The Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation Gold Dinner was held on Thursday 5th June at Australian Technology Park. Proceeds from the 2014 Dinner will be directed towards funding research at Sydney Children’s Hospital. Prof Adam Jaffe was in attendance and spoke to the audience on the importance of rare diseases research.

The Gold Dinner is one of the major events of the annual Sydney Children’s Hospital Gold Telethon. The target was to raise $1 million, which was exceeded, reflecting the hard work and dedication of all those at the Foundation and in the community. This is an important milestone for the research strategy of the Discipline of Paediatrics and Sydney Children’s Hospital because it reinforces that investment into research remains a priority for the Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation.

By definition, individual rare diseases have a prevalence of 1:2000 people and there are currently 8,000 identified rare diseases. In Australia, approximately 400,000 children have been diagnosed with a rare disease – collectively, this is a comparable incidence rate to more statistically common conditions like diabetes. 80% of rare diseases have a genetic component whether it is single gene, multi-factorial, or chromosomal.

Research into improving the health outcomes and quality of life for children with rare diseases is therefore important and broad. It is multi-disciplinary and involves expertise from various paediatric medical specialities, scientists, nurses and allied health professionals.

Rare diseases and genomics are one of our six research streams and area of strength for paediatric research on the Randwick Hospitals Campus. Therefore, rare diseases and genomics together with cancer, clinical trials, health systems research, non-communicable diseases, and population health are research areas where the hospital and University want to attract and direct investment.

Rare diseases and genomics research on the Randwick Hospitals Campus has been divided into three stages. Prof Jaffe discussed these three stages at the Gold Dinner, highlighting the need for funding across the board:

- **Stage 1: Registry, Surveillance, and Biobanks**
- **Stage 2: Discovery and Diagnosis**
- **Stage 3: Intervention – gene therapy, clinical trials, personalised medicine.**

Stage 1 involves the coordination of a national database register of rare diseases; surveillance that assesses, monitors and supports patients and families; and biobanks that store samples for use in research.
Stage 2 involves discovering the underlying mutation responsible for disease in children, how diseases work, and the development of novel diagnostic methods and treatments. Stage 3 involves the development of pre-clinical models through to clinical trials, and the utilisation of gene therapy and personalised medicine.

Since the mapping of the human genome in 2003, researchers have begun to identify the genetic mutations responsible for many rare diseases. The objective is to use this knowledge and access to new technology, to provide a genetic analysis for every child who needs a diagnosis, hence personalised medicine. Mapping a genome now costs $1000 compared to $1 billion a few years ago!

The mission of rare disease and genomics research at this campus is to ensure that no child is left without a diagnosis or effective treatment, and to deliver breakthrough personalised treatment based on every child’s unique genetic profile.

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NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

Congratulations to Professor Bill Ledger for his appointment as Head of School for Women’s & Children’s Health.

Professor Ledger has been with the School since March 2011 as Head and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology having previously held positions at the University of Sheffield, Oxford University and the University of Edinburgh.

His major areas of interest lie in assisted reproduction, development work in fallopian tube biology and markers of fetal wellbeing during labour.

Prof Ledger’s teaching activities currently include the Phase 2 course in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He is also the Phase 3 Coordinator for Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Prof Ledger has held long-standing roles as chair of lead committees, including the UK Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Examination and Assessment Committee and is the current Chair of the Research and Development Committee for IVF-Australia.

We would also like to thank Professor Michael Chapman for his tireless work and support as Head of School over the past 9 years, and wish him well with all of his future endeavours. He will be greatly missed, however we hope he won’t be a stranger and will maintain strong ties with the School.

Prof Bill Ledger can be contacted through his Personal Assistant, Jana Stewart: 9382 6515 | stewart3@unsw.edu.au

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

Since the April Newsletter, we have been made aware of three new grant successes for Discipline of Paediatrics researchers and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those involved.

Dr Tony Roscioli has co-authored a successful National Institute of Health (NIH) grant for research into craniosynostosis at Sydney Children’s Hospital.

Dr Nadine Kasparian is a co-investigator on A/Prof Yves d’Udekem d’Acoz (Murdoch Children’s Research Institute) successful NHMRC Partnership Project ‘Giving an adult life after Fontan surgery to those with the most severe congenital heart conditions.’ This grant will be administered by Murdoch Children’s Research Institute.

Dr Sandra Chuang has received the 2014 European Respiratory Society Travel Grant for Sleep Medicine to present at the ERS Congress in Munich, Germany in September. Dr Chuang’s abstract is titled ‘Age and stages of sleep affects surface electromyogram (sEMGdi) of the diaphragm during sleep in children’ and the travel grant is worth £1,000. This work is part of Sandra’s PhD with supervisors Prof Adam Jaffe, Dr Arthur Teng, A/Prof Hiran Selvadurai and Prof Simon Gandevia.
We wish you all the best Eddy, and look forward to seeing you at the Research Showcase in November 2014.

We are delighted to announce that Dr Pasquier has accepted an A/Prof Annie Bye, Prof Anne Cunningham, and Dr Ella Noorian: A/Prof Annie Bye, Prof Anne Cunningham, and Dr Ella Noorian: in September 2016. As a result, Dr Pasquier will be relocating to the Discipline of Paediatrics at UNSW Medicine for a conjoint fellowship position with CCIA, with goals to return to the University of Aix-Marseille, France to complete the Fellowship however he will be retaining an Honorary Fellow affiliate position with CCIA, with goals to return to Australia in September 2016. This award is recognition of Dr Pasquier’s significant contributions to the fields of tumour angiogenesis and innovative cancer therapies and his involvement together with collaborators, in the development of novel cancer treatment protocols to be used in paediatric cohorts. His research experience and training have prepared him well for his next stage in his career.

The Discipline of Paediatrics would like to welcome Dr Pasquier to the discipline team and to support his research work in the field of paediatric oncology.

Well done Alex!
In the April 2014 Newsletter it was reported that Hangyu Yi, PhD student at CCIA was the recipient of a Deans Awards late last year for the category of "Outstanding Research." However, the details of his primary and co-supervisor and nature of his research has since changed.

Hangyu Yi's primary supervisor is Dr Jenny Wang, he is co-supervised by Prof Maria Kavallaris. His research is investigating the identification and characterisation of a novel therapeutic target in acute myeloid leukaemic stem cells.

**NEONATAL PHD PROJECT AVAILABLE**

The Discipline of Paediatrics has an epidemiology study that is suitable for a PhD project, available from Semester 2, 2014. This project is supervised by A/Prof Ju-Lee Oei (UNSW), Prof Ian Wright (University of Wollongong), and A/Prof Mohamed Abdel-Latif (Australian National University).

The aim of this project is to use linkage analysis to determine the education and health outcomes of children born in New South Wales between 1984 and 2011 who, between 32 to 36 completed weeks gestation (moderate to late preterm births). This is a rapidly increasing population that makes up >80% of all preterm births worldwide and the linkage project utilises unique information from health (e.g. the Perinatal Data Collection, the Australian Bureau of Statistics Death Records), education (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, NAPLAN) and specialist (New South Wales Neonatal Quality of Care Units, NICUS and the Cerebral Palsy Registry) registries to enable contemporary and current knowledge of this very large but potentially high needs group of children. The student will also investigate current practitioner approaches, including medical staff, trainees, paediatricians, nurses and allied health professionals. It is a four-hour teaching package on assessment of the development of normal children and features videos of Dr Cunningham as she assesses normal child development at a series of critical stages. The content highlights language, play, socialization, cognition, and motor progress with expert commentary and teaching text.

The randomised controlled trial that evaluated the resource involved paediatric trainees from Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network and found:

"Beyond Milestones" improves knowledge, increases confidence and is useful, providing a structured approach to developmental assessment. "The techniques taught can be applied to every paediatric consultation."

Beyond Milestones can be accessed here: http://teampaediatrics.org/beyondmilestones

Publication:

**ACADEMIC PROMOTION**

The closing date for applications for promotion to Lecturer and equivalent Academic Research staff (Level B) and from Associate Professors and equivalent Academic Research staff (Level D) for promotion to Professor (Level E) is fast approaching.

Lecturer:
4th August: Application to be submitted to the Dean's unit
Professor:
21st July: Application to be submitted to the Dean's unit

More information including the promotion policy & procedures, application toolkit, and UNSW Medicine-specific guidelines can be found online: https://www.hr.unsw.edu.au/employee/acad/acadm promotional.html

For Conjoint Staff seeking promotion, a different process is followed - please see the School’s website for more information: https://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/staff/conjoint-information

**UNSW PROCEDURE FOR PEER-REVIEW**

A new UNSW Procedure for Responsible Peer Review was approved on the 2nd June 2014 and became effective on that date.

This Procedure has been developed to meet the standards set out in the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, NHMRC Principles of Peer Review and the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity.

This Procedure should be read in conjunction with the UNSW Research Code of Conduct.

This Procedure covers the principles of peer review and the responsibilities of researchers and research candidates undertaking peer review activities: https://www.research.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/peerreviewprocedure.pdf

**BEYOND MILESTONES VALIDATION**

Dr Clare Cunningham, Community Paediatrician (now retired) together with colleagues the Neurology Department at Sydney Children’s Hospital developed an online educational resource to instruct paediatric trainees in a systematic approach to critical and quality observation of normal child development. Recently, the trial validating the value of this educational resource, ‘Beyond Milestones’ was published in the Journal of Paediatrics & Child Health.

‘Beyond Milestones’ is a free online educational resource for clinicians including medical students, trainees, paediatricians, nurses and allied health professionals. It is a four-hour teaching package on assessment of the development of normal children and features videos of Dr Cunningham as she assesses normal child development at a series of critical stages. The content highlights language, play, socialization, cognition, and motor progress with expert commentary and teaching text.

The randomised controlled trial that evaluated the resource involved paediatric trainees from Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network and found:

"Beyond Milestones" improves knowledge, increases confidence and is useful, providing a structured approach to developmental assessment. "The techniques taught can be applied to every paediatric consultation."

Beyond Milestones can be accessed here: http://teampaediatrics.org/beyondmilestones

Publication:

**VC'S POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

Applications are currently being sought for 2015 Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowships. There are up to 12 fellowships available for eligible applicants who do not hold a current appointment at UNSW or UNSW-affiliated organisations.

Potential applicants are asked, in the first instance to contact the Head of School to discuss whether their research is aligned with School research priorities. Following this, non-competitive applications will be informed immediately and competitive applications will be invited to proceed.

Completed applications are due on the Head of School by 4th July 2014. Applications are then ranked, and shortlisted applicants notified towards the end of July. The Head of School will then recommend ranked applications to the Associate Dean (Research) in Medicine.

The Associate Dean (Research) will then further review applications recommending eight to proceed to the Central (UNSW) Fellowship Committee. The Head of School will notify all applicants at this point, that are not successful and applicants will be notified by mid-August.

Applications that reach the final stages of review by the Committee will be asked to provide Referee Reports to assist in their ranking process. The Research Strategy Office, to assess competitiveness for external fellowships, will also review applications.

The Central Fellowship Committee is chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research). A panel of Scientia Professors appointed with broad experience to rank applications using a similar method to an ARC/NHMRC assessment process, joins the PVC(R).

Results will be announced in late September, with fellows commencing their positions by 28th February 2015 – at the latest.

For more information and application pack: https://research.unsw.edu.au/vice-chancellor’s-postdoctoral-research-fellowships

Interested applicants are asked to contact Professor Adam Jaffe, to discuss alignment with Discipline of Paediatrics and the wider-School of Women’s & Children’s Health research strategy; also potential mentors depending on the nature and specialty of the research.

Professor Jaffe can be contacted by phone via his Personal Assistant – Sara Savidge – 9382 1799; or emailed directly: a.jaffe@unsw.edu.au

Completed applications will then be forwarded School Manager, Tracey Good by 4th July 2014 – t.good@unsw.edu.au
The School of Women’s and Children’s Health website has had a complete overhaul, giving it not only a new look but also providing academics, conjoints, and students with a wealth of information accessible online.

The vision of the Discipline of Paediatrics pages on the website are two-fold. Firstly, the goal is to provide our researchers with a resource they can use in an efficient way by providing easy access to the information and resources they need.

Secondly, it is to provide a portal to UNSW paediatric research for the rest of the world to see, therefore establishing and cementing our research as world leaders in improving child health outcomes.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Researchers at all stages of their career will benefit from the large volume of information now available on the School’s website.

By navigating to the address below, you will find research support services available in the Discipline of Paediatrics, specifically, as well as UNSW-wide advice and services.

http://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/paediatrics-research-resources

There is information on ethics and governance processes, links to guidelines and legislation, templates, and contact details for the Sydney Children’s Hospital Network, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, and the South Western Sydney Local Health District.

At this stage there is no animal ethics information however this can be obtained from the UNSW Research Gateway: https://research.unsw.edu.au/applying-animal-ethics-approval

There is also a comprehensive list of funding opportunities available throughout the year. This list will be continually updated as dates or new rounds are announced.

The external closing dates are provided, therefore please remember the Grants Management Office requires your application at least two weeks prior to the date shown (four weeks for major rounds e.g. NHMRC, ARC) to provide a comprehensive compliance check.

You will also find a media archive, with links to articles where Academics, Conjoints, or students of the Discipline of Paediatrics have appeared in the press.

There is also a comprehensive list of UNSW Policies and Procedures relating to research. Covering areas such as intellectual property, authorship and resolving disputes between authors, handling research data and material, travel policy, and higher degree supervision guidelines.

All previous edition of the UNSW Paediatrics Research Newsletter (2012-current) are also available on the website.

If you haven’t already created a profile on the UNSW Research Gateway or updated your current profile, you are urged to do so.

The Research Outputs System (ROS) automatically pulls in your publications however you do need to describe your research interests, qualifications, and whether you are willing to supervise research students (ILP / Honours / Higher Degree), awards received, professional memberships etc.

All profiles have been linked to the new School website as well as the UNSW Medicine website. Therefore you only need to enter the information once for it to be found in three different pathways. The Research Gateway is also indexed by Google.

You will also notice, at the bottom of the homepage, there is a carousel of people (see picture below). Academics and Conjoints without a research profile won’t appear on this page.

If there is anything missing that you would like access to on the website, please contact Samantha McFedries, Research Coordinator (s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au)

RESEARCH GROUP PAGES

Individual research groups are welcome to have their own pages on the website, describing their research strengths and interests, key publications, grants awarded, and personnel.

Pictured to the left, is an example of the Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Urogynaecology groups page. Any researchers interested in having a page for their research group are advised to contact Samantha McFedries, Research Coordinator (s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au)

This will be an ongoing, open invitation therefore if you decide later you would like a page please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

RESEARCHER PROFILES

Having an up-to-date online profile is an important way of promoting your research track record and therefore valuing your name and achievements in child health to be recognised nationally and internationally.

If you haven’t already created a profile on the UNSW Research Gateway or updated your current profile, you are urged to do so.

The Research Outputs System (ROS) automatically pulls in your publications however you do need to describe your research interests, qualifications, and whether you are willing to supervise research students (ILP / Honours / Higher Degree), awards received, professional memberships etc.

All profiles have been linked to the new School website as well as the UNSW Medicine website. Therefore you only need to enter the information once for it to be found in three different pathways. The Research Gateway is also indexed by Google.

You will also notice, at the bottom of the homepage, there is a carousel of people (see picture below). Academics and Conjoints without a research profile won’t appear on here.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Information includes Student Services contacts for both Paediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynaecology, postgraduate programs offered, and general information on the phase 2 and phase 3 undergraduate terms in both disciplines.

As well as the above information there is a webpage solely for providing information to Independent Learning Project (ILP) and Honours students and supervisors. Access to information for ILP/Honours students and supervisors has been one of the issues currently being resolved by the Discipline of Paediatrics ILP/Honours Working Group and utilising the website as a major method of communication will, it is hoped, assist all involved.

For example, supervisors can access information regarding finding a student, eligibility to supervise, and difference between ILP and Honours. Students can also access this information, as well as tips for contacting supervisors, research profiles of supervisors, project areas available, and publications arising from previous ILP/Honours projects in the Discipline of Paediatrics.

http://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/ilhonours-paediatrics

SCHN WEBSITE

UNSW is not alone in updating their website, the Sydney Children’s Hospital Network has also given theirs a makeover too!

http://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au

It is worth a visit to not only update your bookmarks to Ethics and Governance’s external sites, but also to read the SCHN Research Strategy, and see the information available.

Help is available, should you need it.

You are welcome to contact either, Samantha McFedries, Research Coordinator (s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au) or Marina Margarian, Finance & Resources Officer (m.margarian@unsw.edu.au)
The First Discipline of Paediatrics ILP / Honours Information Evening was held on Wednesday 30th April, and by all accounts from students and supervisors – was a great success!

The idea of holding an evening grew from the number of emails from students seeking projects that overwhelm supervisors year after year, not to mention the ensuing number of “dates” that leave supervisors hanging as students continue to test the waters on finding the perfect project. The Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology has held a similar evening in past years, therefore some direction was taken from them. The format for the evening commenced with supervisors representing sub-specialities / research groups speaking for three minutes giving a brief introduction to themselves, their team, the project areas available, the methodologies used, and the expectations of students.

Discipline of Paediatrics academics, conjoints, and past supervisors / co-supervisors were invited to speak together with supervisors from UNSW’s rural campuses via video-conferencing. Unfortunately, due to the short amount of time to prepare for the evening, the rural campuses were unable to participate this year.

The format for the second half of the evening was more informal, with speakers encouraged to meet and network with students over refreshments. Those academics, conjoints and past supervisors who had declined the offer to speak were invited to attend and also participate.

Thirty-one students attended the information evening to see 12 speakers. The speakers who attended represented Behavioural Sciences, Community Paediatrics, Developmental Medicine, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Neonatology, and Pain Medicine.

The speakers were not sole from Sydney Children’s Hospital. Almost half hold positions at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead, Liverpool Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Women and St George Hospital.

In the days following the Information Evening students who attended were emailed a document containing researcher profiles and contact details of those who spoke and others who were unable to attend by had provided information on projects available.

This document can be accessed online here: http://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/shhonours-paediatrics

Thanks to all our speakers on the night, those who attended for the networking part of the evening, and those that were unable to attend but provided information to be circulated to students – it is hoped that an event such as this helps you, therefore your support means they will continue in the future.

Thanks also to UNSW PaedSoc who helped by distributing information about and post- the event, as well as promoting attendance.

ILP / HONOURS WORKING GROUP

The Information Evening was organised by the Discipline of Paediatrics ILP/Honours Working Group.

The working group has convened to address issues with ILP/Honours within the Discipline and to improve the experience for students. The working group was established by, and reports to, the Discipline of Paediatrics Academic Committee.

Thanks to members who contributed to the evening and who continue to work towards creating a framework for similar events in the future.

Any feedback regarding the information evening or general ILP/Honours issues within the Discipline can be emailed to Samantha McFetridge, Research Coordinator – s.mcfetridge@unsw.edu.au to be tabled with the Discipline of Paediatrics ILP / Honours Working Group.

2015 ILP PROJECTS

Supervisors and students are reminded that the ILP Application Form for projects commencing in 2015 are to be submitted via eml by Monday 23rd June 2014.

More information: http://medprogram.med.unsw.edu.au/independent-learning-project-ilp

Students still looking for supervisors within the Discipline of Paediatrics can download the ‘ILP / Hons Supervisors 2015’ document from our website: http://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/shhonours-paediatrics

Alternatively, to view all UNSW Medicine supervisors students can visit the Med Program website: http://med.unsw.edu.au/ilp

Students are encouraged to visit the UNSW Research Gateway to read research profiles of potential supervisors: http://research.unsw.edu.au

NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

UNSW has subscribed to BMJ Learning - home to online CPD and medical education featuring hundreds of accredited, peer-reviewed learning modules for healthcare professionals and students in a range of text, video, and audio formats.

There are a number of Paediatrics modules.

New to UNSW: BMJ Learning Foundation Skills modules, “22 procedure based modules covering key skills from the foundation curriculum. These modules feature computer generated animation to give a clear view of each procedure, with questions to test your knowledge.”

http://learning.bmi.com/wwproxy0/bmjlearning.unsw.edu.au/learning/home.html

(You will need to register for a BMJ username and password to access BMJ Learning.)

The library also has a New e-Book: Quinn, Gwendolyn P.; Vadaparampil, Susan T. Reproductive Health and Cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults [e-book]. Dordrecht: Springer; 2012.

PAEDIATRICS ILP/HONOURS INFORMATION EVENING

The School of Public Health & Community Medicine has established a biostatistical unit to provide consulting services to UNSW Medicine.

The Biostatistical Unit is funded by a Major Research & Infrastructure Initiative grant awarded to A/Prof Andrew Hayen together with colleagues in UNSW Medicine, including Prof Adam Jaffe from the Discipline of Paediatrics, School of Women’s & Children’s Health.

The Unit is available to provide a broad array of statistical services on an advisory and consultative basis.

These include:

• Sample size & power calculations;
• Development of statistical analysis plans;
• Study design advice;
• Biostatistical analysis, including assistance with statistical computing packages;
• Advice on preparation or revision of journal publications.

Please note: The Unit runs on a cost-recovery basis for clients within UNSW Medicine which means that individuals will be expected to pay for the excellent service. Don’t forget that our own Kylie-Ann Mallitt is available for free help!

In addition to the services above, the Unit also holds lunchtime Quantitative Research Methods Seminars, run by the School of Public Health & Community Medicine, all are welcome to attend.

The Unit will also offer short courses on biostatistics for clinical and public health researchers in the future.


Contact: A/Prof Andrew Hayen, Head of Unit
9385 2734 | biostats.unit@unsw.edu.au

UNSW MEDICINE BIOSTATISTICS UNIT

The Kirby Institute Short Courses

Following the success of their program in 2013, the Kirby Institute will again be offering short courses for a second year - towards the end of 2014.

There are five short courses (outlined in detail below) covering a range of epidemiological topics. Each course incurs a fee of $1,200 (+GST), and vary in length between 4 and 5 days.

The courses will be taught from the Wallace Wurth Building, UNSW Kensington Campus (Map Reference C27). Registration is currently open and can be accessed via their website:

http://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/content/kki-short-courses

1) Evaluating the impact of public health programs
Convenors: Dr Richard Gray, Associate Professor Rebecca Guy, & Dr Hammad Ali
Course Dates: 29 September – 3 October 2014

An introduction of the principles and methodologies used to evaluate the impact of public health programs. The course includes an overview of the design of empirical evaluations, epidemiological modelling and health economics calculations used to interpret the effectiveness of public health programs using practical examples from the HIV field.

2) Researching with vulnerable groups
Convenors: Professor Tony Butler & Dr Anna Olsen
Course Dates: 13 – 16 October 2014

An introduction to the key ethical issues and challenges that arise when researching marginalised groups (including: prisoners, sex workers, people who inject drugs). The course includes an overview of relevant theory, methodologies and ethical considerations as well as practical examples of researching hard to access groups and sensitive topics.

3) Mixed methods in health research
Convenors: Dr Anna Olsen & Professor Tony Butler
Course Dates: 20 – 23 October 2014

An introduction to mixed methods theory, project design and the application of mixed methods research tools to the public health context. This course includes practical examples of mixed methods research and experience reviewing and critiquing mixed methods approaches.

4) Infectious diseases epidemiology: from theory to practice
Convenors: Dr Inga Zabiotska
Course Dates: 1 – 4 December 2014

An introduction to infectious disease epidemiology and the application of epidemiological tools and methods in identifying, preventing, and controlling infectious diseases (particularly blood borne and sexually transmissible infections) to improve public health. Case-studies focus on epidemiology of blood borne and sexually transmissible infections. It provides basic understanding of transmission, current epidemiological issues in the Asia and the Pacific region and methods to address them.

5) Introduction to applied biostatistics
Convenors: Dr Janaki Amin
Course Dates: 7 – 10 December 2014

This course gives an easy to understand introduction to commonly used statistical tests with hands on instruction in conducting analyses. The small group tutorial sessions also provide an opportunity to get guidance on analysing your own data.

http://research.unsw.edu.au
The Federal Government's budget announced last month would likely have a radical impact on tertiary education and research in Australia. The specific implications of which will become known in the coming weeks and months as the reforms pass into legislation.

Five important science and research agencies will receive cuts of approximately $240 million. Budgets being reduced include Australian Research Council (ARC) by $74.9 million, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) by $111.4 million, and the Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) program by $80 million.

The Future Fellowships Scheme administered by ARC for mid-career researchers will continue however the capacity will be reduced with a cut in funding from $150 million in previous years, down to $140 million.

Funding of $9.9 million over the next five years is also being directed towards developing a nationally consistent approach to the way clinical research trials are overseen and conducted, as well as towards streamlining NHMRC application and assessment processes.

The Australian National Preventative Health Agency has been abolished, saving $6.4 million over 5 years. Functions of the agency will be integrated into the Department of Health.

Health Workforce Australia has also been abolished with functions re-consolidated into the Department of Health. This will see savings of $534.4 million over 5 years, with for example, the ceasing of the planned expansion of the Clinical Training Funding Program.

A Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) will be established, to create longevity in research funding, with dividend payments to be distributed in part by NHMRC and ARC from 2015-2016, to an estimated value of $2 billion. The MRFF will then become a permanent part of the budget and will be funded by other income streams including the 2014 Medicare co-contribution and increased tobacco excise.

Funding of $9.9 million over the next five years is also being directed towards developing a nationally consistent approach to the way clinical research trials are overseen and conducted, as well as towards streamlining NHMRC application and assessment processes.

The Australian National Preventative Health Agency has been abolished, saving $6.4 million over 5 years. Functions of the agency will be integrated into the Department of Health.

Health Workforce Australia has also been abolished with functions re-consolidated into the Department of Health. This will see savings of $534.4 million over 5 years, with for example, the ceasing of the planned expansion of the Clinical Training Funding Program.

A Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) will be established, to create longevity in research funding, with dividend payments to be distributed in part by NHMRC and ARC from 2015-2016, to an estimated value of $19.9 million. However, the creation of this fund is largely dependent on the passing of cost-saving initiatives in other health sectors into legislation.

This is an area of great contention and emotion for the public, which has largely expressed it’s disdain in the media, drawing attention to particular health reforms including the $7 Medicare co-contribution initiative and changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

The Federal Government has earmarked every dollar saved from these kinds of health reforms in this and future budgets to be directly invested into the MRFF up to a total of $20 billion. The MRFF will then become a permanent revenue stream with annual dividends dedicated solely to funding medical research, doubling current government investment within a decade.

Sources: Australian Research Management System (ARMS) - Federal Budget Reforms Update. Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) - 2014-15 Federal Budget Summary for Medical Research.
2014 ACPS SYMPOSIUM

The Australian Centre for Perinatal Science (ACPS) is proud to announce their symposium for 2014, themed ‘Game Changers in Perinatal Science’ – registration opening soon! Program available online now - http://www.acps.unsw.edu.au

The Symposium is being held in the John Niland Scientia Building, UNSW Kensington Campus on Wednesday 20th August 2014.

The Keynote address for 2014 will be delivered by Associate Professor Mahesh Choolani from the High High-Risk Pregnancy Unit, National University Hospital Singapore (NUH) and the Reproductive & Developmental Biology, National University of Singapore (NUS).

The Plenary Speaker is Professor Claire Roberts, School of Paediatrics & Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide and President of the ANZ Placenta Research Association.

The call for poster abstracts is currently open to Masters and PhD students. See poster abstract submission information, outlined below.

The fees to attend are as follows: $100 Non-members | $75 Members | $50 Students

However, it is free to become a member of ACPS, visit: http://www.acps.unsw.edu.au

For more information and to register (once it has opened) visit: http://www.acps.unsw.edu.au

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Closing Date: Friday 4th July 2014, COB.

Poster Abstracts Guidelines:

- The research represented in the poster must relate to the field of perinatal science.
- The abstract may be one specific to the 2014 ACPS Symposium or it may have been presented elsewhere. If the poster has already been presented elsewhere, the research must be current.
- Abstracts length must be a maximum of 250 words (excluding title, author list and affiliations).
- Text font as Calibri 11, single line spacing and left-justified.
- Abstracts must be organised into the following sections: Aim of Research, Methods, Results, Conclusions
- Poster Abstract Submission: Save abstract as a Word document in the following format: ACPS2014PosterAbstract_[First name initials]Last name.doc
- 3-minute Poster Presentations: When submitting your poster abstracts please indicate if you would like to be considered for an oral presentation. The oral presentation will be of 3 min duration followed by questions from the audience. Only a maximum of seven poster abstracts will be chosen for this 3-minute poster presentation.
- Poster Awards: There will be two poster awards; 1. Best Poster Award ($100 and a certificate), and 2. Best Poster Presentation ($200 and a certificate).
- Contact email address (to be published in the 2014 ACPS Symposium program book). This can belong to the presenting author or the supervising researcher.
- Background
- Aim of Research
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions
- Poster Abstract Submission: Save abstract as a Word document in the following format: ACPS2014PosterAbstract_[First name initials]Last name.doc
- 3-minute Poster Presentations: When submitting your poster abstracts please indicate if you would like to be considered for an oral presentation. The oral presentation will be of 3 min duration followed by questions from the audience. Only a maximum of seven poster abstracts will be chosen for this 3-minute poster presentation.
- Poster Awards: There will be two poster awards; 1. Best Poster Award ($100 and a certificate), and 2. Best Poster Presentation ($200 and a certificate).
- Poster Format: AO size in portrait orientation: 841 x 1189 mm. We recommend printing at Glory Printing.
- Acceptance and Notification: Final acceptance of posters and 3-minute poster presentations will be determined by the Symposium Organising Committee. Applicants will be notified by July 18th 2014. If a poster abstract is accepted, the presenting author’s registration fee will be waived.

JEFFREY MODELL CENTRE OPENING SCH

Sydney Children's Hospital is now home to a Jeffrey Modell Centre for Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases (PIDs) research and treatment. The focus of the research at Sydney Children's Hospital is on genetics and immunoglobulin products.

The Centre opened with a seminar on immunodeficiency as part of the 31st Annual Course in Paediatrics held on 12th March 2014 at Sydney Children's Hospital. The Symposium introduced the new Centre it’s objectives at Sydney Children's Hospital, issues surrounding the diagnosis of a paediatric PID, and the work of the Jeffrey Modell Foundation – internationally.

Prof John Ziegler who together with launching the Centre, spoke on childhood infections and treating immunodeficiencies, chaired the Seminar. Prof Ziegler was joined by colleagues including SCH clinical immunologist, Dr Paul Gray and a multidisciplinary team of speakers covering the disciplines of immunology, genetics, and infectious diseases – highlighting the true nature of treating a child with a rare disease and the various expertise involved.

Vicki and Fred Modell established the Jeffrey Modell Foundation (JMF) in 1987, in memory of their son Jeffrey, who died at the age of fifteen, from complications of PID. JMF is a global, non-profit organisation dedicated to early diagnosis, improved treatment, research, physician education, public awareness, advocacy, patient support, and nervous screening. Collectively, there are more than 150 known PIDs, however this number continues to increase.

The objectives of the Sydney Children's Hospital JMC is to firstly establish an Australian network of PID centres to share information, provide mutual support for clinical problems, collaborate in research and in establishing specific assays, and to provide education to the wider Paediatric community.

The SCH Centre will improve knowledge and awareness of PIDs, and in doing so – minimise delays in diagnosis. The Centre will also advocate for increased availability of genetic testing for PIDs – currently one of the issues surrounding diagnosis is that genotyping assays are not Medicare funded. The advocacy role of the Centre will also include universal access to appropriate treatments and collection of data to form a PIDs registry.

The SCH JMF Centre will also be working to seek additional funding sources to achieve their objectives of conducting a sustainable program of educational activities, awareness campaigns, diagnostics and research.

PID SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Speakers at the Immunodeficiency Seminar and those involved with the Sydney Children’s Hospital Jeffrey Modell Foundation Centre include:

- Prof John Ziegler – Senior Staff Specialist, Head of the Department of Immunology & Infectious Diseases, and Head of HIV Service, Sydney Children’s Hospital; Conjoint Professor, Discipline of Paediatrics, School of Women’s & Children’s Health, UNSW Medicine.
- Prof Ian Alexander – Clinical Geneticist, Director Laboratory Research, and Senior Staff Specialist, The Children's Hospital at Westmead; Professor in Paediatrics and Molecular Medicine, University of Sydney; Head of the Gene Therapy Research Unit, Children's Medical Research Institute & The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.
- Dr Tony Roscio – Clinical Geneticist, Sydney Children’s Hospital; Senior Lecturer, Discipline of Paediatrics, School of Women’s & Children’s Health, UNSW Medicine.
- Dr Brendan McMullan – Paediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist and Microbiologist, Sydney Children's Hospital; Conjoint Lecturer, Discipline of Paediatrics, School of Women’s & Children’s Health, UNSW Medicine.
- Dr Paul Gray – Paediatric Immunologist, Sydney Children’s Hospital; Conjoint Lecturer and Masters of Science candidate, Discipline of Paediatrics, School of Women’s & Children’s Health, UNSW Medicine.
- Dr Katie Frith – Paediatric Immunology Fellow, Sydney Children’s Hospital; Conjoint Associate Lecturer, Discipline of Paediatrics, School of Women’s & Children’s Health, UNSW Medicine.
The new School website contains a list of paediatric funding opportunities available throughout the year. This list will be continually updated as dates or new rounds are announced.

The external closing dates are provided, therefore please remember the Grants Management Office requires your application at least two weeks prior to the date shown (four weeks for major rounds e.g. NHMRC, ARC) to provide a comprehensive compliance check.

Major rounds will continue to be included in the UNSW Paediatric Research Newsletter.

FUNDING

HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH

JULY

7th JULY 2014

• National Institute of Child Health and Development / NIH / DH – Research on Emergency Medical Services for Children

Improve the quality and quantity of research related to emergency medical services for children, with the goal of reducing morbidity and mortality in children through improved care delivery.


NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

JULY

31st JULY 2014

• The Jack Brockhoff Foundation Medical Grant

Clinical or community outcome in the short to medium term (e.g. within 3 years)

http://www.jackbrockhoff.org.au/appliy-for-a-grant/medical

ALL STREAMS

JUNE

25th JUNE 2014

• NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships

PhD & Masters


• NHMRC Development Grants

Medical research companies in partnership with a researcher/s to undertake health and medical research at the early proof of principle or pre-seed stage, focusing on research that has commercialisation potential.


JULY

4th JULY 2014

• Australian Rotary Health PhD Scholarships (including funding partner scholarships)

PhD


CANCER

JULY

5th JULY 2014

• Leukaemia Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships

$100,000

http://www.leukaemia.org.au/758F16E0-D66C-11E2-8CE001552D86B03

7th JULY 2014

• Leukaemia Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships

$100,000

http://www.leukaemia.org.au/758F16E0-D66C-11E2-8CE001552D86B03

14th JULY 2014

• RACP Arnott Research Entry Scholarship in Cancer Research

$45,000 | 1 year | Masters; PhD


SEPTEMBER

1ST SEPTEMBER 2014

• Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Grants

Purchase of equipment but may be sought for other tangibles (e.g. therapeutic or imaging markers, software etc.) | $22,000


16TH SEPTEMBER 2014

• The Ian Potter Foundation Travel Grants

$3,000


30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

• The Financial Markets Foundation for Children

$80,000 | 2 years

http://www.foundationforchildren.com.au

RARE DISEASES & GENOMICS

JULY

15TH JULY 2014

• National Ataxia Foundation Research Grant (Letter of Intent)

$30,000 | 1 Year

http://www.ataxia.org/research/ataxia-research-grants.aspx

AUGUST

31ST AUGUST 2014

• Kidney Health Australia Project Grants; Medical, Science, & Allied Health Scholarships; Nursing Scholarships


SEPTEMBER

12TH SEPTEMBER 2014

• Heart Foundation Collaboration & Exchange Travel Award

$5,000


POPULATION HEALTH

JULY

7TH JULY 2014

• National Institute of Child Health and Development / NIH / DH – Research on Emergency Medical Services for Children

Improve the quality and quantity of research related to emergency medical services for children, with the goal of reducing morbidity and mortality in children through improved care delivery.


FUNDING

http://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/paediatrics-research-resources

http:// MedicalResearchFunding/tabid/633/Default.aspx


http://www.ataxia.org/research/ataxia-research-grants.aspx


Animal Care and Ethics Course

JULY 2014

Venue: AGSM Courtyard, UNSW Kensington Campus - Look for the WIRN sign (Map Reference G27)
https://research.unsw.edu.au/women-research-network

Higher Degree Students

14TH-18TH JULY 2014

InSPIRE: Inter-university School Postgraduate Research Excellence
InSPIRE 2014 is a week-long postgraduate school that provides expert training and professional development for higher degree research students to promote high quality, collaborative and interdisciplinary research.

Fee: $150
Venue: InSPIRE is unique in that each of the five universities in Sydney metropolitan area will be hosting one day of the event. http://www.uts.edu.au/partners-and-community/conferences-and-seminars/inspire/program

24TH JUNE 2014

Building your research profile: Using social media to promote your research
The aim of this workshop is to assist researchers in identifying effective social media that supports their goals for engagement and promotion of research.

Time: 10am-12pm
Venue: John Goodsell Building, Room LG19, UNSW Kensington Campus (Map Reference F20)
https://research.unsw.edu.au/events/building-your-research-profile-using-social-media-promote-your-research

Three Minute Thesis - UNSW Medicine Competition
Research higher degree students will have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance, in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. Cash prizes. Winner goes on to compete in inter-Faculty final.

Time: 2pm
Venue: John B Reid Theatre, AGSM Building, UNSW Kensington Campus (Map Reference G27)
http://med.unsw.edu.au/research-newsletter/three-minute-thesis-july-2014#.U5ZVYlOwId8

Higher Degree Supervisors

29TH JULY 2014

Supervisor Development: Starting off on the right foot
Aims to help researchers understand the roles and responsibilities of a supervisor during a period from HDR accepting offer to confirmation of candidature.

Time: 1pm-4pm
Venue: John Goodsell Building, Room LG19, UNSW Kensington Campus (Map Reference F20)
https://research.unsw.edu.au/events/supervisor-development-starting-right-foot

ConfereNces & seMinars

June

26TH JUNE 2014

Virology research laboratory seminar series 2014
Prof Karen Canfell who leads the Cancer Modelling Group at the Lowy Cancer Research Centre UNSW, speaking about the interplay between HPV vaccination and cervical screening.

Time: 1-2pm
Venue: Anatomical Pathology Meeting Room, Lv4, Clinical Sciences Building, SEALS, Prince of Wales Hospital

July

17TH JULY 2014

Virology research laboratory seminar series 2014
Dr Mark W Douglas from the University of Sydney will speak about his research on the pathogenesis of metabolic complications of hepatitis C virus infection.

Time: 1-2pm
Venue: Anatomical Pathology Meeting Room, Lv4, Clinical Sciences Building, SEALS, Prince of Wales Hospital

18TH-19TH JULY 2014

2nd Annual Kirby Institute Symposium - Global challenges in infectious disease

Venue: Leighton Hall, the John Nildan Scientia Building, UNSW Kensington Campus
http://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/content/ki-symposium-2014

28TH-29TH AUGUST 2014

Australian Paediatric Orthopaedic Society/ NZPOS 2014 Paediatric Orthopaedic Instructional Course
Venue: Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa, Noosa, QLD

30TH-31ST AUGUST 2014

Australian Paediatric Orthopaedic Society 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting
Venue: Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa, Noosa, QLD

September

18TH-20TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Australian College of Neonatal Nurses 9th Annual Conference
Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor on Hindley, Adelaide, SA

Later in the Year

- UNSW Paediatrics Research Week
- UNSW Paediatrics ILP Awards
- Annual Brain sciences UNSW symposium 2014 - Brain health complexity: Molecules to systems
- 39TH AUS & NZ Annual Scientific Meeting on Intensive Care & 20TH Annual Paediatric & Neonatal Intensive Care Conference
- 2014 National Australian Association for Infant Mental Health Conference
- Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society & Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group Joint Meeting

All Researchers

Cancer


Cancer


Cancer


Cancer


Cancer


Cancer


Cancer


Cancer


Gastroenterology


Gastroenterology


Endocrinology


Gastroenterology


Nephrology


Endocrinology


Community Paediatrics


Dermatology


Pain Medicine


Community Paediatrics


Community Paediatrics


Gastroenterology


Community Paediatrics


Community Paediatrics


Community Paediatrics


Genetics


Community Paediatrics

Refugee Health


Genetics


Psychology


Gastroenterology


Gastroenterology


Gastroenterology


Obstetrics


Surgery