Lecturer and alumna Aditi Vedi has been awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship to research the functional biology of stem cells to improve survival rates for children with leukemia.

UNSW lecturer and alumna Aditi Vedi has been awarded a prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship to research the functional biology of stem cells to improve survival outcomes for children with leukemia.

Competition for the prestigious international scholarships is fierce. Vedi, a medical doctor, was one of only 54 successful candidates from 28 countries, including eight Australians, selected from 3,535 applicants. Dr Vedi is one of only thirteen scholars funded for a PhD.

Dr Vedi’s research will investigate the role of gene networks and therapy to maintain remission and prevent relapse in children with leukemia.

“Despite increasing cure rates for children with leukemia, relapsed disease still carries a poor prognosis,” Dr Vedi said.

“By selectively targeting transcription factors and networks in leukemic stem cells with new therapies to maintain their inactive state, we hope to improve survival outcomes for children with leukemia.

“This research represents an exciting new treatment approach for childhood leukemia.”

Leukemia is the most common cancer in children and teens, accounting for almost one out of three cancers.

Dr Vedi is a Conjoint Associate Lecturer with UNSW’s School of Women and Children’s Health and is now a clinical fellow with the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust in the United Kingdom. She completed a Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery (MBBS) with Honours at UNSW, graduating in 2007.

She will join 1400 other Gates Cambridge scholars from more than 100 countries when she begins her PhD in Medical Science at the University of Cambridge in October 2015.

“After completing my PhD my goal is to continue paediatric stem cell research in Australia as a clinician scientist,” Dr Vedi said.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship program was established in October 2000 by a donation of $210m from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge, the largest ever single donation to a UK university.

Gates Cambridge scholars are selected on the basis of their intellectual ability, leadership capacity, academic fit with Cambridge and their commitment to improving the lives of others.

Dan Wheelahan
UNSW Media Office
d.wheelahan@unsw.edu.au
newsroom.unsw.edu.au

Professor Anne Cunningham has been awarded $154,901 funding over two years from the Financial Markets Foundation for Children for her research - ‘Can a controlled low oxygen environment protect the neonatal brain?’

Tiffany Jessop (nee Holmes) has completed her PhD under the supervision of Dr Alla Dolnikov and Conjoint Associate Professor Tracey O’Brien. Dr Holmes’ thesis is titled ‘Pre-clinical development of the ex vivo expanded haematopoietic stem cell derived from umbilical cord blood for use in allogeneic transplantation.’

Genevieve Ho, Honours student supervised by Dr Michelle Farrar and Dr Michael Cardamone has been awarded the David Walsh Memorial Scholarship to undertake her project - ‘Congenital and childhood myotonic dystrophy: optimising current treatment.’

2014 ILP Students Patrick Hosie and Beryl Lin presented their research at the Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand’s Annual Scientific Meeting held on the Gold Coast from 27th March - 1st April 2015.
Welcome to the 12th Edition of the Paediatric Research Newsletter, the second Discipline of Paediatrics Newsletter for 2015.

Many are you are in the middle of NHMRC rebuttal season and I wish you well.

I am also delighted to announce that, through the generosity of Professor Jagdish & Dr Lalitha Gupta, an endowed scholarship has been established to enable a PhD student to undertake research in Neonatal and Paediatric Medicine. This will be available next year.

Planning for the Research Floor in the new Bright Alliance building has neared completion. This is an exciting opportunity to bring together paediatric researchers on the Randwick campus from UNSW, other universities and the Sydney Children’s Hospital. Hopefully we will move in at the end of next year.

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter and please remember to send any news or suggestions to Samantha McFedries for inclusion in future editions.

Best wishes,

Professor Adam Jaffe

John Beveridge Professor of Paediatrics
Head of Discipline of Paediatrics
School of Women’s & Children’s Health

Associate Director of Research
Sydney Children’s Hospital Network
(Randwick)
UPDATE: THE BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES UNIT

The Behavioural Sciences Unit (BSU) has launched a new study, which aims to examine the impact of serious illness on students in the school environment.

Students with serious illness face many barriers that can prevent them from having the same educational experiences and outcomes as students without serious illness. As a result, they may be more likely to fall behind academically, socially, and emotionally.

This project will inform the development of programs designed to improve the wellbeing and educational functioning of students with serious illness.

Parents of a school-aged child with any of the following serious illnesses are eligible to participate: cancer, persistent asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, or gastrointestinal disease.

Investigators include Dr Claire Wakefield, Barb Donnan, Tracey Webster, Professor Adam Jaffe, Dr Nadine Kasparian, Dr Sean Kennedy and Dr Steven Leach.

If you, or someone you know, would like to participate, please contact Alistair Lum. More Information

NEW BLOG

The BSU launched a new blog this month, which will be updated monthly. The aim of the blog is to keep families and other health researchers up-to-date with the work of the BSU, as it happens. Read More

ABOUT THE BSU

The Behavioural Sciences Unit undertakes psychosocial and nutritional research as related to paediatric oncology - from diagnosis through to survivorship or bereavement.

The Unit is multidisciplinary with researchers collaborating from psychology, dietetics, paediatric oncology/haematology, social work, nursing, bereavement counselling, behavioural sciences, and exercise physiology backgrounds. The Unit also includes consumer representatives on all projects.

As well as conducting rigorous scientific research here in Australia, the BSU maintains close ties with international experts from the USA, UK, Holland and Canada.

The quality of BSU research has been recognised through the receipt of numerous academic awards, government grants and international peer-reviewed publications.

KEYWORDS: serious illness, educational experiences, wellbeing, programs, student outcomes, cancer, persistent asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, gastrointestinal disease.
UNSW invites applications for Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in 2016, to be awarded to early career researchers of exceptional calibre wishing to conduct full-time research at UNSW in any of its areas of research strengths.

Postdoctoral researchers who would like to apply for a fellowship within the School of Women's and Children's Health must contact Professor William Ledger, Head of School with an expression of interest. The expression of interest must include:

- CV
- Brief statement of proposed research including alignment with University research strengths in the context of the School research profile for consideration.

The Head of School will advise the applicant if they are likely to be competitive and assist in identifying mentors for competitive applicants (if not already identified). Full applications will then need to be submitted to the Head of School by 3rd July 2015.

The completed application must include, in the following order:

- Completed application cover form
- Research plan
- Statement of support from proposed mentor (email acceptable).
- Curriculum Vitae (include qualifications, research experience and publications/other research output)
- Certified proof of the award of a PhD from 1 January 2011 or expected conferral date
- Names and contact details, including email addresses, of 2 referees.

Prospective applicants are urged to read the Application Pack prior to applying, and to take note of the Conditions of Award for 2016.

Fellows will become full time employees of UNSW and be based at UNSW for the full duration of the Fellowship (except for periods of approved leave or travel).

Fellowships will be offered for a period of 2 years, renewable for a third year subject to research performance in the top 25% of their level of appointment.

A salary (taxable) will be provided at Level A or B of the UNSW academic salary scale based on years of experience as determined by UNSW.

A research support grant of A$10,000 per annum for three years will be provided to assist with research costs. This sum is paid per calendar year and must be utilised within the same year.

Appointed Fellows will be expected to seek externally-funded fellowships applicable to their discipline such as from the ARC or NHMRC and to actively seek other external research funding during the course of their Fellowship.

More Information
QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Congratulations to Professor Murray NORRIS AM, Deputy Director, Children’s Cancer Institute and Conjoint Professor, School of Women’s and Children’s Health.

For significant service to medical research as a molecular biologist, and through pioneering development of treatments for cancer in children.

We would also like to congratulate Professor Norris on his appointment as Director of the UNSW Centre for Childhood Cancer Research.

PROMOTIONS

Due to their contribution to teaching and research within the School of Women’s of Children’s and UNSW Australia the following people have received promotions in 2015:

Dr Maria Craig has been promoted to Professor.
Dr Keith Ooi has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.
Dr Charles Verge and Dr Davinder Singh-Grewal have been promoted to Conjoint Associate Professors.

Congratulations all!

UNSW MEDICINE THREE MINUTE THESIS

UNSW Medicine will hold its 3 Minute Thesis Competition on Friday, 3rd July 2015 at 2:00pm in the Wallace Wurth’s Lower Ground Theatre 3.

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.

The Faculty competition is offering the following prizes:

- First Prize - $500.00
- Second Prize - $300.00
- People’s Choice - $250.00

The winner will then go on to compete in the UNSW Inter-Faculty Final held on Wednesday 23rd September 2015.

The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) is an academic competition developed by the University of Queensland for PhD and Research Masters candidates, forces research candidates to consolidate their ideas and crystallise their research discoveries.

Eligibility:

- Candidates who are active in a higher degree research program
- Candidates must be on track for timely completion
- Graduates are not eligible

Rules:

1. A single, static PowerPoint slide is permitted
2. No additional electronic media
3. No additional props
4. Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum – competitors exceeding 3 minutes will be disqualified
5. The decision of the adjudicating panel is final

For more information visit the Research Gateway.

To register, contact Petrina Choong.

JUNE 2015

- Newborns With Unclear CF Tests May Develop Disease Later
  A study led by Dr Keith Ooi has found that 11% of infants who had inconclusive results for cystic fibrosis as newborns went on to develop the disease by age 3 years, underscoring the need for additional tests.
  - Pediatrics, 13 May 2015.

- Giving Isla a fighting chance: the miracle of cord blood
  Conjoint Associate Professor Tracey O’Brien discusses the use of cord blood transplant in the treatment of cancer.
  - The Daily Telegraph, 30 May 2015.

- Chelsea’s standing tall thanks to hospital
  Dr Angus Gray discusses posterior spinal fusion operation in the treatment of scoliosis.
  - Perth Now, 5 June 2015.

- Millionaire Hot Seat’s Gold Telethon Special donates $100k to Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation
  Conjoint Associate Professor Edwin Kirk wins $100,000 on the Gold Telethon episode of Millionaire Hot Seat.
  - Perth Now, 9 June 2015.

- Jump in trampoline injuries prompts warning from doctors
  Dr Christopher Mulligan discusses the number of trampoline-related injuries occurring in the last two years.
  - Parramatta Advertiser, 12 June 2015.

- Plastic surgeon treats congenital deformities in children changing lives in Sydney and overseas
  Dr Michael McGlynn is the recipient of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons’ Award for his outstanding service to the profession.
  - Parramatta Advertiser, 12 June 2015.
MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

Researchers should start thinking about applications for MREII support in the next few months prior to announcement of the funding round.

The Major Research Equipment and Infrastructure Initiative (MREII) is a strategic investment in major research infrastructure and equipment in order to enable UNSW researchers to work at the cutting edge of local, national and international research at UNSW. The funding scheme supports research in Faculties and disciplines to build a world-class research environment that underpins research excellence in UNSW’s areas of research strength.

Applicants must be members of the academic staff of the University, and on the payroll of the University or have been formally appointed according to established processes for Conjoint or Clinical appointments for Area Health Services or Affiliated Research Institutes. Applications are submitted through, and ranked by, Faculties with the final decision on funding being made by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) in consultation with Deans and Associate Deans (Research).

The closing date for applications (for funding in the following year) is set by each Faculty, and is typically prior to the end of October. Faculty Deans submit their ranked list to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) by the due date, and decisions are released typically in late November/early December, in order to take into account the outcomes of external ARC and NHMRC major equipment schemes that are generally announced in November.

CHANGE TO UNSW IT EMAIL POLICY

UNSW introduced an important change to email policy effective from 30th May 2015. Items in your ‘Deleted Items’ and ‘Junk E-Mail’ folders will automatically be deleted after 30 days.

It is good practice to check your ‘Junk E-mail’ folder regularly for legitimate emails that may have been captured, and only to use the ‘Deleted Items’ folder for items you do not need to access again.

If you have any questions, please email the UNSW IT Service Centre or phone 9385 1333.

MEDIA ADVICE & TRAINING

Need media advice or training? Looking to write an opinion piece or engage in a public debate via the media? About to publish some research but not sure if it’s newsworthy? The UNSW Media Office can help!

The UNSW Media Office focuses on promoting newsworthy research and other UNSW achievements through external media, UNSW Newsroom and key corporate publications.

Contact Dan Wheelahan - 9385 1933 or 0435 930 465

UNSW MEDICINE FACEBOOK PAGE

UNSW Medicine has recently launched a Facebook page as another form of communicating with staff, students, and the wider community.

Staff are encouraged to ‘like’ the page and if anyone has any suitable content please send to Emma O’Neill, Marketing and Communications Officer.

It’s a great way to share your news/photos/videos with an engaged global community.

Also, don’t forget our own Discipline of Paediatrics social media pages - Facebook and Twitter!
UNSW CITY2SURF TEAM

UNSW Health and Wellbeing have entered a team in this year’s City2Surf and have proudly partnered with Children’s Cancer Institute to raise funds.

UNSW Staff and Students are encouraged to join the team and as an incentive they’re offering a free UNSW T-shirt to the first 50 sign-ups!

How to enter:
1. Go to City2Surf webpage.
2. Click on “Race Centre” then click “Enter” in the drop-down tab.
3. Click “Enter Now” and fill in your email and create a password.
4. Enter your details. Under enter team details, tick yes.
5. Drop down list of teams “UNSW Wellbeing”. Team password: “Wellbeing”

Go to the UNSW Health and Wellbeing Facebook event page for more details.

SPHCM - BIOSTATISTICS SHORT COURSE

The School of Public Health & Community Medicine is running a short course in Biostatistics for Clinical Researchers, particularly those with no formal statistics training.

The focus is on understanding the appropriate use of statistical methods, the implications when underlying assumptions are not met, and how to interpret statistical results. Course material will be presented through examples and all statistical analyses will be performed by the course instructors.

Topics include: handling data; collecting data; study design; inference; sample size calculations. Register by 6th July 2015.

More Information

NHMRC PROJECT GRANTS

The outcomes of the NHMRC Not for Further Consideration (NFFC) process are expected to be released on 9th September 2015.

Applicants who have been placed on the NFFC list will be advised via email.

More Information

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES: INITIATION & APPROVAL

The Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network has published a new policy on how to initiate a quality improvement activity.

The policy is available on the SCHN Intranet.

The flowchart on page 9, is useful in determining the difference between QI and Research. The policy also explains that staff at SCH who do not have access to the CHARLI database can use a form to initiate their quality improvement activities.
Congratulations to the Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation and their supporters on yet another successful Gold Telethon. We are very proud of the efforts of all involved to raise over $5 million dollars for the Foundation.

The Discipline of Paediatrics, School of Women’s & Children’s have maintained a longstanding relationship with the Foundation and with Sydney Children’s Hospital, and as such our researchers and clinicians stand to benefit from the distribution of funds resulting from such initiatives as the Gold Telethon.

Funds raised in 2014, allowed the reintroduction of SCHF Seed Funding Grants - $20,000 awarded to six projects (recipients listed below), and a PhD scholarship (yet to be awarded).

**SCHF SEED FUNDING GRANTS**

The Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation received an outstanding response to the first call for applications for seed grants, in a number of years. 29 applications in total were received from allied health, nursing, hospital science and medical professionals within the hospital.

The high quality research proposals spanned all six [UNSW Paediatric Research Streams](http://www.unsw.edu.au/pediatrics), a number of hospital departments and a diverse range of subjects. The Foundation faced a difficult task awarding the funding, and thanked those researchers who volunteered their time to score the applications and those who were members of their grant review panel.

**SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS:**

**DR YVONNE BELESSIS**
Sensitive minimally-invasive biomarkers of early lung disease in young children with Cystic Fibrosis.

**MS ANITA MUDGE**
What’s happening inside the shoe: Measuring in-shoe effects of ankle-foot orthoses in children with Cerebral Palsy.

Anita was successful in securing funding via the Paedriatro Initiative and subsequently relinquished her SCHF Seed Grant. Congratulations!

**DR KEITH OOI**
Early feeding in acute pancreatitis in children - a randomised control trial.

**MS LOUISE PARRY**
Opiate analgesics and post-traumatic amnesia in school-aged children.

**DR SYLVIE SHEN**
Ex vivo expansion of cytolitic natural killer cells in combination immune therapy for relapsed and refractory paediatric solid tumour

**DR VALERIE WILSON**
Develop an evidence based model of care to improve utilisation of nitrous oxide for procedural pain management within two outpatient departments at the SCH.

**WELL DONE EDWIN!**

For those of you who tuned into Millionaire Hot Seat on Monday night, you would’ve noticed a number of familiar faces trying their luck in a special Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation Hot Seat.

Our own, Conjoint Associate Professor Edwin Kirk took out a top prize of $100,000 which the show matched in a donation to the Foundation.

Other participants included, a parent of a SCH patient; an SCH volunteer; SCH nurses; and an SCH occupational therapist.

We hope you all enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to contribute to the hospital outside of your normal roles.

Our own Prof Jaffe has first hand experience of the bright lights of the show, featuring on the Gold Telethon special last year - although many of you will remember he didn’t do quite as well as Edwin!

**SCHF GRANT ASSESSORS**

Thank you all for volunteering your time to score the applications:

- Professor Chris Cowell
- Professor Maria Craig
- Professor Anne Cunningham
- Professor Richard Lock
- Conjoint Associate Professor Edwin Kirk
- Conjoint Associate Professor Charles Verge
- Dr Belamy Cheung
- Dr Nadine Kasparian
- Dr Sean Kennedy
- Ms Sally Whalen
WELCOME - NEW HIGHER DEGREE STUDENTS

The Discipline of Paediatrics would like to welcome students commencing their higher degree with us and Children's Cancer Institute (CCI) in Semester 1 2015.

We hope the first few months of your candidature have been exciting. We endeavour to support you in your research and appreciate the contribution you make to the paediatric research community.

DISCIPLINE OF PAEDIATRICS - PHD

Dr Tejaswi Kandula supervised by Dr Michelle Farrar, Dr Susanna Park, and A/Prof Arun Krishnan: *Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in the paediatric population: risk factors, assessment strategies and functional outcomes.*

Lauren Touyz supervised by Dr Claire Wakefield, A/Prof Richard Cohn, and Jennifer Cohen: *Improving lifestyle behaviours to prevent abnormal body composition, including obesity and metabolic complications in childhood cancer.*

DISCIPLINE OF PAEDIATRICS - MASTERS OF MEDICINE

Dr Preena Uppal supervised by Dr John Lawson and Dr Michael Cardamone: *Treatment adherence to guidelines: status epilepticus.*

CHILDREN'S CANCER INSTITUTE - PHD

Maedeh Darzianiazizi supervised by Dr Tao Liu and Dr Daniel Carter: *The role of protein arginine N-methyltransferase 5 in neuroblastoma.*

Christine Gana supervised by Dr Jamie Fletcher, Prof Michelle Haber, and Denise Yu: *Multidrug Resistance Protein 1 in tumour cell migration and metastasis.*

Together with your supervisors, co-supervisors, and other support personnel in your institutes / centres / departments, we would like to remind you that the Head of Discipline of Paediatrics (Prof Adam Jaffe), Postgraduate Coordinator (Prof Richard Lock), Student Services Officer (Melinda Bresolin) and Research Manager (Samantha McFedries) – amongst other roles in the School of Women’s and Children’s Health, are available to provide additional support.

There is also a wealth of services available to you on the UNSW Kensington Campus.

As well as assisting you, we also want to celebrate your achievements so please keep us informed of any manuscripts you have published, conferences or other events where you present, awards you receive etc. We also encourage you to become involved with and attend School activities and events, that will be advertised from time-to-time.

HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Are you considering Higher Degree Research and want to know if you are eligible to apply?

Have you been approached by a prospective student seeking a supervisor, and want to know if they are eligible to apply?

The UNSW HDR Self-Assessment Tool is designed to provide prospective students with an indication of their admission eligibility and competitiveness for a scholarship into a Postgraduate Research Program (Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Masters by Research).

It is highly recommended you complete this tool and consider the output before continuing with the application process. Using your official transcripts and research experience for your responses, the tool will provide you with one of the following indicative recommendations:

- Based on your submitted marks you may be eligible for admission and likely to be competitive for a scholarship
- Based on your submitted marks you may be eligible for admission but unlikely to be competitive for a scholarship
- Based on your submitted marks you may not be eligible for admission and will not be competitive for a scholarship

Please note the self assessment tool does not replace the actual admission assessment and scholarship scoring processes.

To access the tool please [click here](#)
The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences was established in June last year with the goal of providing an impartial and authoritative voice for healthcare informed by evidence and expert advice.

A core task of the Academy will be to nurture a strong Mentorship Program, to promote academic medicine and translational health and medical sciences in Australia. As the Academy grows, its role will expand to provide independent advice to government, industry and the community on issues relating to evidence based medical practice and medical research.

We were delighted to learn that Professor Michelle Haber from Children's Cancer Institute was inducted as a Fellow of the Academy earlier this year.

Professor Haber is an internationally renown leader in the field of child cancer research, particularly in the area of drug resistance in neuroblastoma.

Other Fellows from UNSW and affiliated medical research institutes include:

- Professor Helen Christensen, Director, Black Dog Institute
- Professor David Cooper, Scientia Professor of Medicine and Director, The Kirby Institute
- Professor John Eisman, Director of Clinical Translation and Advanced Education, Bone Biology Division, Garvan Institute of Medical Research
- Professor Robert Graham, Executive Director, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute
- Professor Glenda Halliday, NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow & Professor of Neuroscience, UNSW Medicine & Neuroscience Research Australia
- Professor Stephen Lord, Senior Principal Research Fellow, Neuroscience Research Australia
- Professor John Mattick, Executive Director, Garvan Institute of Medical Research
- Professor John Myburgh, Director Critical Care & Trauma Division, St George Hospital, University of New South Wales, The George Institute for Global Health
- Professor Peter Schofield, Executive Director & CEO, Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA)
- Professor Maree Teesson, Director, NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

The launch of a mentorship programme, pairing health and medical researchers together, one-on-one; will be the primary role of the Academy over the next few years. Mentors will provide independent advice and support in career development, succession planning and leadership advancement.

To learn more about the Academy, please visit the website or read the factsheet provided by Professor Ian Frazer, President in his March newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

- AGM & Scientific Meeting, Tuesday 6th October 2015
- Mentorship Day, Wednesday 7th October 2015
AN EVENING WITH UNSW CENTRE FOR BIG DATA RESEARCH IN HEALTH

The Discipline of Paediatrics was thrilled to host Professor Louisa Jorm and the UNSW Centre for Big Data Research in Health in an informative evening at Sydney Children’s Hospital in early April.

Professor Jorm and a number of other researchers from the CBDRH, gave presentations on the new Centre launched on 15th April, the work they are currently engaged in, and the importance of big data research.

Researchers from the Discipline of Paediatrics also presented, highlighting our strengths and how we can contribute to and utilise the work of the CBDRH.

Feedback received on the evening was commendable, and since then a number of collaborative relationships have been forged. Thank you to Professor Jorm, her team, and our own researchers for making the evening such a success!

UNSW PAEDIATRIC RESEARCH WEEK 2015

UNSW Paediatric Research Week has been scheduled for 16th-20th November 2015; the dates have been set to coincide with the special Sydney Children's Hospital Grand Rounds Independent Learning Project (ILP) Awards.

This will be the third year the Discipline of Paediatrics has held Research Week and due to the experience and lessons learnt from the previous years, may see a slight format change for 2015.

It has been proposed by Professor Richard Lock, Postgraduate Coordinator for the Discipline of Paediatrics, that a multi-day symposium be developed to enable higher degree students to present.

In previous years Research Week has culminated in the UNSW Paediatric Research Showcase on the Friday however this year, the Tow Research Awards have been scheduled for Friday 20th November therefore to support and complement this, the Showcase will be restructured. Research Week will promote and encourage researchers to submit abstracts for the Tow Prize.

The ILP Awards will remain relatively unchanged, however the recipient of the Margaret Dance Honours Prize for 2014 will be invited to present their research. The Margaret Dance Prize is awarded retrospectively; therefore the recipient would have completed their research with the Discipline of Paediatrics in 2014.

The Research Week Working Group has reconvened for 2015 and held a very successful first meeting to discuss these changes and their implications.

At present, a model of what Research Week will look like is being developed and more details will be available in September.

For now though, please put Research Week in your diaries: 16th-20th November 2015

EVENTS

8th July 2015

Cleaning & Exploring your data with Open Refine:
Open Refine is a powerful free tool for exploring, normalising and cleaning up datasets. In this tutorial we’ll work through the various features of Refine, including importing data, faceting, clustering, and calling into remote APIs, by working on a fictional but plausible humanities research project.

Data Visualisation with Google Fusion Tables:
This two hour workshop introduces Google Fusion Tables and uses a practical example whereby participants create a “heat map” of NSW highlighting crime hotspots by drawing together geospatial data containing Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries together with NSW Crime statistics to illustrate the power of Fusion Tables.

Who is this course for?
• Work with large data sets
• Want to convey their research hypotheses/outcomes to lay readers

10th July 2015

Excel Fu:
This course is designed to enhance the skills of researchers to utilise many of the advanced features of Excel which may up until now have remained a mystery. Excel contains many powerful features which can be used to do such varied tasks as: importation of research data, data interrogation, performing complex computations and statistical analysis, SQL querying, VB scripting and graphing and visualisation of the data.
Earlier this year we offered two distinct events to improve the experiences of our current and prospective ILP and Honours students.

For students commencing their research year in 2015 we held an orientation introducing them to the Discipline of Paediatrics and key people who can help throughout their year – namely:

Deborah Broder & Melinda Bresolin – Student Services Team  
IT log in, EMR access, and SCH ID cards

Dr Sean Kennedy – Director of Education  
Support and mentorship in addition to that provided by Supervisors and Co-Supervisors

Kylie-Ann Mallitt - Biostatistician

Samantha McFedries - Research Manager  
Support with completing regulatory requirements – i.e. ethics, governance, and hospital access; finding a supervisors, and coordination of the ILP Awards.

Dr Sean Kennedy also provided a brief lecture on conducting a literature review.

For prospective students, who would be commencing in 2016 we held an information evening introducing them to our supervisors and potential projects available.

Supervisors spoke about their research and members of their teams / departments available to supervise in 2016, their expectations of students, clinical exposure and meetings students are welcome to attend, and resources available. After the presentations, students were encouraged to approach supervisors to discuss projects in more detail and ask any questions that may have arisen through the presentations.

This is the second year we have held this event for prospective students and feedback from students and supervisors has been that it is more effective then dealing with the annual barrage of emails.

We are continually looking for ways to further support our ILP and Honours students and supervisors, and also encourage more conjoints to consider taking up a supervisory role.

2015 has proved to be a bumper year for ILP and Honours students, with 38 currently completing their research year within the Discipline. This has provided an early indication that our efforts are paying off.

Thirty students annually are invited by UNSW Medicine to undertake Honours, and we are delighted that 7 of these are being supervised within the Discipline of Paediatrics.

Although applications to supervise in 2016 have already closed, we invite any prospective supervisors to contact Samantha McFedries, Research Manager if they would like to have a student in 2017.

More Information on ILP.

More Information on Honours.

EVENTS

Post PhD Careers Series - Writing. Competitive Resumes and Addressing Selection Criteria:  
This practical seminar will explore writing competitive resumes and addressing selection criteria for academic, research and industry positions. Suitable for higher degree research students and early career researchers who were awarded their PhD within the past 4 years.

14th July 2015

Animal Care and Ethics Refresher Course:  
UNSW Animal Care and Ethics Committee is offering a free half-day Animal Ethics course for researchers who have previously attended a course or who have more than 10 years’ experience in animal based research.

15th-17th July 2015

Biostatistics for Clinical Researchers Short Course  
This course is designed to be a fun introduction to the appropriate application and interpretation of biostatistical concepts for people working in clinical research with no formal statistical training.

16th-17th July 2015

Animal Care and Ethics Course:  
The Animal Care and Ethics course is open to internal staff (UNSW and affiliated organisations e.g. NeuRA, Liverpool Hospital, St George Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, CCI) as well as non-affiliated organisations.

17th July 2015

Post PhD Careers Series - Interview Success:  
In this practical seminar you will learn how to prepare for job interviews for academic, research and industry positions. Suitable for higher degree research students and early career researchers who were awarded their PhD within the past 4 years.

5th August 2015

Lowy Cancer Research Centre seminar:  
A/Prof Mark Dawson will present on “Epigenetics in the haematological malignancies.” A/Prof Dawson is head of the Cancer Epigenetic Laboratory at the Peter Mac Cancer Centre. His research focuses on understanding the role of epigenetic regulators in normal and malignant haematopoiesis with an aim to identify novel therapies for the treatment of blood cancers.
IN MEMORIAM DR JOHN MORTON

The Discipline of Paediatrics was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr John Morton, conjoint Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Respiratory Medicine at Sydney Children’s Hospital.

Dr Morton maintained a conjoint appointment with UNSW from 1980 - giving an overwhelming 35 years to paediatric teaching and research on this campus.

Dr Morton was a champion of respiratory medicine, establishing the SCH respiratory service and the Cystic Fibrosis clinic.

Sydney Children’s Hospital held a memorial in celebration of Dr Morton’s life on Wednesday 24th June during Grand Rounds. Attendees were invited to wear a bow tie in remembrance of Dr Morton.

Dr Morton was a valued member of the UNSW community and he will be missed. Our sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues at this sad time.

KEY PUBLICATIONS:


Professor Bill Ledger, Head of School joined Mr Mark McCrindle in an interesting, thought provoking and at times humorous UNSW Medicine Dean’s Lecture Series held on 1st June 2015.

Beyond the age of 40 the success rate for IVF has barely improved since the 1970’s. With people delaying having children, the race is on to find ways to assist couples with their reproduction into later life.

Professor Ledger is the Head of Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Head of School, School of Women’s & Children’s Health. He is an internationally renowned fertility specialist and gynaecologist working at The Royal Hospital for Women and with IVFAustralia.

Mr Mark McCrindle is a Social researcher, demographer and trends analyst.

Together they discussed the influences that are leading us to delay parenthood – and what science can do about it through egg freezing, fertility testing and, ultimately, reversing the chromosomal changes to eggs as women age.

The lecture was convened by Associate Professor Elisabeth Murphy who gave her own take both professionally and personally on the issues being raised by Prof Ledger and Mr McCrindle. Associate Professor Murphy presented at the inaugural UNSW Paediatric Research Week in 2013.

One of Mr McCrindle’s memorable quips of the evening was describing a sub-generation within Gen-Y who remain longer in the family home then previous generations as KIPPERS – Kids in Parents Pockets Eroding Retirement Savings. I’m sure many of you can identify, or will do, in coming years.

This Dean’s Lecture was also the last one hosted by Professor Peter Smith who will step down from his position as UNSW Medicine Dean in July. Professor Smith will be succeeded by Professor Rodney Phillips.

Did you miss the Dean’s Lecture Series “The ticking clock: Demographic change and future families”

The full lecture is now available on the UNSW Medicine website.

For those who attended, could please you take a few moments to provide UNSW Medicine with feedback in their Dean’s Lecture Series Survey.

CONNECTING PATIENTS WITH CLINICAL TRIALS

An Australian-first website to connect more patients with clinical trials was launched on International Clinical Trial Day - 20th May 2015.

It is envisaged that the new website will help boost patient participation following data that indicated just under half of all phase three clinical trials conducted in Australia did not meet their patient recruitment targets.

The website provides easy access to information about specific trials, inclusion and exclusion criteria, participant burden and chief investigator contact details.

Read the NHMRC Press Release.

Visit the Australian Clinical Trials website.
Achievements over the past 12 months include:

- Completion of GCP training by all Principal Investigators
- Development of:
  - A standardised Trial Master File for electronic and investigator site files
  - A standardised Schedule of Fees model for streamlining costs for conducting commercial, collaborative and investigator-initiated studies within the Network
  - A centralised visit tracker to capture all participant visits for studies in conduct, to ensure compliance as mandated by the protocol and to track total number of participants involved in research
- Two new Research Policies within the Network: How to Create Procedures and Confidentiality Disclosure Agreements
- Increased clinic space within the Outpatients department for conducting concurrent study visits on Monday and Tuesday
- Authorisation to conduct early phase clinical trials requiring inpatient bed stay
- Budget compliance and management, includes tracking of payments received for work done and invoicing
- Workforce planning and development
- Conduct of performance appraisals for CRC staff, including measurable position responsibilities and goals associated with personal development and career plan

Activities under development:

- Business plan
- Development and maintenance of Research Policies and Procedures, and provision of training to all Study Coordinators.
- Promotion of the CRC and recruiting studies via social media (SCHN intranet and internet, SCH Foundation Facebook page, and UNSW SW&CH internet and Facebook page)
- Fundraising events
UNSW's People & Culture Development Unit have now released their Semester Two workshop calendar.

These workshops have been specifically chosen to support staff in their contribution to the development of the Vice-Chancellor's Green Paper and UNSW's ongoing strategic objectives.

All workshops will run from 9am to 4pm and will be held on Kensington Campus.

**SENIOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**
- **Strategic Thinking & Operational Planning** - 29 & 30 July (2 days)
- **Leading & Managing Projects** - 31 August & 1 September (2 days)
- **Leading & Managing Change** - 13 & 14 October (2 days)
- **Tough Conversations** - 30 October (1 day)

Suitable for: Professional staff Levels 10+ and Academic Staff Level C+

Registration: via myUNSW Training Registration by selecting 'Leadership Development' from the course type menu.

**FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
- **Operational Planning** - 5 & 6 August (2 days)
- **Project Management Fundamentals** - 2 & 3 September (2 days)
- **Foundations of Leadership** - 17 & 18 September (2 days)
- **Facilitating Change in your Work Unit** - 29 September (1 day)
- **Leading High Performing Teams** - 3 & 24 November (2 days)
- **Tough Conversations** - 10 November (1 day)

Suitable for: Professional staff (HEW Levels 6 - 9) and Academic staff (Levels A and B), however some variance may apply. Participants must be currently supervising staff, regularly deputise for their manager, or on a developmental pathway to management that is preferably within a 12 month time frame.

Registration: via myUNSW Training Registration by selecting 'Management Development' from the course type menu.

**PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

We have released a recommended catalogue of Lynda.com online training resources to support staff in the development of their professional skills in areas such as:

- **Conflict resolution and negotiation**
- **Stress management**
- **Resilience**, and
- **Time management**

Suitable for: All staff

**HUMAN RESOURCES ESSENTIALS**
- **Welcome to UNSW Australia** – 2 July, 19 August, 27 November
- **Recruitment & Selection** - Online
- **Recruitment & Selection: The Interview** – 8 July, 8 October
- **The Responsible Employee** – Online

Suitable for: All staff

Registration: myUNSW Training Registration by selecting 'HR Essentials' from the course type menu.
The School of Women’s & Children’s Health website contains a list of funding opportunities available throughout the year.

Please remember:

- All applications from UNSW staff & students must be submitted via the Grants Management Office (GMO). Carlie Robinson is the Grants Officer for the Discipline of Paediatrics.
- Non-ACGR scheme applications must comply with UNSW’s policy for pricing and indirect costs.
- The internal deadline for submission of grant applications to the GMO is 2 weeks prior to the external deadline. This timeframe allows the GMO to ensure applications comply with UNSW policies and sponsor requirements.
- Many philanthropic Funds and Foundations provide funding for university research. In cases where research grant funding is awarded via an advertised competitive application round, the submission of applications is managed through the GMO, which will also manage the grant once awarded. See ‘managing research income from philanthropic funding schemes’ for further information.
- All applications that require signature from Head of School - Prof Bill Ledger, need to be submitted to his Personal Assistant (Jana Stewart), five days prior to the external deadline.

## ALL STREAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Internal Close</th>
<th>External Close</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JULY</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humpty Dumpty Foundation</td>
<td>Equipment Grant</td>
<td>29-Jun-15</td>
<td>13-Jul-15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AUGUST</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian-American Fulbright Commission</td>
<td>Postgraduate, Postdoctoral, Professional, Senior scholarships.</td>
<td>18-Jul-15</td>
<td>1-Aug-15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The CASS Foundation</td>
<td>Travel Awards</td>
<td>14-Aug-15</td>
<td>28-Aug-15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca L. Cooper</td>
<td>Medical Research Grants</td>
<td>18-Aug-15</td>
<td>1-Sep-15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Markets Foundation for Children</td>
<td>Research Grants</td>
<td>16-Sep-15</td>
<td>30-Sep-15</td>
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</table>
### CANCER

#### JULY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Internal Close</th>
<th>External Close</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Australasian College of Physicians</strong></td>
<td>Arnott Research Entry Scholarship</td>
<td>30-Jun-15</td>
<td>14-Jul-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide stipend support further research into the causes and prevention of cancer.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>1 year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Rotary Health</strong></td>
<td>Funding Partner PhD Scholarships</td>
<td>3-Jul-15</td>
<td>17-Jul-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD scholarship to undertake research into paediatric brainstem tumours.</td>
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#### SEPTEMBER

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<tr>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
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<th>External Close</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leukemia &amp; Lymphoma Society</strong></td>
<td>Career Development Program</td>
<td>18-Aug-15</td>
<td>1-Sep-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Special Fellow in Clinical Research</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Scholar in Clinical Research</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Scholar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fellow</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$55,000-$110,000</td>
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### NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

#### JULY

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<th>Funder</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
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<th>External Close</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Heart Foundation</strong></td>
<td>NSW CVRN Research Development Project Grants</td>
<td>19-Jun-15</td>
<td>3-Jul-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulate, fund and support new collaborative research proposals relevant to cardiovascular disease, including stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Australasian College of Physician</strong></td>
<td>Jacquet Research Entry Scholarships in Nephrology</td>
<td>30-Jun-15</td>
<td>14-Jul-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide stipend for Fellows or trainees in nephrology to undertake a research higher degree. Projects may be in basic, clinical, epidemiological or public health aspects of nephrology.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Rotary Health</strong></td>
<td>Funding Partner PhD Scholarships</td>
<td>3-Jul-15</td>
<td>17-Jul-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD scholarship to undertake research into gastroparesis. PhD scholarship to improving long term outcomes of young children who are kidney transplant recipients.</td>
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#### AUGUST

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<tr>
<th>Funder</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gastroenterology Society of Australia</strong></td>
<td>Olympus / St Marks Endoscopy Fellowship</td>
<td>17-Aug-15</td>
<td>31-Aug-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This Fellowship is available for young Australian gastroenterologists seeking further training in advanced endoscopy, to be undertaken at the Wolfson Unit for Endoscopy at St Mark’s Hospital, London.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$70,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gastroenterology Society of Australia</strong>&lt;br&gt;Research grant to advance understanding of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and its molecularly targeted treatment strategies in order to provide improved care to patients with IBD. $75,000</td>
<td>Abb Ve Clinical IBD Research Grant</td>
<td>17-Aug-15</td>
<td>31-Aug-15</td>
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| **POPULATION HEALTH**

**JULY**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Australasian College of Physician</strong>&lt;br&gt;To provide support and to further research into improving outcomes for spinal injury patients. $45,000</td>
<td>The David Prast Research Entry Scholarship</td>
<td>29-Jun-15</td>
<td>14-Jul-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Australasian College of Physician</strong>&lt;br&gt;The intent of the Scholarship is to provide stipend support to encourage and support the promotion of research in the field of sexual health medicine. $30,000</td>
<td>RACP Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine Research Entry Scholarship</td>
<td>29-Jun-15</td>
<td>14-Jul-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Australasian College of Physician</strong>&lt;br&gt;To provide a stipend for younger Fellows and trainees in Sleep Medicine. Projects may be in basic, clinical epidemiological or public health aspects of Sleep Medicine.</td>
<td>ResMed Foundation/Sleep Health Foundation Research Entry Scholarship</td>
<td>29-Jul-15</td>
<td>14-Jul-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Rotary Health</strong>&lt;br&gt;- PhD scholarship to research childhood bullying or youth suicide.&lt;br&gt;- PhD scholarship to research epidermolysis bullosa.</td>
<td>Funding Partner PhD Scholarships</td>
<td>3-Jul-15</td>
<td>17-Jul-15</td>
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**AUGUST**

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<tr>
<th>Funder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Frank Guggenheim Foundation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Support to increase understanding of the causes, manifestations, and control of violence and aggression. $15,000-$40,000</td>
<td>Research Grants</td>
<td>18-Jul-15</td>
<td>1-Aug-15</td>
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</table>

**RARE DISEASES & GENOMICS**

**JULY**

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<tr>
<th>Funder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Ataxia Foundation</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 year seed money grants of up to $15,000 but promising proposals up to a maximum of $30,000 will be considered for early or pilot phases of studies and ongoing investigations.</td>
<td>Research Grant</td>
<td>30-Jun-15</td>
<td>15-Jul-15</td>
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**AUGUST**

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<th>Funder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Ataxia Foundation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Research into any form of ataxia or spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA). $35,000-$50,000</td>
<td>Young Investigator Awards</td>
<td>20-Jul-15</td>
<td>3-Aug-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Care-for-Rare Foundation</strong>&lt;br&gt;To encourage young researchers to continue their research into rare diseases. $50,000</td>
<td>Science Award</td>
<td>31-Jul-15</td>
<td>15-Aug-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Ataxia Foundation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Research into any form of ataxia or spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA). $35,000-$100,000</td>
<td>Pioneer SCA Translational Research Award; Translational Research Award; Fellowship Awards</td>
<td>3-Aug-15</td>
<td>17-Aug-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motor Neurone Disease Australia</strong>&lt;br&gt;$100,000</td>
<td>Grants-in-Aid; Postdoctoral Research Fellowships</td>
<td>14-Aug-15</td>
<td>28-Aug-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUBLICATIONS

Publications authored by UNSW Paediatrics academics, conjoints, & students from April 2015 or In Press.

If your publication is available online but is missing from these pages, please email Samantha McFedries

CANCER


HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH


Non-Communicable Diseases


Rheumatology


**POPULATION HEALTH**


