Front cover: A Peninsula Health research team is adding another piece to the puzzle in understanding the effects of irradiation of tissue. This knowledge has the potential to improve patient outcomes in reconstructive surgery following radiotherapy.

Pictured: Mr David Hunter-Smith (centre) Deputy Clinical Director of Surgery - Research and Training, with Katrina Simms, Research Assistant and Dr Ramin Shayan, Plastic Surgery Registrar.
Introduction, Chief Executive

The 2009 Research Report marks a milestone in research at Peninsula Health. It highlights research achievements and innovations, celebrates the Health Service’s progress as a research active organisation and introduces the first permanent appointment to the position of Director of Research.

As well as participation in large multi-site research projects, Peninsula Health staff are initiating an increasing amount of their own research. This research will provide Peninsula Health patients with improved healthcare utilising new treatments and new aids to diagnosis.

In August 2008, Associate Professor Terry Loughnan accepted the position of Acting Director of Research and remained in this position until the Research Week 2008 activities were completed. We thank Terry for his assistance and leadership during this period. In April 2009 Associate Professor John Botha was permanently appointed to the position and is providing research leadership to Peninsula Health’s Research Program.

During the past year, in conjunction with Monash University, three new appointments have been made to joint research-focussed positions in Nursing, Mental Health Nursing and Physiotherapy. A further Peninsula Health appointment was made in the Department of Surgery. The purpose of these positions is to encourage and facilitate research. Greater detail in regard to these roles is provided on pages 8-11.

The Medical Oncology Unit has been offered an increasing number of commercially sponsored early-phase drug trials. Although Peninsula Health does not currently have the facilities to undertake First in Human Trials (Phase Ia) the Oncology Unit is recognised as having the appropriate resources and expertise to undertake Phase Ib and Phase II trials, especially in haematological malignancies.

This year also saw the commencement of Peninsula Health’s first Research Series – a methods training program designed and conducted by staff from Peninsula Health and Monash University. This has been an exciting initiative to provide staff with the skills and support to design, undertake and publish their own research.

In early 2009, Ms Liza Newby, a Board Director who has chaired the Human Research and Ethics Committee (HREC) since 2004, resigned. Liza oversaw many innovations in the ethical review of research and recruitment and training of committee members as well as the provision of more senior administrative support to the Committee. We would like to thank Liza for her outstanding contribution to this Committee. Ms Diana Ward, Deputy Chair Board of Directors and HREC member since 2006 has been appointed by the Board as the new HREC Chair.

Peninsula Health is constantly moving forward in its research commitment and a review of activities will be conducted before the end of 2009. This will assist in identifying the resources and opportunities for further developing and embedding our research culture and capacity.

Community participation is an integral part of the research process and the community members of the Human Research and Ethics Committee give their time freely to provide valuable input and insight. The large attendance at the first Peninsula Health Public Research Forum also gave a clear indication that the community wishes to be informed about and involved in research and its outcomes.

The Research Report 2009 has a new format, focussing on new trials and projects, as well as research innovations and activities carried out right across the Health Service. The collaboration across specialties and disciplines results in enhanced research and better healthcare outcomes for the community.

Dr Sherene Devanesen
Chief Executive

Peninsula Health Research Report 2009
On behalf of the Board of Directors I am pleased to deliver my first annual report as Chair of the Peninsula Health Human Research and Ethics Committee. The Committee is comprised of dedicated Peninsula Health Board Directors, staff, and members of the community we serve. It meets monthly to ensure that research involving human participants, for which Peninsula Health is responsible, is reviewed and monitored in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (NHMRC 2007).

Our Chair for the last four years was Ms Liza Newby, a fellow Board Director who resigned from the Peninsula Health Board of Directors in early 2009. Liza was instrumental in implementing many new initiatives in regard to the operation of the Human Research and Ethics Committee including a wide-ranging process review, the establishment of a HREC Secretariat, improved orientation and resources for Committee members and a standardised review guide.

During the year we farewelled Rev Alan Collins, our minister of religion, Mr David Harris, a lay member and Dr Steve Macfarlane, a mental health researcher. Alan and David contributed greatly to the functioning of the Committee and Steve provided invaluable expertise in consideration of research in mental health.

Rev Andrew Constance, a retired navy chaplain, Dr Ashley Webb, an anaesthetist and active researcher, and Dr Ravi Tiruvoipati, an advanced trainee in Intensive Care, were welcomed to the Committee. Our new Director of Research, Associate Professor John Botha has also joined the Committee, strengthening the link between researchers and the Human Research and Ethics Committee.

Several education sessions have been held over the past year. A seminar led by Associate Professor Lynn Gillam from The University of Melbourne and Dr Craig Fry was held at Frankston Hospital in February. A number of members also attended a seminar on genetic testing conducted by Cabrini Health HREC. The Research Series is being recorded and will be made available to HREC members.

In 2008/09 the Committee reviewed 43 submissions, of which 26 were drug trials primarily in the areas of oncology, mental health and gastroenterology. The remaining 17 submissions were predominantly from our own staff, students or staff of Monash University. A further 19 negligible risk projects and quality activities were approved by the Executive Sponsor Research, Dr Susan Sdrinis.

It is expected that the introduction of streamlined ethical review for multi-site research in Victoria, towards the end of 2009, will impact on the workload of the HREC.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee and the Methods Review Panel which are integral to the Peninsula Health research ethics review process.

The Drugs and Therapeutics Committee undertakes scientific and safety review of commercially sponsored and investigator initiated drug trials. It is chaired by Dr Ian Carney, Clinical Director of Medicine and convened and supported by the Pharmacy Department, who liaise closely with the Human Research and Ethics Committee Secretariat.

The Methods Review Panel undertakes methodological review of single-site research with particular emphasis on ensuring that the research is designed using methods appropriate for achieving the aims of the proposal and that the research is justifiable in terms of its potential benefit. Panel members also play a role in mentoring novice researchers.

One of our long-standing panel members, Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil, passed away in 2008. I would like to acknowledge his great contribution to the panel.

Associate Professor Richard Newton and Mr Van Le Blanc left the panel in the last year, both of whom also contributed greatly as members. The panel was successful in recruiting three new members: Mr Nigel Broughton, Associate Professor Ernie Butler, and Dr Ian Munro who will join Dr Gary Braun, who has been on the panel since 2005.

The Board is appreciative of the commitment of both our community and staff members who give generously of their time to this important process and I look forward to working with the Committee in the year to come.
Director of Research

I am pleased and privileged to present the 2009 Research Report. This Report will focus on research highlights across the Health Service and will conclude with presentations and publications by our staff.

As a teaching hospital and provider of tertiary specialist services, it is essential that research remains integral to our practice as we strive to deliver outstanding healthcare.

There has been considerable progress in research activities across Peninsula Health over the past decade and there is much to accomplish in the future. With the redevelopment of Frankston Hospital underway, the infrastructure for conducting excellent clinical research will improve.

New researchers will be encouraged, and collaboration across all disciplines will foster excellence in clinical research. The essence of outstanding healthcare delivery is teamwork and this message should be sustained in our research activities. Research that translates into improved clinical practice and policy will be integral to the research strategy.

There have been substantial initiatives in the Research Program. The Research Series, consisting of a series of research workshops commenced in May. These workshops conducted by key research staff at Peninsula Health and Monash University are designed to take participants through an educational process for conducting health research.

Celebrating Research 2009 in November remains a highlight of the research calendar with allied health staff, nurses and registrars presenting their research.

The Peninsula Health Research Dinner concludes the Celebrating Research events. This year we are privileged to have Professor Jeffrey Lipman, Professor and Head of Discipline, Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, The University of Queensland School of Medicine and Director, Department of Intensive Care Medicine, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, to deliver the Jeremy Anderson Oration.

I am indebted to Dr Susan Sdrinis, Executive Sponsor Research, Lee-Anne Clavarino, Manager of the Research Program and Stacey Hendriks, Administrative Assistant, for their commitment to the program.

I would like to congratulate and commend all researchers whose work has made this publication possible. It remains laudable that we are able to recognise the many members of staff who have energetically devoted their time and intellect to their research endeavours.

I trust that this report will be both informative and inspirational, particularly to those who are yet to contribute to the large puzzle of medical science that constantly challenges us all.

Associate Professor John Botha
Director of Research
The Research Program was established in 2007. The Program:

› coordinates and convenes the Human Research and Ethics Committee and its associated Research Methods Review Panel. This includes providing appropriate orientation, training and continuing education for members.
› reviews insurance, indemnity and contract documentation associated with clinical trials (research governance).
› meets regularly with research coordinators.
› coordinates the Small Grants in Medical Research process.
› coordinates Celebrating Research competitions, events and associated activities.
› facilitates training and support for researchers.

In 2009, in response to needs communicated by Peninsula Health staff from various disciplines and departments, the Research Program facilitated the Research Series. The Series was designed by a small team comprising Melissa Bloomer, Nursing, Dr Leonie Oldmeadow, Physiotherapy, Professor Wendy Cross, Monash University, in conjunction with the staff of the Research Program. The Series has been well attended and all sessions have been recorded to ensure access to staff unable to attend. Feedback from participants has been positive and a more formal evaluation of the Series will be conducted when it is completed.

The Series outline is listed below.

**Getting Started**
Turning a clinical problem into a research question: Professor Jenny Keating
Literature review: Ms Sue Slade

**Quantitative Research Design**
Clinical trials and observational research: Associate Professor Elmer Villanueva
Operational definitions and outcome measures: Associate Professor Elmer Villanueva

**Qualitative Research Design**
Action research and phenomenology: Dr Heather Tan
Focus groups: Professor Debra Nestel

**Managing Research Projects**
Quantitative: Dr Beverley Copnell
Qualitative: Professor Wendy Cross

**Writing Research Proposals**
Quantitative: Associate Professor Elmer Villanueva
Qualitative: Professor Wendy Cross

**Research Ethics and Funding**
Human Research and Ethics Committee applications: Ms Lee-Anne Clavarino
Seeking research funding: Associate Professor John Botha

**Data Management**
Data collection and management: Associate Professor Cheryle Moss
Data analysis and conclusion: Dr Ted Brown

**Dissemination of Results**
Finalising and writing abstracts, articles and posters: Associate Professor John Botha
Publication, authorship and presentations: Mr David Hunter-Smith
Small Grants in Medical Research

Small Grants in Medical Research are awarded to assist Peninsula Health researchers.

During the 2008/09 financial year, four grants of up to $5000 were awarded. A further two are in progress. Details of some of these projects are highlighted later in the Report.

Funded:

Can cognitive-perceptual assessment scores predict the functional performance skills of adult clients who present with a stroke?
Allison Nairn, Occupational Therapy.

Evaluating the impact of an eLearning education tool in the healthcare setting: a pilot study.
Melissa Bloomer, Continuing Education and Development Unit.

Physiotherapy clinical education - the patients’ perspective.
Fiona Kent, Physiotherapy.

A strengthening exercise program for chronic kidney disease patients on haemodialysis: a pilot study.
Caroline Stapleton, Physiotherapy.

In progress:

Prothrombinex-VF in warfarin reversal: is adjunctive plasma infusion necessary?
Dr Leong Goh, Emergency Department.

The impact of appropriate and timely use of antimicrobial agents on patients’ outcomes in blood stream infections.
Dr Kavi Haji, Intensive Care Unit.

Research Week 2008

Symposia and Prizes

Registrar Research Prize 2008

First place: Dr Ravi Tiruvoipati
Early predictors of mortality in elderly patients with sepsis.

The aims of this project were to compare the characteristics and outcomes of septic elderly patients (>65 years) with younger patients (≤65 years) and identify factors during the first 24 hours of presentation that could predict elderly patients at increased risk of mortality.

The study identified that increased mortality in older patients appears to be due to physiological derangement rather than age or associated co-morbidities.

Second place: Dr Gagandeep Kaur
Retrospective study of cases of postpartum haemorrhage >1000ml from July 2007 to June 2008.

Third place: Dr Franco Schreve
The effectiveness of methoxyflurane procedural analgesia in adult emergency department patients.

Fourth place: Dr Paul McCallum
Oxygen supplementation of domestic CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) circuit.

Allied Health Research Prize 2008

First place: Sarah Chao
‘Don’t Clown Around’ - early IV to oral antibiotic switch campaign to optimise antibiotic prescribing.

The aim of this project was to implement and assess the impact of an early IV to oral antibiotics switch campaign with the aims of reducing unnecessary intravenous antibiotics use, improving patient care and assessing potential cost savings.

The ‘Don’t Clown Around’ campaign was carried out over a six-week period. Guidelines for appropriate IV to oral switch were established and publicised.

The campaign resulted in improved antibiotic prescribing and has shown to be an effective intervention in reducing unnecessary intravenous antibiotic usage.

Second place: Grace Cabatingan
Improving patient care for patients with dementia during hospital admission using The Lifestyle Interview tool.

Other allied health staff who presented were:

Belinda Berry: Clinical Response and Outreach Service.
Sue Davies: Debriefing amongst other strategies to reduce lymphoedema practitioner burnout.
Kate Fetterplace: Malnutrition screening of patients admitted to Peninsula Health Pre-Admission Clinic (PAC) undergoing upper and lower gastrointestinal surgery.
Celebrating and Rewarding Achievements

» Sharon Glass and Alison Lunt: Targeting pressure: the development of a pressure prevention and management model.
» Jane-Elise Healey: Teaching and learning at the same time: experiences of developing clinical educators.
» Peter Hough: Hip protector compliance following a trial before prescription in sub-acute, elderly inpatients.
» Alice Lam: ‘Real Smart’ with Alaris® GP smart infusion pump with Guardrails® safety software.
» Scott McGill: Agestrong, a targeted strength and balance program improves participant’s physical functioning.
» Caitlin Reid and Allison Nairn: Sony Eyetoy™ and Nintendo Wii™ in occupational therapy: client and therapist perspectives in a neurological sub-acute setting.
» Raisa Shaikh: Eating matters: protected meal times - an uninterrupted and supported meal service.
» Fiona Turnbull: Home enteral nutrition (HEN) program client satisfaction survey.

Nursing Research Prize 2008

First place: Melissa Bloomer
Medication error prevention.

The aims of this program were to improve patient safety, to prevent medication errors, to increase the nurses’ understanding of the responsibilities in medication administration and to improve nurses’ practice in relation to medication administration and adherence to clinical procedures.

The implementation of the medication safety education program has ensured better education for nurses, leading to safer patient care, improved systems, and a collaborative approach to the prevention of medication errors.

Second place: Kate Brown
Induction of labour of prolonged pregnancy - an audit of current practice.

Other nurses who presented were:
» Robin Digby: Transition from an outdated building to a new modern facility - an opportunity for a review of nursing practices.
» John Milroy: ICU liaison nurse - bridging the gaps.

Poster Display Competition 2008

There were two sections in this competition:

Best Scientific Poster:
First place: Dr Ravi Tiruvoipati, Mr George Somjen, Associate Professor John Botha
Predictors of outcome of ruptured aortic aneurysms in a metropolitan hospital.

Second place: Dr Ravi Tiruvoipati, David Lewis, Dr Nina Fowler, Associate Professor John Botha
High flow nasal oxygen versus high flow face mask oxygen in extubated patients; a randomised crossover trial.

Third Place: Sharon Glass, Alison Lunt
Targeting pressure: the development of a pressure prevention and management model.

People’s Choice Award:
First place: Sarah Jane Whittle, Sarah Ott, Danielle Surwald
The implementation of evidence-based developmental care plans on a level 2 special care nursery: a multidisciplinary approach.

Second place: Melissa Bloomer
Medication error prevention.

Third place: Robin Digby, Natalie Heriot
Transition from an outdated building to a new modern facility - an opportunity for a review of nursing practices.

Other posters displayed were:
» Noni Bourke: An investigation of radiation exposure during modified barium swallow evaluation using diagnostic quality imaging.
» Noni Bourke: Peninsula Health/Charles Sturt University Speech Pathology Student Unit: innovation in clinical education.
» Noni Bourke: Providing a supportive context for learning: mentoring new clinical educators.
Celebrating and Rewarding Achievements

Kate Fetterplace: Malnutrition screening of patients admitted to Peninsula Health Pre-Admission Clinic (PAC) undergoing upper and lower gastrointestinal surgery.

Peter Hough: Hip protector compliance following a trial before prescription in sub-acute, elderly inpatients.

Stella Koo: The acute postoperative pain (APOP) project at a Victorian metropolitan hospital.

David Lewis: The performance benefits of length of timing of a nap for nurses working nightshift: a literature review.

Jean Louw: Paediatric and neonatal simulation comes to Sim Centre Mount Eliza.

Scott McGill: Agestrong, a targeted strength and balance program improves participant’s physical functioning.

John Milroy: ICU liaison nurse - bridging the gaps.

Dr Kevin Ong: Early predictors of length of acute hospital stay and discharge destination.

Caitlin Reid and Allison Nairn: Sony Eyetoy™ and Nintendo Wii™ in occupational therapy: client and therapist perspectives in a neurological sub-acute setting.

Raisa Shaikh: Eating matters: protected meal times - an uninterrupted and supported meal service.

Raisa Shaikh: Pre-assessment priority tool: management of nutrition risk in elderly population in acute.

Vatt Sounthakith: Circuit training for neurological patients.

Caroline Stapleton: Agestrong - a collaborative model for delivery of targeted strength training to reduce falls risk.

Fiona Turnbull: Home enteral nutrition (HEN) program client satisfaction survey.

Fiona Turnbull: Peninsula Health enteral nutrition database (PHEND) evaluation.

Helen Whitelock: Outcome measures in aquatic physiotherapy.

Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration 2008

The fourth Peninsula Health Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration was attended by senior staff members and their guests at The Peninsula Country Golf Club in November 2008.

The Dinner is held to recognise the excellence and diversity of research being conducted at Peninsula Health, and also to honour the late Professor Jeremy Anderson, a former Board member, friend and mentor to many at Peninsula Health.

Professor Anderson was the former Director of the Monash Institute of Health Services Research before taking on the role of Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at The University of Melbourne.

Professor Anderson was honoured to have Professor Steve Wesselingh, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University, deliver the Jeremy Anderson Oration. Professor Wesselingh’s interesting and thought-provoking speech was entitled Integrate and Flourish: The nexus of teaching, research and healthcare delivery.

Public Research Forum

Research Week 2008 was launched with the Health Service’s first public forum on research. The Forum focussed on research initiatives in aged and adult mental health, and was held at Monash University Peninsula Campus, with close to 100 people attending. Guest speaker Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, Director, Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre, delivered an engaging presentation on Hormones and Mental Illness and discussed the research her team is currently engaged in. The evening was convened by Dr Susan Sdrinis, Executive Director Medical Services & Quality and Clinical Governance and Executive Sponsor Research and included presentations by Ms Liza Newby, Board Member and Chair, Human Research and Ethics Committee, Associate Professor Richard Newton, Clinical Director, Peninsula Health Mental Health Service, and Dr Steve Macfarlane, Director, Aged Psychiatry.

Associate Professor Richard Newton explained the importance of research in mental illness, which affects the lives of many people, their families and the community.

“In Victoria, one in four women and one in six men will suffer from depression at some stage in their lives. This community forum explored some of the contributing factors to these illnesses and focussed on research being undertaken locally, that aims to improve mental health services.”
Embedding a research culture

Four new research specific positions have been created in the last year in the areas of Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Physiotherapy and Surgery. The purpose of these positions is to foster, promote and coordinate research within their departments and to encourage and facilitate greater research collaboration with Monash University. An increase in the number of research projects from these departments has been noted.
Physiotherapy patients can expect better outcomes, treatments and reduced hospital stays due to research, support and education provided by Dr Leonie Oldmeadow.

Dr Leonie Oldmeadow, a senior clinician in musculoskeletal/orthopaedic physiotherapy, has recently joined Peninsula Health as the Physiotherapy Clinical Research Coordinator, a joint position with Monash University.

Leonie is a practising physiotherapist with more than 38 years experience and her research interests include fracture management, early discharge programs, and extended scope of practice for physiotherapists.

As part of her doctoral studies, Leonie developed a predictor tool to identify patients at risk of unnecessary hospital stays after hip or knee replacement surgery. Her tool has received much interest at national and international conferences and has since been taken up by several Australian and overseas health services.
Embedding a research culture

A further study, on behalf of DHS, on how to better manage waiting lists for specialist outpatient care in public hospitals, has been published in the Medical Journal of Australia.

Leonie’s vision for physiotherapy research at Peninsula Health is to help create opportunities for young clinicians to participate in research.

“My first goal here is to achieve a peer-reviewed publication with a Peninsula Health physiotherapist as primary author, hopefully the first of many more to come,” she said.

Leonie’s first goal has already been achieved with the publication of the article: A 4-item falls risk screening tool for subacute and residential aged care: the first step in falls prevention in the Australasian Journal of Ageing.
Embedding a research culture

Ian’s main research areas are in and around mental health care where he has supervised Honours, Masters and PhD students in successfully gaining their higher degrees. His own research has explored individuals who are marginalised and stigmatised either because of their mental illness or medical condition. His main research method is Hermeneutic Phenomenology, a qualitative research design which allows the researcher and reader to gain insights into the problem under investigation. His PhD explored The lived experience of gay men caring for their partners: living, loving and dying in the era of HIV/AIDS. This research was published in 2008 as a book.

Ian has also published other articles in and around mental health issues and is currently working with three other authors on a new undergraduate mental health nursing text which will be published in 2010. In 2007 Ian gained funding from beyondblue to investigate the barriers that mental health clients have when trying to gain employment. This research is available via the beyondblue website.

At Peninsula Health, Ian is currently supervising Xenia Jung, Research Trials Coordinator, in a DHS funded project exploring the new model of care at Peninsula Health Community Mental Health Service. Ian is also part of a team which has been funded to look at metabolic problems in clients with a mental illness, and exploring nursing research utilisation. Ian is also working with Fiona Reed the Nurse Unit Manager of 2West in devising research to explore the model of mental health care within an inpatient unit. This research will be a collaboration between Southern Health, Latrobe Regional Hospital and Peninsula Health.

Mr David Hunter-Smith, a senior member of Peninsula Health’s Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Maxillofacial Unit, has recently taken on a new role of Deputy Clinical Director of Surgery – Research and Training.

Mr David Hunter-Smith’s role will focus on developing a stronger academic focus and promoting and coordinating surgical research throughout the Health Service. Key collaborators include Monash University, and in particular the research team at the Gippsland Medical School. A new monthly research meeting has been established with excellent early results. The surgical team, which includes Mr Bob Spychal, Clinical Director of Surgery and Mr Ian Young, Deputy Clinical Director of Surgery, has ten projects underway.

David’s major practice interests are reconstructive microsurgery, hand surgery, public health surgery, medical education, and foreign aid surgery.

David has also had a major role with Interplast Australia and New Zealand, an organisation that provides plastic surgical aid to developing countries. He has developed and participated in AusAID Microsurgery training programs to Nepal and Bangladesh. He has delivered clinical and training aid programs to Bangladesh, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, and Tuvalu. He has completed his Masters in Public Health (International Health), which has broadened his outlook on surgery as a public health priority in developing countries.

David has a key role in the teaching of surgery to the new Gippsland Medical School students, and hopes to have biomedical science research students attached to the Department of Surgery in 2010.
In 2008/09 there has been an increase in the number of research projects initiated by Peninsula Health staff. A selection of these is highlighted and a listing of all research commenced in 2008/09 is provided on pages 26-29.
Moving forward

Emergency Department patients presenting with potentially life-threatening symptoms including chest pain and shortness of breath may benefit by receiving real-time diagnosis using bedside echocardiography in a new Peninsula Health study led by Dr Darsim Haji, Emergency Physician.

Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) is becoming increasingly available to emergency physicians as an assessment tool for patients who present with various undifferentiated and challenging clinical conditions, thereby facilitating real-time decision making.

These presentations include haemodynamically unstable patients with symptoms or conditions such as shock, chest pain and/or shortness of breath, and surgical patients with fractured neck of femur, a condition that is associated with high morbidity and mortality.

As the treatment for the above clinical presentations is almost always time critical, TTE at the bedside can assist in identifying cardiac pathologies which will impact on the treatment options available to the particular patient.

The aim of this project is to prospectively evaluate the role of bedside echocardiography to improve both accuracy in diagnosis and consequently provide better treatment of Emergency Department patients.

Darsim and his team aim to recruit 360 adult patients in the study comprising 4 cohorts of 90 patients each: patients with chest pain; patients with shortness of breath; patients with hypotension (blood pressure under 90 mmHg); and patients with fractured neck of femur.

The study will run for 24 months with analysis expected to be complete by December 2011.

A team of researchers from the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Unit is seeking to understand the process of tissue damage caused by radiotherapy, in a bid to improve reconstructive surgery outcomes for cancer patients.

It is well known that tissue healing is significantly impaired (up to 50 per cent) in irradiated tissues and in many situations this has a major impact on the outcome of reconstructive surgery.

The team, which includes Senior Plastic Surgeon, Mr David Hunter-Smith, Plastic Surgery Registrar, Dr Ramin Shayan, and Research Assistant/Data Manager, Katrina Simms, is using the facilities of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research to conduct immunohistochemical analysis of paraffin-embedded samples of surplus irradiated and normal tissue.

Principal Investigator, Mr David Hunter-Smith, says the team’s hypothesis is that irradiation of tissue creates a stiff extracellular matrix which impairs wound healing.

David said that there is emerging evidence that this stiff extracellular matrix may alter protein expression and organisation of cells, and that cell motility, inter-cellular adhesion and other cytoskeleton-dependent activities may also become impaired.
“This lack of functional lymphatic vasculature may also contribute to local lymphoedema that could compound these effects by further stiffening tissues. Apart from the clinical applications to performing surgery in these irradiated fields, it may be that an impaired lymphatic vasculature in a field may effectively ‘seal off’ recurrent cancer cells and prevent them from spreading to loco-regional lymph nodes,” he said.

David explained that cancer, spread from the primary site to lymph nodes and distant organs, is often the life threatening event in the natural history of human cancers.

“If we can more accurately understand, and control this spread then we can hope to make a significant contribution to the treatment of many cancers.”

One of the key adjuvant cancer treatments is controlled, targeted radiotherapy. The basis for treatment is that the rapidly replicating cancer cells are more susceptible to damage by radiotherapy than the surrounding normal tissue cells. However, one of the unavoidable side-effects of treatment with radiotherapy is damage to surrounding tissue.

The Peninsula Health team hope to establish an understanding at an immunohistochemical level of the effects of radiation on normal tissue.

“And thus add another piece to the puzzle in understanding the effects of irradiation in the treatment of cancer,” David said.

Renal patients would not normally expect to be greeted at their dialysis appointment by an exercise instructor. However, at the Haemodialysis Unit at Frankston Hospital, a team of researchers has launched a study to determine whether a program of strengthening exercise will have physical and psychological benefits for patients undergoing the rigours of dialysis.

This pilot study is led by senior physiotherapist Caroline Stapleton and includes Dean Gresle, Karen Edwards, Dr Leonie Oldmeadow, Anthea Hempel, Denise Pilkington and Dr Greg Perry.

“The importance of exercise in our daily lives is well known and expected benefits include improved fitness, endurance and sense of wellbeing. Patients with chronic kidney disease have even more reason to include regular exercise into their daily lives because of the activity restrictions imposed by their disease,” says Caroline Stapleton.

Patients requiring dialysis generally attend the Unit three times a week for around five hours each session, usually spending that time reading, watching television or sleeping.

Caroline said the project will allocate 36 chronic kidney disease patients receiving outpatient haemodialysis at Frankston Hospital to one of two groups.

“One group consisting of 18 patients will participate in a one-hour strengthening exercise program whilst at the Haemodialysis Unit and one group will receive usual care and act as a control group,” she explained.

“An Agestrong exercise leader will conduct the program and a physiotherapist will be responsible for the initial assessment. Outcome measures will be conducted at baseline, eight and 16 weeks,” she said.

“Our project aims to investigate the effect of introducing a strengthening exercise program on physical activity and functioning, lower limb strength, mood and quality of life of patients with chronic kidney disease. We will also investigate the level of support for and the feasibility of introducing a strengthening exercise program into the Haemodialysis Unit,” Caroline said.

Chronic kidney disease is a progressive condition and many patients are physically, psychologically and socially compromised. Muscle atrophy and weakness, functional deconditioning, mood changes and poorer quality of life are some of the consequences.

In recent years there has been an increasing interest in exercise as an appropriate intervention to modify these effects.

The researchers hope to complete the 16 week exercise program in October with data analysis and outcomes completed early in 2010. They will submit the results of the study for publication in Nephrology.
Collaboration

Peninsula Health staff have collaborated with each other and external organisations to facilitate research across the Health Service.
Peninsula Health Research Report 2009

Collaboration

Frankston Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit continues to participate in multi-centre trials and also initiate projects which will lead to improved patient care and maintain staff awareness of best practice in the management of the critically ill.

A team of Peninsula Health researchers, led by Intensivist Dr Kavi Haji, has taken up the battle against the microorganisms that cause blood stream infections (BSI).

The team includes Dr Sheena Broughton, Pathology, Alice Lam, Pharmacy, Dr Leong Goh, Emergency Medicine, Dr Sam Leong, Anaesthesia, Dr Paul Vinton, Infectious Diseases, and Associate Professor John Botha, ICU, who will all contribute to this investigation of why BSIs are becoming resistant to more and more antimicrobial agents.

BSI is a serious infection which, if not treated in the first instance by the correct antimicrobial drug, can lead to increased morbidity, increased average length of stay (adding to the healthcare costs), and increased mortality.

Published data has demonstrated that effective antimicrobial administration within the first hour of documented hypotension is associated with increased survival in adult patients with septic shock. Further studies have found that inadequate and inappropriate administration of antimicrobial agents is associated with adverse outcomes in ICU patients with blood stream infections.

Clinicians face many challenges when selecting appropriate antimicrobial therapy in suspected BSIs. The presenting clinical picture, including the likely source of infection, underlying diseases and known drug allergies guide therapy. Knowledge of the susceptibility patterns of the microorganisms associated with BSIs in local patient populations is also crucial for clinicians to make appropriate empirical choices before blood culture results are available. It is also strongly recommended that antimicrobial agents should be given as early as possible once sepsis is diagnosed.

Once the organism is isolated and antibiotic susceptibility results obtained, empiric antibiotic therapy must be changed to directed antibiotic therapy based on the confirmed test results. This is to ensure the most specific, narrowest spectrum, least toxic and the most cost effective antibiotic is used in that particular bacteraemic episode.

The Peninsula Health initiated project, which is currently in the early audit phase, has three objectives:

› To investigate the appropriateness of antimicrobial use in patients with BSI and the impact on patient outcomes.

› To investigate the range of clinically significant microorganisms associated with BSI and to identify resistance to the antimicrobial agents used empirically for therapy.

› To assess the relationship between inappropriate antimicrobial therapy for individual microorganisms and patient outcomes.

The study is expected to take 18 months to complete and will target adult patients admitted to Frankston Hospital who are diagnosed with BSI including patients admitted with both community acquired and healthcare related BSI.
Peninsula Health has a high number of elderly patients in its catchment area. This places the Health Service in a key position to conduct health service-wide research with the aim of improving the physical and mental health outcomes of this growing ageing population.

A common serious hip injury associated with the aged population is femoral neck fracture, a condition that occurs commonly after falls. The required operative treatment is one of the Health Service’s most common orthopaedic surgical procedures.

Unfortunately, for many of these patients, delirium is a serious and debilitating post-surgical condition which can result in a much longer recovery time, and contributes to higher mortality and morbidity.

Dr Dhiren Singh, Director Aged Persons Mental Health said that delirium is a transient organic mental syndrome of acute onset and is characterised by global impairment of cognitive function, a reduced level of consciousness and impaired attention.

“It is well established that patients who develop delirium have a significantly longer length of hospitalisation compared to those who do not. In addition to the increased length of stay it is also associated with poor functional outcomes such as impairment in activities of daily living, reduced mobility and increased rates of admission to residential care facilities,” Dhiren said.

There has been a limited number of studies designed for the treatment and prevention of delirium generally and an even smaller number specifically targeting delirium following femoral neck fracture.

The aim of the study, which was designed and originally implemented by Associate Professor Steve Macfarlane, who is now Clinical Director Aged Person’s Mental Health Unit, Caulfield Hospital, is to examine the efficacy of donepezil in reducing the incidence, severity and duration of delirium postoperatively in elderly patients treated for femoral neck fractures.

It is now led by Dr Dhiren Singh and has involved collaboration with Dr Luke Spencer, Senior Orthopaedic Registrar and Jan de Clifford from the Pharmacy Department. Kerry Lim, an exchange student from Nottingham University, has used her participation in this research to obtain a Master of Pharmacy degree. Associate Professor Macfarlane remains involved as an associate researcher.

Patients are eligible to be included in the study if they are admitted preoperatively, are 60 or more years of age and have a radiologically confirmed fractured neck of femur, with planned surgical intervention.

The study is managed by Kelly Burns, Cognition Nurse Specialist, and the aim is to recruit up to 60 patients for the study. Patients will be randomised to one of two groups either receiving donepezil 5mg or usual care. The Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE), a brief cognitive tool that has excellent reliability and validity, will be the primary efficacy measure used in this study. All patients will receive a baseline MMSE at the time of consent and at days, one, three, five and seven postoperatively. Recruitment will continue until each study arm has 30 patients. The results will be submitted to peer-reviewed publications for consideration and may be presented to scientific meetings.

Dr Dhiren Singh, Director, Aged Persons Mental Health, Dr Luke Spencer, Senior Orthopaedic Registrar, Jan de Clifford, Pharmacist and Kelly Burns, Cognition Nurse Specialist.
The collaboration of Rosebud Residential Aged Care Services with Monash University has resulted in improved care for residents, and the development of research and presentation skills amongst the staff involved.

Over the past two decades there has been increasing emphasis on developing evidence-based practice in nursing and healthcare. Much less attention has been directed towards understanding how that evidence is translated into practice within the particular culture and context of care.

Nurses at Peninsula Health’s Rosebud Residential Aged Care Services (RRACS) have been participating in a research project conducted by a Monash University PhD applicant, Ms Joan Yalden, supervised by Professor Margaret O’Connor, Vivian Bullwinkel Chair of Palliative Care Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Professor Brendan McCormack, Chair of Practice Development and Aged Care Research, University of Ulster has provided support and liaison throughout the study. The project, which commenced in late 2005 and concludes in 2009, is titled Implementation of a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care utilising a Practice Development Framework. The Commonwealth Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care (DoHA & PCA 2004) were used to support the process.

It began with the formation of a Practice Development Management Group, which included the Principal Nurse, Nurse Unit Manager, Operations Director, Executive Director of Nursing, and the Clinical Nurse Consultant from Palliative Care. A Practice Development Multidisciplinary Clinical Group was also established at this time. Monthly meetings/workshops were conducted with each group with opportunities to explore and discuss issues in the provision of effective care for residents and families. Joan observed staff practices, and conducted formal interviews with staff, residents and their families. A vision statement was developed in conjunction with all participants:

“A Palliative Approach at RRACS is the provision of holistic person-centred care by a multidisciplinary team, in collaboration with resident and family, which acknowledges and enables individuality and choice in all aspects of care planning, including end-of-life decision making”.

Action plans, strategies and time frames were formulated by the working groups, facilitated by Joan. Aims of the program were to:

- Enhance engagement of residents and families in planning care.
- Encourage open communication and decision making regarding resident preferences.
- Promote teamwork and person-centred care on an integrated palliative approach pathway (IPAP) in Residential Aged Care.

This required a review of the preadmission stage, transition and admission stage, end-of-life stage and bereavement care of family and team following death of a resident. Outcomes have demonstrated that: staff have increased confidence and capacity to provide person-centred care; innovative person-centred care is provided in partnership with the resident and family; the resident’s dignity is maintained during life and death; the family is included in all stages of the journey; and the resident’s and family’s end-of-life wishes are adhered to.

The project outcomes were presented at the Second Palliative Care Nurses Australia Conference in Adelaide in September 2008. The presentations were titled A critical reflection on the potential impact of the new Aged Care Funding Instrument in the development of a palliative approach and A critical evaluation of a collaborative and innovative palliative care education program in residential aged care.

Results were presented locally at a Palliative Care Symposium conducted at RRACS in March 2009 by Peninsula Health in conjunction with Monash University. The staff have been invited to present their experiences to nursing students at Monash University, and also during Celebrating Research 2009 events at Peninsula Health in November.
Collaboration

Thoracic Medicine, Southern Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Service and BioGrid

Thoracic Medicine is the first department at Peninsula Health to contribute data to the BioGrid Collaboration.

The BioGrid Collaboration is a platform and infrastructure that provides researchers access to data in many disease types and data from disparate existing databases at many institutions. It provides access while protecting both privacy and intellectual property.

BioGrid Australia provides a flexible and secure method for interrogating the multiple data sources, where thousands of records of patient data are record-linked across all the databases and institutions.

Only authorised researchers can extract sub-sets of data, transform them where required and test research questions using their own analytical tools.

The Department of Thoracic Medicine has developed a database to collect information on patients with lung cancer. The purpose of this database is to provide comprehensive data to assist in patient care and for use in audit and research activities. This database has also been adopted by Alfred Health and Southern Health who, along with Peninsula Health, form the Southern Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Service. This database has facilitated our participation in the BioGrid Collaboration.

The data, which is collected at the end of each day, is co-located in a virtual repository and can be linked with publicly available research.

Peninsula Health and the other partners in the Southern Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Service are working together as part of a well coordinated, multidisciplinary system of cancer care for patients and their families, that is measurable and consistent with international best practice and research.
Research to improve staff and student training

As well as undertaking research that directly impacts on patient treatment, our staff also undertake research that may lead to improvement of staff or student training and skills. Four of these projects are highlighted this year. Three of these projects have been undertaken by staff as part of their postgraduate studies at Monash University.
Research to improve staff and student training

Evaluating the impact of an eLearning education tool in the health care setting: a pilot study

Melissa Bloomer, Continuing Education and Development Unit (CEDU).

Melissa received a Small Grant in Medical Research for this pilot study to evaluate the impact of the introduction of eLearning to the healthcare workplace from two perspectives. Firstly, users will be surveyed online, using both closed and open-ended questions to allow the user the opportunity to provide their perspective on using the eLearning Portal.

Secondly, key stakeholders (including CEDU staff, nurse unit managers, nurse executive members and computer services staff) will be interviewed to identify their perspective on the impact of eLearning Portal on education delivery. An analysis of the themes that come from these interviews will be conducted to determine both commonalities and differences in the views of key stakeholders.

It is expected that the outcomes of this pilot study will be used to make positive improvements to the eLearning Portal itself and the education it delivers.

New graduate program 2009: nursing research project

All new graduate nurses in 2009 are required to undertake a research project.

The aim of this project is to introduce nurses to research at the beginning of their careers and to further develop their research skills.

The nurses are asked to:

- identify a nursing process or practice in their ward or area of work that is the most traditional, least logical, or most time-consuming.
- search the relevant literature to identify evidence to support or refute the practice and determine if there are new evidence-based recommended practices.
- develop an implementation plan for any appropriate changes, and finally to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation or change.

Melissa Bloomer with new graduates Angelique Clarke RN1, Intensive Care Unit and Kate Ditchfield, RN1, Short Stay Unit.
Understanding the needs and experiences of overseas trained doctors adapting to Australian professional practice

Sarah Hawkins, HMO Support Unit.

Peninsula Health employs many overseas trained doctors and in Victoria it is estimated almost half the total medical workforce in the public hospital system are trained overseas.

Little research has been undertaken into the process by which overseas trained doctors develop the professional behaviours expected of them as doctors in the Australian healthcare system.

The aim of this research was to better understand the process by which overseas trained doctors currently employed by Peninsula Health, develop the professional practices that are required of doctors working in the public hospital setting in Australia. Overseas trained doctors usually have a significantly different training and work experience to their Australian trained colleagues, as well as having different cultural beliefs that impact on professional behaviours. In addition to developing a working knowledge of the different medical structures, processes and protocols that prevail in the Australian healthcare system, they also have to learn about and negotiate the unfamiliar socio-cultural mores, attitudes and communication styles that Australian hospital staff and patients take for granted.

The hypothesis was that doctors originating from non-western countries and cultures have different perceptions of the concepts of leadership, ethics and communication responsibilities, skills and knowledge required of a competent doctor and that these differences make the process of acculturation potentially difficult. Data collected from semi-structured interviews was analysed to test this hypothesis and to identify issues and strategies that promote effective acculturation experiences.

The study found that these doctors have a need for wide-ranging forms of assistance suggesting that new approaches are required to address their learning and development needs. A range of new learning and development strategies has been recommended.

Physiotherapy clinical education: the patient’s perspective

Fiona Kent, Physiotherapy.

Physiotherapy students from Monash University, Peninsula Campus, spend at least 12 weeks in both the third and fourth year of their course working in the clinical setting with patients. Communication, assessment and treatment skills are learnt and consolidated by working with patients.

The aim of this project is to investigate how patients perceive the care they receive from physiotherapy students on placement at Peninsula Health. Questionnaires will be offered to patients, educators and students to identify similarities and differences in their appraisal of student skill and level of care provided.

The significance of this project lies in improving the supervisors’ ability to understand and subsequently inform patients of what effect the clinical education process may have on their treatment. The project will also further investigate the potential for patients to provide feedback to enhance the students’ professional learning.

It is thought that patients will perceive that they receive more information about their condition as a result of the clinical educator explaining details to the student and the requirement for the student to demonstrate patient education as part of their assessment. It is also hypothesised that some patients will be critical of the additional time it takes for a consultation with a student.

Patients will be asked to complete a questionnaire with 10 simplified questions about student competencies in listening and talking, physical examination, general aspects of the consultation such as time taken and information provided and the perceived benefits of student involvement. An open qualitative section allows patients to record general comments about positive and negative aspects of being treated by a student.

Assessment of student competencies will also be undertaken by the students themselves and clinical educators using a standardised 20 item tool.

The research is being undertaken as part of a Masters degree in Health Professional Education at Monash University.

It is estimated almost half the medical workforce are trained overseas. A research study is looking at understanding the needs and experiences of overseas trained doctors.
Projects considered by the Committee during the period between July 2008 and June 2009.

Understanding the needs and experiences of overseas trained doctors adapting to Australian professional practice. Principal Investigator: Sarah Hawkins

A multinational, multicentre, randomised, double-blind study comparing the efficacy and safety of AVE5026 with enoxaparin for the primary prevention of venous thromboembolism in acutely ill medical patients with restricted mobility. Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano

A phase III, randomised, open-label, 3-arm study to determine the efficacy and safety of lenalidomide (Revlimid®) plus low-dose dexamethasone when given until progressive disease or for 18 four-week cycles versus the combination of melphalan, prednisone, and thalidomide given for 12 six-week cycles in patients with previously untreated multiple myeloma who are either 65 years of age or older or not candidates for stem cell transplantation. Principal Investigator: Dr Jacquelyn Thomson
How do women aged between 40 - 50 years of age perceive their treatment during an admission to an inpatient psychiatric unit?
Principal Investigator: Jennifer Madden

Integration for wellbeing.
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Richard Newton

A phase III, randomised, double-blind, placebo controlled, parallel group, multicentre study to demonstrate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of 20 mg PF 00734200 administered orally once daily for 24 weeks to subjects with type 2 diabetes mellitus and inadequate glycemic control despite metformin monotherapy.
Principal Investigator: Dr Deepak Dutta

A phase III, randomised, placebo-controlled, blinded, multicentre, study of the induction and maintenance of clinical response and remission by MLN0002 patients with moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.
Principal Investigator: Dr David Badov

A phase III, randomised placebo-controlled, blinded multicentre study of the induction and maintenance of clinical response and remission by MLN0002 in patients with moderate to severe Crohn’s disease.
Principal Investigator: Dr David Badov

An open-label study to determine the long-term safety and efficacy of MLN0002 in patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease.
Principal Investigator: Dr David Badov

An international, multicentre, randomised, double-blind study of vorinostat (MK-0683) or placebo in combination with bortezomib in patients with multiple myeloma.
Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano

Endocrine surgery unit databases and thyroidectomy registry for clinical research.
Principal Investigator: Professor Jonathan Serpell

A randomised double-blind parallel study of rabeprazole extended-release 50mg versus esomeprazole 40 mg for healing and symptomatic relief of moderate to severe erosive gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).
Principal Investigator: Dr David Badov
Human Research and Ethics Committee

The impact of appropriate and timely use of antimicrobial agents on patients’ outcomes in blood stream infections.
Principal Investigator: Dr Kavi Haji

An open-label study of romiplostim in adult thrombocytopenic participants with immune (idiopathic) thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).
Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano

A phase III, multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study of the efficacy and safety of lenalidomide (Revlimid®) as maintenance therapy for patients with B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia following second-line therapy (the Continuum trial).
Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano

Physiotherapy clinical education - the patients’ perspective.
Principal Investigator: Fiona Kent

Comparison of 0.5mg/kg and 1mg/kg suxamethonium in patients undergoing voluntary ECT (Electroconvulsive Therapy).
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Terry Loughnan

The use of donepezil in the prevention and treatment of postoperative delirium in hospitalised elderly patients with femoral neck fractures.
Principal Investigator: Dr Dhiren Singh

Principal Investigator: Melissa Bloomer

A randomised, 6-week, multicentre, open-label, rater-blinded parallel group study comparing quetiapine extended release monotherapy and augmentation with lithium augmentation in patients with treatment resistive depression.
Principal Investigator: Dr Dhiren Singh

A randomised control trial of a social cognitive remediation program for schizophrenia.
Principal Investigator: Dr Andrew Lewis and Dr Linda Byrne

A 52-week, multicentre, open-label study to evaluate the effectiveness of aripiprazole intramuscular depot as maintenance treatment in patients with schizophrenia.
Principal Investigator: Dr Jeremy Stone

Personality traits and damaging behaviours in males with schizophrenia.
Principal Investigator: Professor Paul Mullen

A multicentre, randomised, double-blind, active controlled study to evaluate the durability of the efficacy and safety of alogliptin compared to glipizide when used in combination with metformin in subjects with type 2 diabetes.
Principal Investigator: Dr Deepak Dutta

A prospective, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III study of modafinil to improve fatigue and quality of life in patients treated with docetaxel-based chemotherapy for metastatic breast and prostate cancer.
Principal Investigator: Dr Vinod Ganju

A multicentre, randomised controlled trial of early goal-directed therapy in patients presenting to the emergency department with severe sepsis in Australasia (ARISE).
Principal Investigator: Dr Kavi Haji

A strengthening exercise program for chronic kidney disease patients on haemodialysis: a pilot study.
Principal Investigator: Caroline Stapleton

A phase 4, 8-week, double-blind, randomised study comparing switching to duloxetine or escitalopram in patients with major depressive disorder and residual apathy in the absence of depressed mood.
Principal Investigator: Dr Dhiren Singh

Immunohistochemical analysis of lymphatic vessels in irradiated tissue.
Principal Investigator: Mr David Hunter-Smith

A phase II randomised controlled trial of atorvastatin therapy in intensive care patients with severe sepsis (The STATInS study).
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor John Botha

COMFORT study - a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of the JAK inhibitor INCB018424 tablets administered orally to subjects with primary myelofibrosis (PMF), post-polycythemia vera-myelofibrosis (PPV-MF) or post-essential thrombocythemia-myelofibrosis (PET-MF).
Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano
The use of bedside Transthoracic Echocardiography in the assessment and management of patients in the Emergency Department.
Principal Investigator: Dr Darsim Haji

Personalised, one-to-one interaction using Montessori-type activities as a treatment of challenging behaviour in people with dementia: a pilot controlled trial.
Principal Investigator: Professor Daniel O’Connor

A controlled trial of topically administered Lavender essential oil as a treatment of behavioural symptoms in dementia.
Principal Investigator: Professor Daniel O’Connor

Randomised controlled double-blinded trial of the use of cold scalpel versus cutting diathermy for skin incisions in clean laparoscopic and open surgery.
Principal Investigator: Dr Vivian Wai-Ling Yu

Electronic venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment.
Principal Investigator: Dr Anmol Bassi

Cancer research - early phase trials

Peninsula Health is participating in an increasing number of Phase Ib, Phase I/II and Phase II clinical trials of new cancer treatments. The Medical Oncology Unit is recognised by industry and collaborative clinical trials groups for its expertise and skill in conducting in early phase drug trials which require greater vigilance and monitoring to ensure the safety of participants. Early phase trials may evaluate the effectiveness of the drug for a particular indication or indications in patients with the disease or condition under study and determine the common short-term side effects and risks.

Early phase trials approved in the last year include:

A randomised, phase II, multicentre, double-blind, placebo-controlled study evaluating the safety and activity of MetMAb, a monovalent antagonist antibody to the receptor Met, administered to patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer, in combination with Tarceva (erlotinib).
Principal Investigator: Dr Nicole Potasz

A phase II, dose escalation to rash trial of erlotinib (Tarceva®) plus gemcitabine in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer.
Principal Investigator: Dr Jason Lickliter

A phase I/II trial of BMS-754807 in combination with trastuzumab (Herceptin®) in subjects with advanced or metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer.
Principal Investigator: Dr Jason Lickliter

An Australasian, phase II, multicentre, randomised, dose intensification study investigating oral fludarabine, oral cyclophosphamide and intravenous rituximab (poFCivR) tolerance in previously untreated elderly (≥ 65 years old) patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL).
Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano

An open-label, multicentre, randomised, phase Ib study to investigate the safety and efficacy of RO5072759 given in combination with CHOP or FC chemotherapy in patients with CD20+ relapsed/refractory B-cell follicular non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.
Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano

A prospective, single-arm, two-stage, open-label, phase II trial of CYT997 in relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma.
Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano
Negligible risk research and quality activities

What effect does the introduction of a screening tool and education for nurses have on the incidence of elder abuse?
Principal Investigator: Barbara Burriss

A prospective observational study of blood product transfusion practices in Australian intensive care units.
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor John Botha

Evaluation of Victorian acute stroke services: outline of methods phase I.
Principal Investigator: Marlena Klaic

Research participant consent process survey.
Principal Investigator: Peninsula Health Research Program

Supportive care mapping project.
Principal Investigator: Southern Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Services

Recommending, approving, and referring people for a Community Aged Care Package. The experience of 5 Victorian aged care assessment teams.
Principal Investigator: Delwyne Stephens

PROphylaxis for ThromboEmbolism in Critical Care Trial consent substudy.
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor John Botha

Evaluation of the Peninsula Health ‘community’ and ‘home-based’ Agestrong programs.
Principal Investigator: Dr Natalie de Morton

Anaesthesia written information - how are we doing?
Principal Investigator: Dr Michelle Spencer & Dr Heidi Liesegang

Victorian aged psychiatry ECT audit.
Principal Investigator: Dr Dhiren Singh

Outcomes of CT guided lung biopsies at Frankston Hospital 2006-2008.
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor David Langton

Research in Nursing Group (RiNG) - focus on the role of the Clinical Nurse Consultant.
Principal Investigator: Melissa Bloomer

Staff awareness and referrals related to family stress/conflict.
Principal Investigator: Robin Digby

AKI-EPI (Acute Kidney Injury).
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor John Botha

Graduate Program 2009: Nursing research project.
Principal Investigator: Melissa Bloomer

Evaluation of ‘After Chemotherapy’ booklet.
Principal Investigator: Southern Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Services

The ANZICS Clinical Trials Group Point Prevalence Program.
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor John Botha

Discharge outcomes after elective hip or knee replacement surgery at Peninsula Health: an audit.
Principal Investigator: Jodie Jones

DARE (Discharge and Readmission) Study.
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor John Botha

All project titles have been listed as submitted by the sponsor or Principal Investigator.
Publications and presentations

**Anaesthesia**

**Publications**


**In Press**


**Presentations**

**Poster**


**Cardiology**

**Publications**


**Presentations**


**Community Health**

**Publications**


**Presentations**


**Falls Prevention Service**

**Presentations**


**Poster**


Publications and presentations

**General Surgery**

**Publications**


**Intensive Care**

**Publications**


**In Press**


**Medical Oncology**

**Presentations**

**Poster**


**Mental Health Service**

**Publications**


**Nursing**

**Publications**


**In Press**

Edward K, Rasmussen B, Munro I. Nursing care of clients treated with atypical antipsychotics who have a risk of developing metabolic instability and/or type 2 diabetes. *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*.

**Presentations**


Leavold F. The role of the nurse in multicentre clinical trials: an example from AVERT (A Very Early Rehabilitation Trial). *Australian Neuroscience Nurses’ Association 36th Annual Scientific Meeting*, Sydney, October 2008.


Publications and presentations

Nutrition and Dietetics

Poster


Pain Management

Publications


Presentations


Pharmacy

Publications


Presentations


Chao S. “Don’t Clown Around” – early IV to oral antibiotic switch campaign to optimise antibiotic prescribing. *Australian Society for Antimicrobials 10th Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, February 2009.*


Poster


Financial Support, Research Grants or Prizes

The PETS project: re-engineering the discharge prescription workflow is a silver winner of the 2008 Victorian Public Healthcare Awards in the category of Improving Health Service Safety and Quality.
Publications and presentations

Physiotherapy

Publications

In Press

Presentations

Financial Support, Research Grants or Prizes
Victorian Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (VicPHCRED) Fellowship awarded to Narelle Watson in 2008 to commence investigating the optimal time of immobilisation of distal radius fractures in the elderly population.

Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery

Publications

In Press


Presentations
Hunter-Smith D, Jankiramanan N. The importance, feasibility and ethics of surgery in poor countries and how can we help? The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons 78th Annual Scientific Congress, Brisbane, May 2009.

Fairbank S, Papadogeorgou E, Mathoulin C. Indications and outcomes of volar vascularised bone grafts for scaphoid nonunion. XVth Congress of Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand, Poznan, Poland, June 2009.

Residential Aged Care Services

Presentations
Peninsula Health acknowledges and appreciates the contribution made by staff who participate in research or facilitate the conduct of research in their department or service. This report has highlighted a small number of the projects and innovations that have taken place in 2008/09 but recognises there are many long-term and ongoing trials in departments such as Diabetes, Gastroenterology, Intensive Care, Oncology, Mental Health and Thoracic Medicine that have not been described in this year’s report.
Celebrating Research 2009 events

Celebrating Research is a two week event in November which is aimed at celebrating the research achievements of Peninsula Health staff. Events include a public forum, research prizes for allied health, nursing and junior medical staff, a poster display competition in the main foyer of Frankston Hospital and the Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration.

Thursday November 5 from 5pm
**Talking Research Public Forum**
Researchers will present on stroke research.

Friday November 6 – Thursday November 12
**Poster Display Competition**
Posters on display from various Peninsula Health clinical areas.

Thursday November 12 from 12.30pm
**Poster Display Presentation**
Awarding of Best Scientific Poster prizes.

Friday November 13 from 3pm
**Registrar Research Prize**
Presentation of research projects conducted by Peninsula Health registrars.

Wednesday November 18 from 10.30am
**Nursing Research Prize and Allied Health Research Prize**
Presentation of research projects conducted by Peninsula Health nurses followed by research presentations by allied health staff.

Friday November 20 from 7pm
**Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration**
The Peninsula Country Golf Club 2009
Jeremy Anderson Orator – Professor Jeffrey Lipman, Professor and Head: Discipline of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, The University of Queensland School of Medicine.
Director: Department of Intensive Care Medicine, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital.

For more information regarding Celebrating Research please contact:
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