 1 students, be an examiner in clinical and viva examinations or take part in interview panels for students applying to do Medicine at UNSW.
The Stephen Deane Clinical Skills Centre at Liverpool Hospital provides a valuable and unique learning facility for a variety of health professionals to learn technical and clinical skills using medical simulators and models. This contributes to better patient safety and outcome.

The Skills Centre is a multi-disciplinary training centre, currently hosting skills training for UNSW medical students as well as a variety of SSWAHS programs including nursing and medical orientation, Medical Emergency Team (MET) training and other educational programs. Audits of the Centre conducted in 2006 highlight the fact that utilisation of the resources was shared almost equally between medical students and Health Service staff, with an average of 3500 student hours of training conducted annually.

In addition to these programs the Skills Centre staff have also been involved in the coordination and/or delivery of a range of special educational days including:

- Phase 2 communications day;
- venipuncture in conjunction with The Pathology Foundation;
- masterclass days; and
- ophthalmology days.

In 2007 the SWSCS also proceeded with a major equipment upgrade for the Skills Centre with the purchase of a range of new mannequins and simulation equipment.

Purchases included replacement or new:

- MegaCode Kelly and VitalSim
- Stat Baby
- Ambu Airway Management Trainers
- Tracheostomy Tube Observation Models
- Injection Trainers
- Eye Examination Simulators
- Medi-Vision Medical Education DVDs
- Ear Examination Simulators
- Projectors and Laptops

The School also worked with both Liverpool and Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospitals to plan for the Teaching Hospital Grant to be utilised for upgrades to equipment in student facilities and the auditorium at each hospital.
The Independent Learning Project, undertaken by all Phase 2 students, aims to promote lifelong learning patterns and skills which will enable graduates to approach future medical challenges in their careers with a rigor and depth not possible without a detailed knowledge of the formal processes of research, literature appraisal, data collection, analysis and presentation.

2007 Sample Projects

**Alcohol, endotoxin and pancreas**  
Professor Minoti Apte

**Motivational factors for stroke rehabilitation - a semi-qualitative analysis**  
Professor Daniel Chan

**Benchmarking expertise in surgical skills**  
Dr Peter Cosman

**Patterns and trends in haemorrhage control in haemodynamically unstable trauma patients with blunt or penetrating injury**  
Dr Scott D’Amours

**Elevated Troponin T and Acute Coronary Syndrome**  
Professor Brad Frankum

**Implementation of intranasal analgesia for children in the Emergency Department**  
A/Professor Anna Holdgate

**Time analysis of activities of trauma team members in the Emergency Department**  
A/Professor Anna Holdgate

**Management of acute upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage: clinical pathway development**  
A/Professor Rupert Leong

**Therapy for chronic hepatitis B infection in Sydney South West; How effective is antiviral therapy in the real world, outside of clinical trials?**  
Dr Miriam Levy

**Are stellate cells involved in orbital inflammation and fibrosis**  
Professor Peter McCluskey

**Diagnosis and management of gout in an acute care setting**  
Professor Patrick McNeil

**The diagnosis and management of pulmonary embolism**  
Dr Bin Ong

**Determine the prevalence of abdominal compartment syndrome in ICU patients**  
Professor Michael Sugrue

Have an idea for a project?

While students are encouraged to negotiate their ILP with a supervisor, some need a little help and the University is always on the lookout for new projects. ILP students can provide additional resources to your research project if a containable and achievable project is negotiated.

Each year, the Faculty seeks project proposals for projects in the middle of the year for the following year, and more information can be obtained by visiting the SWSCS website or by contacting the ILP coordinator at ilp@unsw.edu.au.
Research

Health and medical research is an essential component of the provision of quality health services and UNSW remains committed to further developing health and medical research in the south west.

A broad range of research groups are active in the south west and a research strategy being implemented by SSWAHS in partnership with UNSW and UWS aims to build on this activity.

Groups active in the south west span a wide range of disciplines including:

- **health services research:** cancer services, critical care services, trauma services and mental health services;

- **population health research:** health equity issues and environmental health;

- **clinical research:** clinical trials; and

- **biomedical research:** molecular biology, renal diseases, neuroscience, basic pharmacology, immunity, inflammation, cancer and pancreatic disease.

The recent review of research in the western zone of SSWAHS found that research groups based in the south west of Sydney have been highly productive using the modest resources available.

To further develop the research capacity of the clinical and conjoint academics in the south west additional research infrastructure is needed, and UNSW remains committed to advocating for the expansion of research facilities allied with the redevelopment of Liverpool Hospital in particular. This includes the need for ‘wet’ laboratory facilities, with a number of research groups currently utilising facilities on the main UNSW campus at Kensington as a result of the lack of dedicated wet laboratories in the south west.

Such facilities will be central to UNSW’s ability to attract suitably high calibre teachers and researchers to the south west so as to develop academic medicine and enhance the medical workforce that will required for the redeveloped hospital.
In 2005, the Medical Early Response Intervention and Therapy (MERIT) study led by Professor Ken Hillman won the Stoutenbeek Award at the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine Congress. The award is given for an outstanding protocol of a clinical investigation addressing issues relevant for clinical practice in intensive care medicine. The MERIT study was designed to test the effectiveness of the Medical Emergency Team (MET) concept and involved 23 hospitals and over 70,000 patients. The study was conducted by The Simpson Centre for Health Service Research and the Clinical Trials Group of the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS).

In 2006 SSWAHS, UNSW and UWS collaborated on the establishment of a five year research strategy for health services in the south west of Sydney.

With the implementation of the strategy, the Area aims:

- to increase the capacity for research in the south west
- to strengthen the research performance of the south west
- to enhance the research profile of the south west; and
- to encourage and sustain the commitment of managers, clinicians and other health service personnel to the south west research effort.

In 2007, Professor Michael Barton was awarded the Rohan Williams Traveling Professorship from the Royal College of Radiologists. This award commemorates the strong links that Dr Rohan Williams, a past-President of the College, had fostered with the Royal Australasian College of Radiologists and allows the Professor to travel to the United Kingdom to visit a number of health facilities and deliver lectures in his/her area of interest.

Michael spent four weeks presenting papers in the UK on: Waiting times and queuing theory; Health services research; Radiotherapy in low and middle income countries; and Evidence based assessment of the demand for cancer services.
Grants

Grants with participation by south west Sydney based UNSW academics and conjoint appointees with funding in the years 2005-2007.

NHMRC


Apte MV, Wilson JS, Kumar R, Pirola R. NHMRC/Department of Veterans’ Affairs Project Grant. $319,400. Alcohol and pancreatic stellate cells.

Apte MV, Wilson JS, Pirola R. NHMRC Project Grant. $482,000. Alcoholic pancreatitis: role of alcohol, endotoxin and pancreatic stellate cells.


Blankin A. NHMRC Project Grant. $522,000. Retinoids in pancreatic cancer.


Bryant R, McFarlane A, Silove D. NHMRC Program Grant. $4,500,000. Post traumatic mental health: enhancing resilience and recovery.


Cameron I, Kunise S, Quine S, Sambrook P, March L, Chan D. NHMRC Project Grant. $399,750. Improving adherence with the use of hip protectors.


Comino EJ, Craig PL, Harris E, Henry R, McDermott D, Harris MF. NHMRC Project Grant. $400,000. Health status and development among Aboriginal infants in an urban community.


Geczy C, Lloyd A, Tedla N, Apte M, Harvey C, Husk K. NHMRC Equipment Grant. $12,000. Spectrophotometer Nanodrop analyser for DNA.

Geczy CL, McNeil HP, Freedman B, Youssuf P. NHMRC Project Grant. $437,000. Inflammation-associated S100 proteins - Links between arthritis and atherosclerosis.

Harris-Roxas B, NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship. $65,598. Does equity-focused health impact assessment result in fairer health policy.

Scott KF, Graham GG, McNeil HP. NHMRC Project Grant, $687,000. Mechanism of action and inhibition of secreted phospholipase A2 in inflammation.


Ward PB, Schall U, Mieche PT, Thompson P. NHMRC Project Grant. $357,500. Functional and structural imaging of auditory information processing deficits in recent-onset and chronic schizophrenia.

Zwar NA, Middleton S, Marks G, Comino EC. NHMRC Project Grant. $442,245. A cluster randomised controlled trial of nurse and general practitioner partnership for care of COPD.

ARC

Apte MV, Shulkes AS, Wilson JS, Pirola R. ARC Discovery Project Grant. $263,000. Do pancreatic stellate cells play a role in exocrine pancreatic secretion?

Harris E, McMahon C, Matthey S, Vimpani G, Anderson T, Schnitt V. ARC Discovery Grant. $450,000. Randomised trial of early childhood sustained home visiting in a disadvantaged community.

Harris E, McMahon C, Matthey S, Vimpani G, Anderson T, Schnitt V. ARC Discovery Grant. $450,000. Randomised trial of early childhood sustained home visiting in a disadvantaged community until school entry.


Williams GM, Simpson RW, Marks GB, Jalaludin BB. ARC Linkage Grant. $301,386. Novel Human Tryptases: their potential role in inflammatory diseases of the young and old.

Zwi A, Silove D, Pitchie J, Bundesen B, Bocicute A. ARC Discovery Grant. $390,000. Psychosocial and mental health policy in countries emerging from conflict and natural disaster: analysis of policy and program responses.
Other


Barton M, Gabriel GS. Cancer Council Australia. $147,000. Review of national cancer control activity in Australia.


Barton M, Gabriel GS. Cancer Institute NSW. $44,000. Medicare Benefit Scheme (MBS) Revenues for radiation oncology services in NSW 2000-2006.


Biankin A. Cancer Cure Australia. $75,000. Pancreatic cancer.

Biankin A. Cancer Institute NSW Career Development and Support Fellowship. $950,800. Retroviral acid signalling in the development and progression of pancreatic cancer.

Biankin A. Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation. $30,000. Molecular pathology of pancreatic cancer.


Biankin A. Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Fellowship. $276,000. Molecular pathology of pancreatic cancer.

Biankin A, Merrett M. Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Fellowship. $276,000.

Brooks R. UNSW Faculty Research Grant. $20,000. Anger attack – phenomenology, aetiology, coping strategies, personal and interpersonal consequences.

Chong AK, Leong RWL. UNSW Faculty Research Grant. $20,000. Comparison of diagnostic yield of EUS-FNA using liquid based cytology versus conventionally prepared slides.


Comino E, Harris E, Harris M, Zwi A. UNSW Faculty Research Grant. $13,000.

Conforiti D, Chan D, Basic D, Lubiana A, Masso J. Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. $1,000,000. Pathways Home Research Project. Investigate effective models of care to deliver translational care services to elderly patients.


Gattelari M, Worthington J, Zwar N, van Gelder J. $20,000. The development and evaluation of clinical decision aids for non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAF).

Gattelari M, Worthington J, Zwar N. Living Well Foundation. $135,258. Supporting treatment decisions to optimise the prevention of stroke in atrial fibrillation.

Gosbell I et al. Health Research Foundation, Sydney South West. $25,000. The significance of bloodstream infections with vancomycin-resistant staphylococcus aureus.


Harris E, Rose V. Job Futures. $60,000.

Harris E, Simpson S, Harris-Roxas B. NSW Health. $995,000. NSW health impact assessment project – phase 3.

Harris M, Powell-Davies PG, Harris E, Perkins D, Zwar N. NSW Health. $1,467,000. NSW Capacity Building Infrastructure Grants.

Harris P, Harris E, Thompson S, Harris-Roxas B, Kemp L. UNSW Faculty Research Grant. $280,000. The consideration of health in environmental assessments in NSW.

Harris-Roxas B, Proudfoot J, Kemp L, Rose V. UNSW Faculty Research Grant. $20,000. Developing a conceptual framework for evaluating the impact and effectiveness of health impact assessment.


Hillman K, Bauman A, Isaac S, Young L, Phung H, Forooh R. AHMAC Priority Driven Research Program Grant. $390,000. Define and categorise patients according to appropriate placement after assessment in the ED department.


Hall BM, Hodgkinson SJ. Novartis. $250,000. Contract for IL-5 research.

Hall BM, Hodgkinson SJ. Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Project Grant. $250,000. - a review of the methodology, identifying uncertainties, contentious issues and knowledge gaps, recommending benchmarks and a standard cost-benefit methodology for use in the Australian context.


Jalaludin B, Salkeld G, Beer T, Morgan G. Department of Environment and Heritage. $120,200. Health costs of ambient air pollution – a review of the methodology, identifying uncertainties, contentious issues and knowledge gaps, recommending benchmarks and a standard cost-benefit methodology for use in the Australian context.


Kemp L, Harris E. NSW Health. $35,000. MESHx.

Kemp L, Harris E, Woolfenden S. UNSW Faculty Research Grant. $20,000.


Leong RWL, Delaney P, Chong AK. UNSW Faculty Research Grant. $20,000. Cofocal endomicroscopy in the evaluation of colonic disease.

Leong RWL. Royal Australasian College of Physicians; AstraZeneca Medical Research Fellowship. $20,000.
Inflammatory bowel disease in the Chinese population.

Levy M. Pegasys Initiative for Learning and Research (PILLAR) Award Scheme. $25,000. Viral factors associated with mother baby transmission.


McCluskey P, Chan K, Testa M. Allergan Cosopt Grant. $55,000.


O’Connell D, Blankin A. Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. $100,000. Supporting patients with pancreatic cancer.

Payne J, Dundas-Faass S, Ross GP, Fleck JR. ADIPS Research Grant Award. $3,000. Post-partum attitudes and options for follow-up of women with gestational diabetes mellitus.

Plain K, Hodgkinson S, Health Research Foundation South Western Sydney. $25,000. Studies on regulatory T cells.

Rowland J, Conforti D, Basic D et al. Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. $105,000. A study to evaluate the Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale (RUDAS) in two populations outside of the Sydney South West Area Health Service.


Steel Z. UNSW Faculty Research Grant. $40,000. Refugee determination and the traumatised applicant: an in-depth analysis of psychological and evidentiary factors in a representative sample of asylum claims.

Tran G, Hodgkinson S, Health Research Foundation Sydney South West. $25,000. Studies of the factors in the immune system causing nerve damage in an experimental model for multiple sclerosis.

Williams GM, Simpson RW, Marks GB, Jalaludin BB. National Environment Protection Council. $300,000. Quantifying the effects of criteria air pollutants on child health - setting Australian air quality standards.


Zwar N, Hasan I, Harris M, Traynor V. National Institute of Clinical Studies. $45,033. Barriers and facilitators to influenza vaccination among high-risk groups aged less than 65 years.

Zwar N, Richmond J, Department of Health and Ageing $264,000. Demonstration and evaluation project to provide smoking cessation services in primary care.

Harris M, Zwar N. Department of Health and Ageing. Research Capacity Building Grant. PNC RED Phase 2. $1,669,921.


Research Groups

A broad range of clinical departments and research groups are active across the south west of Sydney with a focus on biomedical, clinical, health services and population health disciplines.

Aged Care - Bankstown

The Aged Care Department of Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, led by Professor Daniel Chan, has been actively involved in a range of research focussed primarily on Parkinson's disease and vascular diseases including stroke. The main focus of the Department's Parkinson's disease research has been in the genetic and environmental epidemiology of the disease, particularly in relation to risk factors amongst Chinese populations.

The Department has conducted a number of geriatric research projects including investigations into the prevalence of Parkinson's disease in Sydney; the genetic and environmental risk factors for Parkinson's disease including studies on a number of PARK2 and PARK8 polymorphisms; stroke risk factors and outcomes in the elderly; compliance with a newly designed hip protector in elderly in-hospital patients; and medical compliance and safety in the elderly.

In 2007, Professor Chan has been successful in obtaining significant NHMRC funding for a clinical trial to investigate stroke care models, with the project to commence in 2008.

Members
Professor Daniel Chan; Dr Qing Shen

Aged Care Research Unit - Liverpool

The Aged Care Research Unit (ACRU) at Liverpool Hospital was established in September 2007 to consolidate and build on the research program that had been undertaken by the Department of Geriatric Medicine at Liverpool Hospital since 1996. The Department had undertaken a number of studies within the context of a busy clinical unit. Projects have focused on multidisciplinary, clinically based research into geriatric syndromes such as falls prevention and management and cognitive assessments, in particular multicultural cognitive assessment. Other areas of interest included management of the older person in the Emergency Department and inpatient settings, and long-term outcomes of service provision.

The research potential of the Department was strengthened during 2006 by the beginning of the Commonwealth-funded Pathways Home Research Project. This involved a number of sub-projects, including advance care planning and end of life care in residential aged care facilities, and improving clinical outcomes for older hospital inpatients. The Pathways Home Research Project also provided supportive funding to assist other local research groups involved in improving outcomes for older persons. Staff employed through the Pathways Home project also provided research support to staff in the Bankstown, Fairfield, Macarthur and Wingecarribee sectors.

During 2007 the ACRU has completed several projects while working to develop new collaborations and proposals and has applied for an NHMRC Dementia Research Grant in 2007 in collaboration with the University of Queensland in an effort to further strengthen the Unit's research activities.

Members
Dr David Basic; Dr David Conforti; Dr Angela Khoo; Dr Chris Shanley; Ms Elizabeth Whitmore

Cardiology

Cardiac research at Liverpool Hospital occurs in two broad areas: clinical trials and outcomes research studies in acute coronary syndromes and coronary interventions (including cardiac surgery); and cardiac non-invasive imaging research.

Heart diseases are major contributors to illness, and the leading cause of death in the ethnically and culturally diverse population of south western Sydney.
Advances in drug treatments and procedures, such as the insertion of stents, and recent advances in techniques of imaging the heart, including by new X-ray and ultrasound techniques, has led to improvements in our ability to care for patients. It is possible to obtain highly accurate and important information on the heart status of patients for early diagnosis, and identification of the cause(s) of illness. These advances have led to improvements in our ability to monitor patients and their treatments as well during longer term follow up.

The Acronym CIRCuLATION [Cardiac Imaging Research Collaborative unit Liverpool Acute coronary Trials and Interventional Outcomes research Network] was developed to describe these two major research foci within the Liverpool Cardiology Department in a number of areas.

- Heart attacks studies to determine: i) the optimal timing of invasive X-rays (angiograms) after heart attack; ii) what optimal combinations of blood thinning and clot-dissolving drugs should be used; iii) type of stent (to keep the artery open) in combination with blood thinning drugs to identify people who may be resistant to particular drugs including aspirin; iv) early after heart attacks evaluation of un-coordinated contraction of the heart; and v) early diagnosis of narrowings and cholesterol deposits in coronary arteries, the precursor to most heart attacks, using new X-ray techniques of CT coronary angiography and stress heart ultrasound (echocardiography).

- Heart failure studies to: i) improve patient management with pacemaker cardiac synchronisation using ‘tissue Doppler imaging’; ii) early diagnosis by non invasive estimation of pressure inside the heart using ultrasound; and iii) novel methods of assessment of heart stiffness and exercise capacity.

- Arrhythmias: identifying markers for the restoration of a normal rhythm in patients with atrial fibrillation (the commonest abnormal rhythm affecting 5% of the population over 60 years of age).

The Department is also collaborating with a number of other services at Liverpool Hospital on projects. These include: i) collaborations with Medical and Radiation Oncology into early diagnosis of cardiac dysfunction after chemo- and radiation therapy for lymphoma and breast cancer, to help minimise long term heart failure; ii) work with Respiratory Medicine to assess the impact of chronic lung disease due to smoking, pulmonary hypertension and sleep apnoea on right heart function; and iii) work with Clinical Genetics investigating inherited disorders of the heart (including hypertrophic and dilated cardiomyopathy long QT syndromes, Duchenne muscular dystrophy and Fabry Disease) and their evaluation by echocardiography.

**Members**
Ms Christine Allman; Dr Diana Adams; Ms Anita Boyd; Mr Samuel Cheng; Ms Cecilia Chi; Dr Ee May Chia; Dr Peter Collett; Mrs Lisa Connolly; Dr Rebecca Dignan; Dr Patrick Diu; Professor John French; Ms Sue-Anne Gavigan; Dr Jayesh Gohil; Ms Maria Gonzales; Mr Rohan Gupta; Dr Andrew Hopkins; A/Professor Craig Juergens; Dr Kishor Kadappu; A/Professor Dominic Leung; Dr Melissa Leung; Dr Sidney Lo; Dr Daniel Moses; Ms Khaleda Murad; Mr Mark Newman; Dr Arnold Ng; Dr Tuan Nguyen; Ms Kelly Paul; Mr Ramesh Paramasothy; Dr Rohan Rajaratnam; Dr William Quinn; Dr Glen Schlaphoff; Dr Albert Shafransky; Dr Ibrahim Shugman; A/Professor Liza Thomas; Ms Jane Vidaic
Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation (CHETRE)

The Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation (CHETRE), was established in 1998 in collaboration with the Division of Population Health of SSWAHS, through a Research and Development Infrastructure Grant from NSW Health. CHETRE's mission is to provide leadership and focus in training, research and evaluation in the area of health equity, with a particular emphasis on the development and evaluation of interventions to reduce health inequities.

CHETRE's work focuses on the description and measurement of health inequalities and health equity, development and evaluation of policies, programs and other actions that aim to achieve health equity, and developing the capacity of the health system to more effectively address health equity through policy and program development. CHETRE's work includes projects in the areas of community and primary health care service development, disadvantaged communities and populations, early childhood, Aboriginal health, unemployment, and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and health public policy.

Members
Ms Cheryl Anderson; Ms Fiona Byrne; Dr Elizabeth Comino; Ms Liz Harris; Mr Patrick Harris; Mr Ben Harris-Roxas; Dr Lynn Kemp; Ms Anna Jones; Mrs Catherine Kaplun; Dr Jenniffer Knight; Ms Karen Larsen; Dr Jane Lloyd; Ms Lacramioara Nacu; Ms Sharon Nicholson; Ms Heidi Sainsbury; Ms Sheryl Sharkie; Ms Joan Silk; A/Professor Marilyn Wise; Ms Vana Webster; Ms Siggi Zapart

Centre for Research, Evidence Management and Surveillance (REMS)

Health outcomes of a community can be maximised through effective and efficient population health programs, interventions and services. The Centre for Research, Evidence Management and Surveillance (REMS) was established in 2004 and has a team of epidemiologists and biostatisticians to conduct research, evaluation and surveillance in population health, promote an evidence-based approach to population health programs, and support graduate and postgraduate learning in population health and epidemiology.

REMS has a strong track record of collaborating with units within Population Health at SSWAHS as well as with other research centres and services within the Area. Current research areas are in environmental health and air pollution epidemiology, social epidemiology, neighbourhoods and health, health services for cancer and stroke, and in the use of spatial methods and linked data for epidemiological research.

Members
Professor Bin Jalaludin; Dr Mohammed Mohsin

Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CCORE)

The Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CCORE), established in 1999, is affiliated with the Cancer Therapy Centre, Liverpool Hospital. The Liverpool Hospital Cancer Therapy Centre is a tertiary referral centre for the treatment of cancer patients in south western Sydney.

CCORE aims to improve cancer outcomes through research and the implementation of best practice measures into routine clinical practice in the treatment of cancer. The CCORE unit has particular expertise in radiotherapy but also has broad interests in all areas of cancer management. Staff members include radiation oncologists, a medical oncologist, epidemiologist, data managers and project officers.

CCORE has a wide range of activities that extend from the individual cancer patient to the organisation of cancer services at state, national and international level. Our research covers the broad spectrum of clinical cancer including surgery, medical & radiation oncology, and is achieving these aims through the following strategies:

► establishment, implementation and evaluation of best practice guidelines and evidence summaries;
► exploration of methods by which best practice guidelines may be implemented locally;
► cancer clinical outcomes research;
► refining of methodologies of clinical research including quality of life, economic and qualitative programs; and
► establishment of partnerships and linkages between clinicians, universities and other clinical research groups locally and internationally.

A number of CCORE have recently become conjoint appointees of UNSW. Six staff are currently enrolled or have been awarded a PhD or MD. Professor Michael Barton was awarded his Doctor of Medicine (MD) by Published Work titled ‘The improvement of cancer management by the application of currently available knowledge’ following submission of his thesis during 2007.
Over the past 12 months CCORE had a very productive year with many peer-reviewed publications, contributions to National Tumour Guidelines and commissioned reports. Following the publication of a report on the optimal utilisation of radiotherapy as a series of papers in Cancer, the benchmark developed is currently being used and acknowledged worldwide.

Members
Professor Michael Barton; Professor Geoff Delaney; Mr Gabriel Gabriel; Dr Susanna Jacob; Dr Weng Ng; Dr Jesmin Shafiq

Community Paediatrics and Child Health

The Departments of Community Paediatrics and Child Health have been active participants and leaders in state-wide, metropolitan, Area and local initiatives for children, young people and their families. This has included a range of population needs assessment, research and evaluation projects as well as the training of the next batch of medical students and paediatrics trainees.

Key areas of focus include work with local Aboriginal and refugee populations and in child protection. Recently, projects have included a collaboration with general practice to investigate the diagnosis and management of childhood obesity in south western Sydney; risk factors for not breastfeeding; and contribution to the Cochrane reviews into the prevention of domestic lead exposure in children and school-based education programmes for the prevention of child sexual abuse.

In 2007, Dr Sue Woolfenden became the chief investigator on an NHMRC project to investigate the frequency of prevalent and incident middle ear disease and its complications in a cohort of young urban Aboriginal children. Dr Woolfenden is also an associate investigator on a collaborative project with South East Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIAHS) which aims to improve our understanding of the prognosis of autism.

Staff at Campbelltown are also involved in the Gudaga project in collaboration with CHETRE. This NHMRC funded project is a longitudinal birth cohort study of the development, health and health care services use of 137 Aboriginal infants born at Campbelltown Hospital between October 2005 and April 2007 and will follow the children until five years of age.

Members
Ms Elaine Bennett; Dr Roger Blackmore; A/Professor John Eastwood; Ms Miriam Johnston; Dr Jenny McDonald; Ms Tracey Popham; Dr Shanti Raman; Dr Sue Woolfenden; Dr Suky Yim

Diabetes and Endocrinology

The overall aim of the research programme at the Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital is to investigate clinical aspects of diabetes management and diabetes education that may result in findings of benefit to those who have diabetes and those who suffer from its many complications. Of particular interest to the Department in this regard are the possible applications of computer technology to the assessment and management of diabetes by patients and the health professionals who care for them.
The Diabetes Centre actively encourages teaching, quality audit and research activity and all members of the Department have undertaken in-house and collaborative clinical audit and research work in many aspects of diabetes care. As a multidisciplinary Department all staff are involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education for medical, nursing and allied health disciplines. The Department actively encourages professional development and several members of the Department have undertaken postgraduate degree courses.

The Diabetes Centre has a longstanding interest in information technology applications and significant expertise in data sets and audit activities with a national and international reputation. The Department functions as the National Benchmarking Centre for Quality Audit Activities in Diabetes and has been involved in the coordination of 6 Australian National Diabetes Information Audit & Benchmarking [ANDIAB] surveys since 1998. Two surveys and a pilot ANDIAB2 survey were undertaken in 2005-2007.

In 2005-2007, research funding applications were submitted – four were successful, and research work was accepted for presentation at scientific meetings including 21 papers and posters; and for publication including ten peer reviewed journal articles and three national reports. Members of the Department have been invited speakers at national and international meetings, and several serve on diabetes advisory boards and committees to SSWAHS and to State and Commonwealth governments. From 2004-2006, Associate Professor Jeff Flack served as President of the Australian Diabetes Society.

Members
Mr Peter Brandon; Ms Sigal Dudaee-Faass; Ms Nikki Edghill; A/Professor Jeff Flack; Ms Catherine Fung; Mr Minh Ha; Ms Gael Holters; Ms Rickie Myszka; Ms Jane Payne; Dr Glynis Ross; Ms Megan Saunders; Ms Nicole Weaver

Electron Microscope Laboratory (SWAPS)

The Electron Microscopy Laboratory (EML) is a sub-section of Anatomical Pathology, SWAPS Liverpool. Primarily responsible for diagnostic examination of surgical and cytology specimens the laboratory also undertakes some research when time permits. EML research activities during 2005-2007 comprised mainly ultrastructural studies of pathogenesis in collaboration with department anatomical pathologists. Quantitative studies of angiogenesis in the settings of prostate cancer and macular degeneration of the eye were also carried out.

During this period Dr Yuri Bobryshev from the Department of Anatomy, UNSW was appointed as Honorary Visiting Senior Research Officer for the continuation of his ultrastructural studies in atherosclerosis. The EML also provided assistance with digital light microscopy, immunofluorescence microscopy and transmission electron microscopy to various groups within SSWAHS and outside. Specialised techniques carried out included cell culture correlation studies, immunoelectron microscopy, epi-fluorescence microscopy, energy dispersive x-ray analysis and computer-based image analysis.

Members
Dr Yuri Bobryshev; A/Professor Murray Killingsworth
Emergency Medicine Research Unit

More research is needed in the comparatively new field of emergency medicine, a need recognised at Liverpool Hospital by the establishment of the Emergency Medicine Research Unit (EMRU). The EMRU team, supported by both SSWAHS and UNSW, is collaboratively linked to local, NSW and national EDs. Projects are wide-ranging and include small internal studies, multi-site clinical trials, and competitive grants.

Recent projects undertaken by the EMRU include investigations into redback spider antivenom, anaphylaxis treatment, procedural sedation, vomiting and antiemetics, child protection knowledge and noise and stress in the ED.

Other projects have included a review of trauma team process, intranasal analgesia for children, MET call outcomes, ECG lead placement, tissue hypothermia and triage nurse predictors of patient disposition. Collaborative projects have looked at severe sepsis (ARISE project), coagulation factor rFVIIa (CONTROL project) and quality of care (HARC project). A project aimed at investigating clinicians’ research needs towards enhancing ED research capacity may be applicable to additional clinical settings.

Members
Ms Nicole Ahern; Mr Anthony Cao; Ms Kate Exon; A/Professor Anna Holdgate; Dr Alison Short

Gastroenterology and Liver Services - Bankstown

The Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology of Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital has a strong track record in the areas of endoscopy, colorectal and pancreatic cancer and inflammatory bowel disease research. Recently, projects have included a novel study using endoscopic ultrasound fine needle aspiration (EUS FNA) to prognosticate pancreatic cancer using biomarkers shown to have predictive properties. These biomarkers were confirmed as important prognostic markers of pancreatic cancer in a validation cohort. EUS FNA may be a method of prognosticating these cancers preoperatively independent of tumour staging.

The Department has also conducted research into evaluating serum protein profiles as biomarkers of disease activity in inflammatory bowel disease. In a world-first, the Department validated the Pentax confocal endomicroscopy system against conventional histology in coeliac disease. No other units have previously systematically conducted construct validity, sensitivity to change and reproducibility testing on the instrument on a clinical level. This study generated a media release at the Australian Gastroenterology Week (AGW).

Other research has addressed the areas of performance characteristics of double balloon enteroscopy in the evaluation of small intestinal pathology; inflammatory bowel disease in the Chinese population; the epidemiology of colorectal cancer in south western Sydney; and clinical trials.

In 2007, a total of 15 presentations were made by members of the Department at the AGW conference in Perth, one of the highest from any Australian unit. This included a number of oral presentations and posters of merit.

Members
A/Professor Andrew Biankin; Dr Dorothy Chow; Dr Ken Koo; A/Professor Rupert Leong; Dr Chris Meredith; A/Professor Neil Merrett; Dr Nam Nguyen; Ms Diane Redmond; A/Professor Cyril Wong
General Practice Unit

The academic General Practice Unit at Fairfield Hospital is affiliated with the UNSW Research Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity (CPHCE) and the UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine. The focus on research activity at the General Practice Unit is health services research on management of chronic illness in primary care. There is also a focus on prevention through modification of behavioral risk factors such as tobacco smoking.

Examples of projects in chronic disease have been a NHMRC funded project on evaluating the outcomes of care planning for patients with type 2 diabetes, a NHMRC project grant testing nurse and GP partnership for improved care of COPD and projects on improved COPD and asthma diagnosis. Staff at the unit are also involved in a series of systematic reviews related to care of chronic disease and to healthcare workforce. In cardiovascular disease, the Unit is involved in a NHMRC funded project on prevention of stroke in people with atrial fibrillation and is involved in projects on cardiovascular absolute risk assessment. In the area of risk factor modification, the Unit is collaborating with Professor Robyn Richmond on a demonstration project for a primary care based smoking cessation service.

The General Practice Unit is also the location for UNSW staff working on primary care research capacity building as part of the UNSW Primary Health Care Research Network. This network has approximately 55 general practitioners and over 300 nursing, community and allied health and Divisions of General Practice staff. The network provides research training as well as mentoring for specific projects.

Members
Dr Jeremy Bunker; Dr Sarah Dennis; Mr Iqbal Hasan; Mr Oshana Hermiz; Ms Susan Mehmet; Dr Sanjyot Vagholkar; Professor Nick Zwar

Hepatitis Research Group

The busy clinical hepatitis service at Liverpool Hospital has formed the platform for significant clinical hepatitis research and the establishment of the Hepatitis Research Group. The Group is involved in two main areas of research under the leadership of Dr Miriam Levy.

This has included research into Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection in pregnancy. The Hepatitis Research Group has defined, for the first time in Australia, the rate of HBV perinatal transmission despite passive immunoprophylaxis and identified that high maternal load is the most significant risk for transmission. The group is in the process of analysing other virological and clinical features that may also be associated with transmission.

This work has led on to a further virological analysis of women in the immune tolerant phase of chronic infection with HBV. Women have different responses to infection, as demonstrated by their reduced rates of hepatocellular cancer and cirrhosis. The Group has characterised the cohort virologically and determined that their phenotype, rates of viral mutations and e negative hepatitis status is dependent on the duration of infection and genotype of virus. This cohort has been prospectively characterised so that the evolution of HBV phenotype over time in women can be ascertained. The impact of pregnancy, because of its unique immunological and hormonal milieu, on HBV replication is under examination. This study has resulted in a major collaboration with the Victorian Diseases Reference Laboratories and prompted a push toward national studies of perinatal transmission.

The Group is also taking a leadership role in the NSW Cancer Council funded pilot study of coordinated liver cancer surveillance in patients with HBV infection. The Group has been responsible for the purchase of one of only three Fibroscan machines available in Australia and this cutting edge technology will be used to non-invasively identify liver fibrosis, which is a significant risk factor for cirrhosis. This prospective sub-study will examine the ability of Fibroscan to predict risk of liver cancer.

Members
Dr Susan Connor; Ms Sally Holden; Dr Miriam Levy; Dr David Scott; Dr Stephen Tattersall; Dr Elke Wiseman

Immune Tolerance Group

The Immune Tolerance Group is active in a range of research projects including:

- Study of induction of antigen specific T regulatory cells in transplantation in which the Group is developing methods to induce these cells in culture so that they can be transferred to induce tolerance to an organ graft in vivo. This work involves examining the cytokines required to induce antigen specific cells. This is being used to develop a new method for inducing tolerance to prevent rejection of pancreatic islet transplants in patients with type I diabetes.

- Study of induction of antigen specific T regulatory cells in autoimmunity where the Group is applying the methods developed in transplant tolerance to induce antigen specific T regs in vitro so they can be transferred to control autoimmunity in vivo. The aim is to develop a method to induce regulatory T cells and control diseases such as multiple sclerosis and Guillain Barre syndrome.
Study of cytokines involved in tolerance to clone relevant cytokines, and test them for their effects in immune tolerance induction, both in vivo and in vitro. The aim is to identify cytokines that may be used as therapy to control autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and glomerulonephritis.

Study of the role of complement in immune mediated disease. We have bred an animal deficient in the C6 component of complement. These animals cannot form the key destructive complex of complement, known as membrane attack complex. We are using this model to examine the role of complement in mediating injury in immune mediated demyelination models and in nephritis. Complement has been thought to play a major role in injury in these models, but our work suggests it is not the sole mediator of injury.

Members
Ms Rochelle Boyd; Professor Bruce Hall; Dr Suzanne Hodgkinson; Ms Karren Plain; Ms Catherine Robinson; Dr Giang Tran; Dr Nirupama Verma

Liverpool Renal Clinical Research Centre

The Liverpool Renal Clinical Research Centre (LRCRC) was established in 1998 under the leadership of Associate Professors Michael Suranyi and Josephine Chow and continues to support an active clinical research program within Renal Services. The selected studies are supported by all the Accredited Nephrologists of SSWAHS, Western Zone. The Centre has seen growth in the number of clinical trials, unit based research initiatives and projects, quality management projects and educational initiatives.

Clinical research studies currently being undertaken range from management of renal disease, hypertension, diabetes, lipids, anaemia, iron therapy, dialysis (haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis), practice outcomes data collection and psychological aspects of dialysis. Many of the studies are internationally conducted multi-centre, randomised, double blind, placebo controlled studies. In addition to externally funded studies, there has been continuous increase in in-house research studies in the disciplines of nursing, medicine and allied health.

At the completion of studies the results from research projects are disseminated to all stakeholders. As part of the research activities, patients who participate in any of the research studies receive additional visits by the research coordinators. This produces additional benefit for the patients’ welfare. Their clinical parameters such as physical status, pathological data, and quality of life status are monitored in a more regular way than usual practice, by both the research coordinators and the study doctors. In most cases, existing and potential problems that may hinder the participants’ health status are identified in a timely fashion and subsequent referral and intervention attended.

Members
Dr Ananthakrishnapuram Aravindan; Ms Veronica Britos; A/Professor Josephine Chow; Dr Bruce Cleland; Ms Mirella Curtale; Ms Margaret Gilbert; Dr Ken Howlin; Dr Andrew Jeffreys; Ms Elizabeth Josland; Ms Gaksoo Lee; Ms Klair Luo; Dr Angela Makris; Ms Dawn Purdie; Ms Glenda Rayment; Dr Tim Spicer; A/Professor Michael Suranyi; Dr Jeff Wong; Ms Mary Wong; Ms Rose Wong
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

The Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases continued its research into the epidemiology and clinical features of MRSA infections. Concerning the research, the group had secured funding from Health Research Foundation, Sydney South West for two projects, “The significance of bloodstream infections with vancomycin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus” and “Community methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA): changing features of an escalating epidemic”. The first project showed the laboratory phenomenon of vancomycin “resistance” did not necessarily translate into a worse outcome. The second project found the epidemiology of community MRSA continued to evolve and a new strain (“ST93”) emerged and became common in our Area.

SWAPS continues to be involved with groups such as the Australian Group for Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR), of which SWAPS staff contribute data and are represented on two committees. AGAR performs surveys involving multiple tertiary hospital and large private laboratories in each capital city in Australia, to detect population-wide emergence of resistance to various antibiotics in common bacteria causing clinical infections, such as Staphylococcus aureus, E. coli, Streptococcus pneumoniae, etc. SWAPS staff helped co-author two reports from AGAR submitted to Federal government about antibiotic resistance in Staphylococcus aureus.

The MRSA DNA fingerprinting work has been continued with funding for the NSW Health MRO Project Component C.

During 2005-2007 staff from the Department authored 16 publications in peer reviewed journals, gave three invited oral presentations at national scientific meetings, presented 11 posters at national and international conferences, and one staff member edited and co-wrote two chapters of “Staphylococcus aureus infections – a modern approach to diagnosis and treatment”, published as a supplement in the Internal Medicine Journal in December 2005.

Ophthamology

The Department of Ophthalmology at Liverpool Hospital is actively engaged in both clinical and laboratory based research into inflammatory eye disease.

The Department’s current clinical research projects include studies on TB-related uveitis, the increasing frequency of syphilitic uveitis and a number of long term follow-up studies of patients immunosuppressed for inflammatory eye disease.

Laboratory based research is carried out in conjunction with the School of Medical Sciences (SOMS) at UNSW on the pathogenesis of anterior uveitis. The Department currently has projects assessing the earliest cytokine responses involved in the generation of uveitis both in patients with uveitis and in animal models of uveitis. The Department is also studying immunogenetic markers for uveitis.

Members

Dr Nick Di Girolamo; Professor Peter McCluskey; Professor Denis Wakefield

Neurology

Staff working in Neurology at Liverpool and Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospitals have been active in a number of research projects in recent years.

This has included collaborative research with the GP Unit and REMS on the MBF and NHMRC funded STOP-STROKE and DESPATCH projects to reduce stroke risk in atrial fibrillation and the Program of Research Informing Stroke Management (PRISM) using data linkage to assess care and outcomes in ischaemic stroke, intracerebral haemorrhage, subarachnoid haemorrhage and transient ischaemic attack.

The Departments have also worked with the Department of Aged Care at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital on a number of projects addressing stroke risk factors and outcomes in the elderly; anticoagulation usage for stroke prevention amongst general practitioners; and quality of life measures for older people living in the community with essential tremor.

Members

Dr Dennis Cordato; Dr Melina Gattellari; Professor Bin Jalaludin; A/Professor Dominic Leung; Dr Mohammed Mohsin; Dr John Worthington; Dr James van Gelder; Professor Nick Zwar
Orthopaedics

Research activities are based at the Orthopaedic Department at Liverpool Hospital and with Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre (WJRC) at Fairfield Hospital, with cooperation and cross appointments between the two units.

In 2008/2009 the WJRC will move into its new home on the grounds of Fairfield Hospital. The free-standing building will include offices, communal areas and a 90 seat lecture theatre and will be the centre of orthopaedic and research activities for Fairfield.

Research activities include clinical trials of devices and techniques related to orthopaedic trauma and joint replacement surgery, as well as epidemiological studies such as surveys and systematic reviews. Although most research activities relate to musculoskeletal conditions, the Unit is also involved in research in other areas of surgery and aims to expand this in the future.

The research group also aims to be involved in the development of a new trauma outcomes registry for NSW, with collaborative research around trauma outcomes, and to continue to develop multicentre clinical trials related to musculoskeletal conditions.

Members
Dr Sam Adie; Professor Ian Harris; A/Professor John Ireland; Ms Vicky Ko; Dr Justine Naylor

Palliative Care

The research team for SSWAHS palliative care services spans projects based in acute care, community based care and palliative care inpatient services. In the period of 2005–2007, expansion of research activity and funding has occurred across clinical sites and disciplines. Projects during this period have included:

- research into impact of a multi-service approach to palliative care on patients’ quality of life and lifestyle
- a Cancer Trials NSW supported prospective study of predictors of delirium including the association between serum anti-cholinergic levels and delirium occurrence in palliative care patients with advanced cancer
- a descriptive study of decision making by palliative care, geriatric, aged care psychiatry and aged care nurses caring for confused patients in inpatient care settings
- implementing strategies to improve doctor-patient communication and increase patient involvement in decision making; and
- a descriptive study of predicted survival and symptom burden for palliative care patients in a nursing home setting.

These projects have involved collaborations with other teams from Aged Care Psychiatry at UNSW, the Centre for Applied Nursing Research (CANR) and Flinders University.

The team was successful in attracting funding to be a lead site for the Palliative Care Clinical Trials Collaborative 2007–2010 and commenced four randomised control clinical trials in the areas of ketamine for cancer pain, octreotide for bowel obstruction, risperidone for delirium, and megestrol acetate for appetite).

Priorities for the future include the development of further capacity for research across the team and building on a developing track record to achieve further competitive funding in palliative and supportive care research. Key areas of research include caregiver research, exploring patients with life limiting illness who present to the medical emergency team, and clinical trials.

Members
Dr Meera Agar; Dr Louise Elliott; Dr Amanda Walker; Dr Jennifer Wiltshire
Pancreatic Research Group

The major research interests of the Pancreatic Research Group include alcohol-induced pancreatic injury, pancreatic stellate cell biology, pancreatic fibrosis and tumour-stromal interactions in pancreatic cancer. The Pancreatic Research Group has received continuous research support from the NHMRC/DVA since 1987 and is internationally acknowledged as the leading research group in the field of alcoholic pancreatitis and pancreatic fibrogenesis.

This group was the first in the world to develop a method to isolate and culture pancreatic stellate cells (PSCs), now established as key effector cells in pancreatic fibrosis. This technique provided a much needed in vitro model for research into the pathogenesis of pancreatic fibrosis, a topic that has become the focus of pancreatologists worldwide.

The international recognition of the Group’s work is reflected in the over 1500 citations of its papers and in the invitations that the Group’s members have received to speak at international meetings worldwide. The impact of the Group’s research is also reflected in the visits to the PRG laboratory by overseas scientists for training and in the collaborations established with renowned researchers in the United States and Germany.

Members
Professor Minoti Apte; Ms Eva Fiala-Beer; Ms Phoebe Phillips; A/Professor Ron Pirola; Dr Alain Vonlaufen; Professor Jeremy Wilson; Mr Zhihong Xu, Ms Susan Yang, Mr John Zhang

Psychiatry Research and Teaching Unit

The Psychiatry Research and Teaching Unit (PRTU) was established in 1991, following the appointment of the Foundation Chair in Psychiatry, UNSW and the SSWAHS, in 1990. The unit currently consists of 5.8 FTE staff with competitive funding supporting a number of additional positions. Since its establishment, the PRTU has attracted over 50 collaborative research and project grants exceeding $10m and has published over 250 publications, many in high-ranking journals such as the Lancet and Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

The Centre for Population Mental Health Research, PRTU is a partner in an ongoing NHMRC Program Grant in traumatic stress involving all the leading researchers in the country. The Centre is regarded nationally and internationally as a leading research and training centre in the interrelated fields of transcultural, refugee, post-conflict,
post-traumatic and disaster mental health and the mental health of developing countries. The Centre is the leading research unit in the field of refugee and post-conflict mental health internationally as indicated by publications in high-ranking peer review journals and citations. Collaborative work continues in countries across the Asia Pacific.

Members
Dr Robert Brooks; Dr Susan Rees; Professor Derrick Silove; Mr Zachary Steel

Rehabilitation

Braeside Liverpool Fairfield Rehabilitation Research Group (BLF RRG) which has been very productive in outcome based rehabilitation research over the last three years, averaging 20 to 25 conference presentations per year.

The research of the BLF RRG concentrates on short and long-term outcomes of rehabilitation patients, comparisons of models of care and the use of outcome measurements including:

- comparison of rehabilitation outcomes in different rehabilitation settings;
- comparison of different approaches to the early prosthetic management of transtibial amputees;
- discrepancies of FIM scores of patients transferred between rehabilitation units;
- review of use of SF 36 in non inpatient rehabilitation to assess patient outcomes;
- the incidence, type and effects of medical complications on patients in a rehabilitation ward;
- review of short, medium and long term rehabilitation outcomes in our units including survival rates of patient following inpatient rehabilitation compared to community cohorts;
- outcomes of cancer rehabilitation patients including clinical outcomes, survival period following discharge and the rate of institutionalisation following an inpatient rehabilitation admission;
- comparison outcomes of patients admitted for stroke, orthopaedic or cancer rehabilitation with different ethnic backgrounds.

The Group is also collaborating with a number of other groups including: in the development of International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) Core Sets for amputees with the WHO ICF Research Branch at the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications at the German Institute of Medical Documentation and Information – Ludwig Maximillian University; with Aged Care at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital in a randomised controlled trial to evaluate a model of comprehensive stroke care; and with John Walsh to review survival of patients following inpatient rehabilitation compared to a community sample with the aim of developing costing models and cost benefit ratios for our rehabilitation patients.

Members
Dr Carol Connolly; Dr John Estelle; Dr Friedbert Kohler; Dr Helen Redmond; Dr Roger Renton

Respiratory Medicine

Researchers within the Department of Respiratory Medicine at Liverpool Hospital are working on a wide-range of problems in respiratory and sleep medicine and science including asthma, COPD, sleep disorders and tuberculosis. The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study, a long-term clinical trial of preventative interventions for asthma implemented in a high-risk birth cohort, is one of the main studies based at Liverpool under the direction of Professor Guy Marks. Through their association with the Dust Diseases Board of NSW, members of the Department have coordinated the ‘Surveillance of Work Related Respiratory Events in NSW’ (SABRE) scheme and published research on mesothelioma and other asbestos-related disease. The Department is also engaged in sleep research projects in collaboration with colleagues at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, has conducted research on the use of alert cards to reduce the use of excessive oxygen among patients presenting to hospital with exacerbations of COPD, conducted a series of studies on tuberculosis including an examination of rates of recurrence of the disease in NSW, and worked on the epidemiology of tuberculosis. A number of members of the Department completed PhDs during the period of this report. Dr Claudia Dobler was awarded a CCRE Fellowship and Professor Marks was awarded a renewal of his NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship.

Members
Dr Melissa Baraket; Dr Peter Buchanan; Dr Hamish Crawford; Dr Peter Collett; Dr Claudia Dobler; Ms Karen For; Dr Anthony Johnson; Dr Nguyen Linh; Dr Lydia Makarie Rofail; Professor Guy Marks; Dr Hima Vedam; Mr Craig Wainwright
Rheumatology

The Rheumatology Department at Liverpool Hospital has three active research programs: inflammation basic science; clinical research of rheumatic diseases, and medical education and evaluation research.

Basic science research is focused primarily in the area of cellular and molecular mechanisms operating in inflammatory rheumatic diseases. The Department’s laboratory is based at UNSW’s Kensington campus as part of the Centre for Infection and Inflammation Research. The program is examining the role of mast cells and their proteases (tryptase and chymase) in inflammation (particularly experimental arthritis models), structure/function studies of a novel splice variant of human mast cell tryptase, structure/function studies of leukocyte immunoglobulin-like receptors (LILRs) and the role of S100 proteins in mediating cardiovascular disease in rheumatoid arthritis.

Clinical research is currently examining the in-hospital management of gout; outcomes of vertebroplasty (a new treatment for osteoporotic crush fractures; and the use of electronic medical records to aid patient care. The Department participated in a clinical trial of Enbrel for psoriatic arthritis during 2006-2007.

Members of the Department are also involved in educational research stemming from design and evaluation of UNSW’s innovative new MBBS program.

Members
Dr Katherine Bryant; A/Professor Kathy Gibson; Ms Sonali Gnanenthiran; Professor Patrick McNeil

Schizophrenia Research Unit

The Schizophrenia Research Unit is part of the Division of Mental Health, and conducts research into the causes of, and better treatments for patients suffering from schizophrenia and other major mental disorders. The Unit’s key academic partner is the School of Psychiatry at UNSW, with other collaborators including the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science at Macquarie University, the Centre for Mental Health Studies at the University of Newcastle and the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, University of California, Los Angeles.

The work conducted at the Unit receives infrastructure support from SSWAHS and UNSW, and competitive funding from the NHMRC, ARC and the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund. The primary methods employed in current studies include cognitive neuropsychology, computerized electrophysiology and functional magnetic resonance imaging, with the cooperation of the MRI Unit, Liverpool Hospital. Current studies include patients with schizophrenia, those experiencing a first episode of psychosis and patients with concurrent schizophrenia and drug abuse problems.

Members
A/Professor Philip Ward

Surgical Infection Research Group

The Surgical Infection Research Group (SIRG) was founded in 2007 and is based at the UNSW South Western Sydney Clinical School. It was formed to further investigate the role of infection following surgery and the role of bacterial contamination of
surgical devices. Prior to its inception, Members of the Group have over 10 years of experience and publication in this area. Key findings of the group include the detection of bacterial biofilm contamination of endoscopes, case to case transmission risk of hepatitis virus and the role of biofilm in the contamination of implanted prosthetics. The Group has also been consultants to a number of biomedical companies and both state and federal governments on matters of surgical infection control and equipment sterilisation/disinfection. The Group also supervises master of surgery students in full time research.

Members
Dr Anand Deva; A/Professor Karen Vickery

Trauma

The Trauma Department in the Level 1-verified trauma centre at Liverpool Hospital facilitates care of the injured throughout South Western Sydney. The Departments Area-wide education program, involves medical, nursing, and para-medical staff across all hospitals in south western Sydney.

Of particular importance beyond SSWAHS is the development during 2005 and 2006 of the Institute of Trauma Education and Clinical Standards (ITECS) which is based at Liverpool Hospital and participates in the design, development and implementation of trauma clinical practice guidelines for NSW in partnership with the NSW Institute of Trauma & Injury Management (ITIM). Many of these guidelines have already been adopted and published by the NSW Department of Health and are in use across the State, specifically dealing with haemodynamic instability in injured patients with pelvic fractures, anterior abdominal stab wounds and patients with closed head injuries. The development of the Definitive Surgical Trauma Care (DSTC) Course continues in association with the International Association of Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (IATSIC). The world-renowned SWAN Trauma Conference had two of its most successful meetings in 2006 and 2007 and continues to educate and entertain a multidisciplinary trauma audience in July each year.

The Unit is currently involved in a number of clinical projects including leading research into the abdominal compartment syndrome and intra-abdominal hypertension with development of the World Society for the Abdominal Compartment Syndrome in 2005 led by Professor Michael Sugrue. The Clinical Practice Guidelines project continues to strive for safer and more uniform care of common injuries and common injury patterns by developing evidence-based support for decision-making and care strategies. The Liverpool Unit has been a part of numerous international trauma trials including one examining CT angiography and endovascular grafting in the management of aortic arch injuries, and another prospective study examining the use of recombinant factor VIIa in the management of exsanguinating haemorrhage. Other important projects conducted during 2005-2007 are listed below:

Pre-Hospital Phase
- Development of better practice guidelines
- Analysis of performance indicators in pre-hospital care
- Analysis of the interhospital communication linkages during interhospital transfer of patients in south western Sydney

Resuscitation
- Missed injuries and the role of the tertiary surgery
- Decision tree prior to performing major surgery
- Trauma team function

Definitive Care Phase
- Missed injuries
- Pattern of death in injured patients
- Prospective evaluation of decision-making in trauma care

Trauma Systems
- Evaluation of interhospital transfers within the region
- Evaluation of avoidable mortality in trauma
- Ultrasound (F.A.S.T) in trauma

The Trauma Surgery Unit has also been fortunate to receive recognition for its work on assessment of decision-making and was awarded the Trauma Surgery prize at the International Surgical Society Congress in Montreal in August of 2007 for “An evaluation of performance and consistency of care in admitted trauma patients” delivered by Dr WC Chua.

Members
Dr Scott D’Amours; Professor Michael Sugrue
In order for publications by clinical and conjoint academic staff to be included in the UNSW annual Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) submission of research output, affiliation with UNSW must be included on the title page of all works. To make sure your publications will be accepted by DEEWR, please ensure you add your affiliation with UNSW to submitted manuscripts.
Publications by south western Sydney based UNSW academics and conjoint appointees between 2005-2007

Medical Sciences

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2007


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- public recognition of academic standing through use of a conjoint title;
- access to over 2.7 million items through the UNSW library;
- access to Sirius - the electronic gateway to the UNSW e-journal collection of 23000 titles;
- provision of UniMail as a separate @unsw.edu.au email account;
- access to the University's dialup internet servers called UDUS;
- when on campus, access to the UniWide university wireless network;
- eligibility for academic pricing on a range of products including computer software and hardware purchased for non-commercial purposes; and
- for appointees who regularly visit the Kensington campus, free UNSW permit for parking in permit holder spaces across the campus.

For more information on becoming a conjoint, contact the South Western Sydney Clinical School on 98283844 or download an application form from: www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/Conjoints