Peninsula Health Research Week 2006
Saturday 11th November (morning)
Peninsula Health Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award
The Academic Centre, Frankston Hospital
Presentations of research projects conducted by Peninsula Health Registrars
Monday 13th November to Friday 17th November inclusive
Research Week Poster Display
The Foyer, Frankston Hospital
Posters on display from various Peninsula Health clinical areas
Wednesday 15th November (afternoon)
Allied Health Research Prize and Nursing Staff Research Prize
The Academic Centre, Frankston Hospital
Presentations of research projects conducted by Peninsula Health
Allied Health and Nursing Staff
Friday 17th November (1230hrs)
Poster Display Prize Presentation
The Foyer, Frankston Hospital
Awarding of Prizes
Friday 17th November (evening)
Peninsula Health Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration
The Peninsula Country Golf Club, Frankston
Oration by Professor david de Kretser, AC, Governor of Victoria.
Presentation of Allied Health, Nursing and Registrar Research awards.
Introduction

The 2006 Peninsula Health Research Report provides an overview of the research and academic activities being carried out across the Health Service. It also highlights the challenging workload and issues faced by members of the Human Research Ethics Committee, the Research Development Committee, and other departmental research sub-committees throughout Peninsula Health.

A ‘benchtop to bedside’ culture of research and innovation has now become firmly established at Peninsula Health. By working in close collaboration with Monash University, and other partner organisations from the education, health, government and industry sectors, the Health Service is committed to guide, encourage and foster research. The impressive results of these collaborative interdisciplinary activities of Peninsula Health staff, on the local, national and international level, are documented in this report.

The Research Development Committee is headed by Professor Jonathan Serpell, who is Professor Director of General Surgery at Peninsula Health. He is also Peninsula Health’s Director of Surgical Research and Education. In 2002, he introduced the annual Peninsula Health Research Report and has since expanded the successful Peninsula Health Registrar Research Prize into a week of recognition for researchers across the organisation. This was further expanded last year with the inaugural Nursing and Allied Health Research Symposium and also the inaugural Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration. The Research Development Fund, designed to support and encourage home-grown research at Peninsula Health, has now provided financial assistance to six Peninsula Health staff members.

Research and its outcomes play a vital role in the provision of optimum health. It also enables Peninsula Health to extend its community of care beyond Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula. Through articles in professional journals, presentations to national and international conferences and contributions to texts, Peninsula Health researchers are contributing to and enhancing the existing body of knowledge in many areas of medicine, nursing and allied health. Examples of how results of research are translated into improved clinical and operational outcomes throughout the Health Service are evident throughout this report, and are also documented in the 2006 Quality of Care Report and the 2006 Annual Report.

Dr Sherene Devanesen
Chief Executive
Peninsula Health Research Report

Research at Peninsula Health has developed significantly over the last five years. There has been a marked interest in the consolidation and promotion of research at Peninsula Health, with the Research Development Committee fostering, promoting and encouraging a culture of research which is now well established at Peninsula Health.

A Peninsula Health Registrar Research Prize has occurred on an annual basis since 2002. This has been added to with a Research Week with poster presentations over the last two years, and 2005 saw the introduction of a Research Prize for Nursing and a Research Prize for Allied Health. All prizes and poster presentations were held during a highly successful Research Week in November.

A highly successful Peninsula Health Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration was held for the first time in November 2005. Professor Alan Trounson, the inaugural Jeremy Anderson Orator, delivered his oration entitled “Clinical Implications of Stem Cell Research”. All these activities are planned on an annual basis for Research Week.

The Research Development Committee also administers the Research Development Fund, which aims to encourage home grown research by providing small research grants. A number of these have been awarded to Peninsula Health staff members.

Community awareness of research activity at Peninsula Health is aided by the poster display in the foyer of Frankston Hospital during Research Week. In turn this highlights the important role of clinical research in providing evidence based guidelines for the management of patients.

As in previous years, much of the research contained in this report provides examples of the importance of this translational research; that is the application of clinical research findings to clinical practice.

Peninsula Health is geographically well positioned to engage in epidemiological research, and the increase in specialisation of units provides a fertile ground in opportunity for clinical research.

This Research Report showcases the high quality research undertaken by researchers at Peninsula Health and aligns well with Peninsula Health’s vision and values, particularly in providing service excellence and professionalism.

Professor Jonathan Serpell
Chairman, Research Development Committee, and
Director of Surgical Research and Education

Research Development Grants

The Peninsula Health Research Development Committee awards sums of up to $5,000 as seeding grants for approved research projects. Any staff member wishing to advance a research idea is strongly encouraged to apply. Projects must take place predominantly at one of the campuses of Peninsula Health and result in a practical or conceptual advance in health care.

This year, the Committee awarded $4974 to Ms Birgit Schaedler (originally awarded to Ms Linda Byrne, who has since left PH), Psychiatric Services, for the project: Community Care Unit Evaluation: Is deinstitutionalisation working in our local community?
2005 Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award

Cardiology registrar Dr Andre La Gerche was the winner of the 2005 Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award. Dr La Gerche was one of eleven registrars who presented their research findings to a panel of expert assessors at the Peninsula Health 2005 Research Symposium held in Frankston Hospital’s Academic Centre.

Each registrar provided a 10 minute overview of his or her project followed by a five minute discussion. Presentations and projects were judged on the originality of the idea, planning and design, methodology, analysis, conclusion, presentation, discussion and a provided abstract.

Dr La Gerche’s study ‘Ironhearts’ investigated biochemical and functional abnormalities of left and right ventricular function following ultra-endurance exercise. After testing 27 athletes who competed in an ultra-endurance triathlon, the study found that transient myocardial damage occurs following competition in ultra-endurance sporting events. This may predispose the athlete to subsequent cardiac complications.

Other registrars presenting this year were:

- Dr Derek Neoh, Plastic Surgery; Kirshner Wiring of Fractured Zygoma: A minimal approach.
- Dr Emma Beardsley, Medical Oncology; Optimising Predictability of Preoperative Chemotherapy Response for Locally Advanced Breast Cancer: Comparison of PET Scan with Conventional Methods, and Role of Biological Markers.
- Dr Sarah Martin, General Surgery; The Diagnosis and Treatment of Thyroid Cancer.
- Dr Shirley Elkassaby, Endocrinology; Outcomes following Insulin-Dextrose Infusion in Diabetic Patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction (IDIPAMI Study).
- Dr Joseph Gunn, Vascular Surgery; Ovarian Vein Reflux and Varicose Veins: Is there a Relationship?
- Dr P Mudholkar, Intensive Care (presented by Dr Narcelita Lim); The definition and management of Oliguria.
- Dr Corinne Ooi, General Surgery, Total Thyroidectomy for the Treatment of Graves’ disease.
- Dr Cham Saranasuriya, General Surgery; The Response to Interventional Treatment of Symptomatic Adrenal Metastasis.
- Dr De Juan Ng, Orthopaedic Surgery; The Relative Motion between the Scaphoid and the Lunate.
- Dr Sian Fairbank, Plastic Surgery; Referred Skin Cancers: How many more are present?

Nursing and Allied Health Research Symposium

The inaugural Peninsula Health Allied Health and Nursing Research Symposium saw the presentation of Nursing and Allied Health research projects and strong quality improvement initiatives. Fourteen representatives from Nursing and Allied Health presented at the symposium. They were:

- Belinda Berry, Social Work and Integrating Care; RAD Assesses Patient in the ED for Direct Transfers to the Sub-Acute Setting.
- Helen Irwin, Nursing; Developing and implementing a Comprehensive Diabetes Mellitus Service Across RAPCS.
- Caroline Stapleton, Physiotherapy; The Development of a Falls Risk Assessment Tool for Aged Sub-Acute and Residential Care Facilities.
- Andrea Scully, Nutrition and Dietetics; Modified Diet/Fluids Alert System.
- Barbara-Anne Cass, Nursing; The Experience of Patients Receiving Home Based Palliative Care Deciding to go to a Hospital Emergency Department.
- Mary Danoudis, Physiotherapy; Parkinson’s Disease - From Research to Practice - The Evidence.
Research Week 2005

Vicki Davies, Occupational Therapy; Participation in the NARI Research Project ‘Evaluation of a Minimum Dataset for Victorian Falls Clinics’.

Jenny Chapman, Social Work and Integrating Care; An Innovative Response to Emergency Demand from Residential Aged Care Facilities.

Cecilia Webster, Nursing, Palliative Care Work; Between Death and Discharge.

Haria Lambrou, Physiotherapy; Predicting Discharge Destination.

Helen Wearne, Nursing; Pain Management Project in the Palliative Care Unit.

Diana Clayton, Nursing; Introduction of an Evidence Based Hip Protector Program into a Psycho-Geriatric Unit.

Deidre Burgess, Occupational Therapy; What are the Lived Experiences of Palliative Care Occupational Therapists Whilst Facilitating Dying at Home?

Betty Williamson, Nursing; Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective.

The Allied Health Award was won by Caroline Stapleton for “The Development of a Falls Risk Assessment Tool for Aged Sub-Acute and Residential Care Facilities”. The aim of this study was to investigate predictive validity of a Falls Risk Assessment Tool (FRAT) designed for nurses in non-acute aged care facilities.

Caroline received her award from Brendon Gardner, Acting Executive Director RAPCS.

The Nursing Award was won by Cecilia Webster for her project, “Palliative Care Work, Between Death and Discharge”. This project was a small Quality Improvement study that was undertaken in a Palliative Care Unit (PCU), to demonstrate reasons for the lengthy patient turnover time after the death of a patient.

Cecilia received her award from Ms Elizabeth Wilson, Executive Director Nursing Services and Community Participation.

Award winners were judged on originality of idea, planning and design, methodology, analysis, conclusion, presentation and abstract. They each received $1000.

Research Week Poster Display and Competition

There were more than 30 posters entered in the 2005 Research Week Poster Display and Competition. The ‘Best Scientific Poster’ was awarded to Plastic Surgeon Ms Patricia Terrill and Registrar Dr Sian Fairbank for “Referred Skin Cancers: How Many More are Present?”

Highly commended in this category were Emergency Physician, Dr Darsim Haji, for his poster ‘Community Acquired Pneumonia: Towards Improving Outcome Nationally, Caption Project and the Peninsula Health Experience’, and Associate Professor Colin Russell for his poster entitled ‘Waiting Times for Elective Surgery: The Perspectives of Medical Practitioners, Lay People and Patients’.

The People’s Choice category was once again very popular with hundreds of votes lodged. The overall winner was Betty Williamson, Nurse Unit Manager of Cardiac Angiography for her poster ‘Radial versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’.

Finalists in this category were Fiona Turnbull, Dietitian, for ‘Evaluating the effectiveness of Dietetic Intervention in a Chemotherapy Day Unit’, and also Ms Bernadette Lane of the Infectious Disease and Prevention Unit and Dr John Botha from the Intensive Care Unit for their work, entitled ‘Peninsula Health ICU Surveillance to Benchmark Central Venous Catheter Related...’
Bacteraemia Rate Against Victorian Nosocomial Infection Site Surveillance Aggregate Data'.

The Research Week event was a resounding success with more than 30 posters on public display in the foyer of Frankston Hospital. For the first time, the posters were also available for viewing on the Peninsula Health external website. Staff members who were unable to get to Frankston were able to vote for their ‘People’s Choice’ award winner via an email link.

Other entrants in the 2005 Poster Display and Competition:

Karingal Hub Health Walks – Exercise in a Supported Environment, by Cassie McConnell, Physiotherapy.

Improving the quality of DVT thromboprophylaxis in medical patients at Frankston Hospital, by Guy Wilkes, Pharmacy.

The Development of a Falls Risk Assessment Tool for Aged, Sub-Acute and Residential Care Facilities, by Caroline Stapleton and Peter Hough, Physiotherapy.

Self Managing Chronic Heart Failure, by Nicole Romney of Complex Care.

Arginine Supplementation Accelerates Wound Healing (Comparative Case Study), by Raisa Shaikh and Kathy Wheatland, Nutrition and Dietetics.

A Diabetes Website Targeted to Local Health Professionals and Individuals, by Helen Irwin, Nurse Consultant.

Echocardiography Enhances Management of Critically Ill Patients, by Subhash Arora, ICU.

Case Study: Pregnant and Pumping, by Kylie Ball and Sue Cole, Diabetes Education.

Realising potential: Improving Access by Utilising Parents’ Knowledge of their Children’s Communication Difficulties, by Lisa Giuliano and Kate Warrick, Speech Pathology.

Working in Partnership to Improve Medication Safety: Pharmacy Department at Peninsula Health, by Rebecca Pang, Pharmacy.

The ‘Be Aware’ Campaign: Promoting the Therapeutic Guidelines for Warfarin Over-Coagulation, by Rebecca Pang, Pharmacy.


Myoclonus does not always Predict Poor Neuro-Recovery after Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, by Ramesh Nagappan, ICU.

Oxford Miniature Vaporiser for Halothane in Mechanically Ventilated Asthmatics, by Ramesh Nagappan, ICU.

Impact of Hospital Based Intervention on the Outcome following Minimal Trauma Fractures by Shirley Elkassaby, Medicine.

Sink or Swim - The Breastfeeding Experiences of Women Who Gave Birth at Peninsula Health, by Carole Gilmore and Christine Moore, Nursing.


Acute Pain Service Hysterectomy Analgesia Audit 2004, by Helen Kolawole, Anaesthetics.

Perception and Knowledge of CM within Hospitals - is patient safety compromised? by Gary Braun, Medicine.

Community Care Evaluation Unit - Is deinstitutionalising working in our community? by Linda Byrne, Psychiatry.

Psychiatric Services - Mental Health Research on the Peninsula, by Linda Byrne, Psychiatry.

Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Case Management in a Community Care Unit, by Darryl Lukjanov and Marina Ting, Psychiatry.

Development and Use of a Multi-Sensory Environment in a Designated Room in an Aged Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Facility, by Jakqui Barnfield and Anna Ciotta, Psychiatry.
Research Dinner

More than 100 senior clinical and academic staff members and their guests attended the inaugural Peninsula Health Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration, at The Peninsula Country Golf Club.

The dinner was 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, and friend and mentor to many at Peninsula Health.

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

The Health Service was honoured to have Professor Alan Trounson as the inaugural Jeremy Anderson Orator.

Alan Trounson is Professor of Stem Cell Sciences and Director, Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories and founder of the National Biotechnology Centre of Excellence - ‘Australian Stem Cell Centre’ as well as Global Scientific Strategy Advisor.

Professor Trounson gave a highly topical and interesting speech on the clinical implications of stem cell research.

This year, the Jeremy Anderson Oration, will be presented by Professor David de Kretser, AC, Governor of Victoria. The prizes for the Allied Health, Nursing and Registrar Research Prize will be presented at the dinner and participants in these three prizes will attend the dinner as guests of the Research Development Committee.

Sponsors

Peninsula Health and the Research Development Committee gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Peninsula Health Research Week 2005 by:

GlaxoSmithKline
Tyco Healthcare
AstraZeneca
Merck Sharp & Dohme
Novo Nordisk
Ansell Healthcare
Sanofi Aventis
Chairperson, Human Research Ethics Committee

I am pleased on behalf of the Board of Directors, to Chair the Peninsula Health Human Research Ethics Committee which meets monthly to ensure that research on human participants for which Peninsula Health is responsible is reviewed and monitored in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans. It considers research projects involving human participants undertaken by staff Peninsula Health or external researchers involving Peninsula Health patients, clients or residents. The Committee also considers research projects on behalf of other health care services and private practitioners without access to formal research ethics committees within the area covered by our health service.

During 2005/06 the Committee considered 56 new projects with just over half of these being drug trials, mainly in the areas of oncology, diabetes and psychiatry. The Committee was pleased to note an increase in the number of non-drug trials that were locally initiated, or were from younger researchers. The Research and Development Fund under the guidance of Professor Serpell has provided funding to encourage and support these research initiatives.

2005/06 has been a year of innovation and review for the Human Research Ethics Committee as evidenced in the following achievements:

A review of our Terms of Reference including the renaming of the Committee as the Human Research Ethics Committee has been undertaken to ensure that they reflect the greater accountability required by our community, the law and other external monitoring bodies and to introduce a Clinical Ethics Sub-Committee for Peninsula Health.

An Ethics Review Template was developed along with a Guide for Ethics Review, based on the requirements of the National Statement for Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans, for Committee Members. This has enabled written ethics reviews of new applications to be available to the Committee. There has been almost 100% compliance with the use of the template.

A Resource Manual for Committee Members has been developed to ensure that current reference material and National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) requirements are readily available to both existing and new members. This has also ensured adequate orientation for new members and clearly documents the requirements of the Committee and NHMRC.

A review of meeting processes has been conducted to ensure that processes are streamlined and appropriate to support research initiatives at Peninsula Health.

The appointment of a Project Officer and Meeting Coordinator during this year has strengthened the administrative support to both the Committee and researchers.

The Committee provided comment on the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research – Second Consultation Draft to NHMRC and I was pleased to note that a greater emphasis has been placed on the governance responsibilities of organisations with regard to ethical review of research.

During this year researchers at Peninsula Health have initiated a researcher liaison group that has enhanced communication and provided educational opportunities for researchers.

There has also been a commitment from members to include an education component into each meeting to ensure that they remain informed of new developments in research, relevant legislation and requirements of NHMRC.

The workload for Committee members has increased in volume and complexity over time and Peninsula Health is most appreciative of their generous contributions to support research at Peninsula Health.

Liza Newby
Chairperson of Human Research Ethics Committee
Peninsula Health’s commitment to strengthening and enhancing research and academic activities is underpinned with the appointments of a growing number of Professors and Associate Professors to its staff.

The Health Service currently has three full Professors and five Associate Professors in senior clinical and departmental roles.

Pictured left to right are:

**Professor Jonathan Serpell, General Surgery**

Professor Serpell is the Professor and Director of General Surgery, Head of the General Surgery Department’s Breast, Endocrine Surgery and Surgical Oncology Unit, and Director of Surgical Research and Education. Professor Serpell is also a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Board of Basic Surgical Training of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

**Professor Margaret O’Connor, Palliative Care Nursing**

Professor O’Connor’s appointment is in conjunction with Monash University and the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in Nursing, (Palliative Care). Professor O’Connor’s role is to support the Department of Nursing in relation to the delivery of palliative care services on the Mornington Peninsula.

**Professor Joseph Ibrahim, Aged Care Medicine.**

Professor Ibrahim joined Peninsula Health in 2004 in a joint appointment with Monash University as the foundation Professor Director of Aged Care Medicine. Professor Ibrahim’s role is to develop a Centre of Excellence in clinical practice and research in aged care medicine and healthy ageing.

**Associate Professor Richard Newton, Psychiatric Services**

Associate Professor Newton was appointed to the position of Consultant Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine, Monash University in 1997. He is the Chair of the Victorian Psychiatry Training Committee, a position he has held since March 2004. Associate Professor Newton has been full time Director of Clinical Services for Psychiatry since April 2005.

**Associate Professor Chris Gilfillan, Department of Medicine**

Associate Professor Gilfillan’s appointment as Director Endocrinology and Academic General Medicine is a joint role with Peninsula Health and the Monash University Department
of Medicine. Associate Professor Gilfillan has been the head of the Diabetes and Endocrinology Department of Peninsula Health since 1994.

**Associate Professor Colin Russell, Surgery**

Associate Professor Russell is the Director of Surgery at Peninsula Health, a role he has held since 1992. His academic affiliations with Monash University include Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, as well as Clinical Associate Professor to the Department of Surgery.

**Associate Professor David Langton, Department of Medicine**

Associate Professor Langton is the Director of Medicine and Thoracic Medicine. He joined Peninsula Health in 1990 as the Director of ICU at Frankston Hospital and is the founding director of the Department of Thoracic Medicine and the Sleep Laboratory.

**Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil, Emergency Medicine**

Associate Professor Wassertheil is the Director of Emergency Medicine for Peninsula Health and Monash University. He is also the Health Service’s Medical Clinical Educator (International Medical Graduates). Associate Professor Wassertheil’s major interests in disaster medicine are in mass casualty and major events management.
SURGERY AND OPERATING
General Surgery

General Surgery at Peninsula Health is a major surgical specialty and the service is divided into three General Surgery Units; Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, and Breast, Endocrine Surgery and Surgical Oncology. Each Unit has a major subspecialty interest, but covers the full range of General Surgery both electively and for emergencies. This specialisation of Units is in line with the further development of these subspecialties within the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Associate Professor Colin Russell is the overall Director of Surgery and Professor Jonathan Serpell is the Professor and Director of General Surgery. Professor Serpell was appointed to this role in April 2005.

Professor Jonathan Serpell is a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He is involved in the Board of Basic Surgical Training for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and is Chairman of the Clinical Committee of the Board of Basic Surgical Training, responsible for running the Clinical Examination for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

In addition, Professor Serpell is a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Associate Professor Colin Russell is also Honorary Associate Professor in Monash University’s Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.

The Department of General Surgery has major interests in teaching both at an undergraduate and postgraduate level. The Department is responsible for 3rd year and final year clinical teaching in surgery. The 3rd year program is a part of the new course and features both case and paper-based problem based learning studies.

This year Frankston Hospital has been given a major role and responsibility in the delivery of this new 3rd year teaching program for Monash University students. Frankston Hospital also provides rotations for final year selective students who are able to act as interns and obtain invaluable practical experience in surgery at the transition phase between medical student and internship.

The Units support the advanced training of four general surgery registrars (at any one time), two each on rotation from The Alfred Hospital and Monash Medical Centre. These posts are fully accredited by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The Department of General Surgery contributes in a major way to the teaching of these registrars and also to surgical interns and surgical HMOs. Basic surgical training can be undertaken at Frankston Hospital.

A culture of surgical research has developed within the Department of General Surgery and currently a number of surgical interns and surgical registrars are undertaking research projects. The teaching of this important skill of undertaking surgical research is given emphasis and is well supported by the hospital.

---

Snapshot

Professor Serpell’s specialist area of clinical research is endocrine surgery. He has been actively involved in the development of databases on thyroid, parathyroid, parotid, soft tissue sarcoma, malignant melanoma, breast cancer and adrenal surgeries. These databases have led to a number of published research papers. Professor Serpell has taken on a major leadership role within Australian Endocrine Surgeons and has been involved in the establishment of the Victorian Section of Australian Endocrine Surgeons, which has led to a web-based parathyroid database for all Australian Endocrine Surgeons.
General Surgery

Members

General Surgery Unit 1 – Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery
Head of Unit –
Associate Professor Colin Russell MB ChB MS FRACS
GradDipBus MRACMA
Mr Ian Wheatley MBBS FRACS
BApplSc MComp FACS LLB (Hons)
Mr Peter Evans MBBS FRACS
Mr Geoffrey Draper MBBS FRACS.

General Surgery Unit 2 – Colorectal Surgery
Head of Unit –
Mr Stewart Skinner
MBBS PhD FRACS
Mr Peter Gray MBBS(Melb) FRCS(Edin) FRCS(Eng) FRACS
Mr Richard McIntyre MBBS Dphil(Oxon) FRACS
Mr Eric Torey MBBS(Hons) FRACS.

General Surgery Unit 3 – Breast, Endocrine Surgery and Surgical Oncology
Head of Unit –
Professor Jonathan W Serpell, MBBS(Melb) MD FRACS FACS
Ms Belinda Brown MBBS FRACS
Mr Michael Cheng MBBS FRACS (Resigned, February 2006)
Ms Melanie Walker MBBS FRACS
Mr Ross Ferguson MBBS FRACS
Nurse Unit Managers
Julie Emmanuel
Julie Stephens
Gaye Walters.

Current Projects

Serpell J. An Anatomical Study Looking at the Differences between the Right and Left Recurrent Laryngeal Nerves in Thyroid Surgery. The rate of branching of these nerves differs on each side as shown in previous research work from the Unit. The right nerve has a shorter course than the left. There are other important anatomical differences between the two sides. This may affect the technique of surgery to preserve these important nerves for voice function and particularly to determine which side of the neck, ie whether the right or left side should be operated upon first when both sides require surgery, to minimise the risk of injury to the recurrent laryngeal nerve.

Torey E, Serpell J. The Mornington Peninsula Colorectal Cancer Database. This is an on-going project looking at the epidemiology of colorectal cancer on the Mornington Peninsula.

Serpell J. The Generality of Triple Assessment in Surgical Oncology as Applied to Parotid Tumours. This study examines a consecutive series of 80 patients undergoing parotidectomy for a variety of tumours. The study highlights the importance of accurate preoperative assessment utilising clinical assessment, imaging with CT scan and ultrasound and the role of fine needle cytology to achieve an accurate preoperative diagnosis. The study highlights the approach of the surgical oncologist to these tumours.

Serpell J. The Impact of Synoptic Cytology Reporting in the Diagnosis of Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology of Thyroid Nodules. Since first undertaking clinical research from the Thyroid Database of 1,500 patients, a situation has evolved where synoptic cytology reporting is utilised. The perceived advantage of this is that a particular diagnosis dictates subsequent surgical management. The impact of this advance arising from previous research is analysed in this study.

Serpell J, Gilfillan C, Morris S. The Preoperative Assessment of Follicular Tumours of the Thyroid. Thyroid nodules are common, affecting 5% of the population. Of these, however, only a small percentage turn out to be malignant. This study aims to assess novel techniques to enable the preoperative diagnosis of malignancy within the thyroid nodules to facilitate preoperative diagnosis and reduce the rate of unnecessary exploratory surgery.

Funding

The Colorectal Cancer Database under Mr Eric Torey has received a Research Grant of $2,500 from the Peninsula Health Research Development Fund.
Research Interests and Future Directions

The Department of General Surgery at Peninsula Health is divided into 3 subspecialty units of Upper Gastrointestinal, Colorectal Surgery and Breast, Endocrine Surgery and Surgical Oncology. Each Unit is developing specific areas of expertise.

The Upper Gastrointestinal Unit in association with Mr Stewart Skinner is developing Bariatric Surgery for the treatment of the morbidly obese. In addition, the Upper Gastrointestinal Unit has a major interest in day case surgery and academic input into health management and waiting list management.

The Colorectal Unit is embarking on the development of Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery.

The Breast, Endocrine Surgery and Surgical Oncology Unit has a number of major interests, particularly in clinical research. Databases have been developed in thyroid surgery, parathyroid surgery, parotid surgery, soft tissue tumour surgery, lymphadenectomy for melanoma, adrenal surgery, and breast cancer. These databases have led to a number of published research papers. Multidisciplinary team meetings including oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, surgeons, nursing and ancillary staff have been developed for breast cancer, endocrine surgery, and for gastrointestinal malignancies.

The Unit continues to have a recognised leadership role, within Australian Endocrine Surgeons and has established the Victorian section of Australian Endocrine Surgeons.

Publications


Serpell J, Chauhan AJ. Thyroidectomy is Safe and Effective for Retrosternal Goitre. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery, January 2006. 76:238-242

Presentations


Anaesthesia

The Department of Anaesthesia provides around 15,000 anaesthetic services each year for surgical procedures at Frankston and Rosebud Hospitals. The Acute Pain Service manages the postoperative analgesia of more than 1000 patients per year and provides an obstetric epidural service at Frankston Hospital.

There are 11 staff specialists and 11 VMO anaesthetists. The Department is actively involved in training and currently has seven accredited registrars representing all five years of the ANZCA anaesthetic training program. Five of the anaesthetists are examiners of the Australian and NZ College of Anaesthetists.

Members

Director of Anaesthesia
Dr Terry Loughnan MB BS FANZCA

Deputy Directors of Anaesthesia
Dr John Copland MB BS FANZCA
Dr Noel Roberts MB BS FANZCA

Supervisor of Training
Dr Chris Bowden MB BS FANZCA
Dr Helen Kolawole BMedSci MB BS FANZCA MClInEd (UNSW)

Dr Gary McKenzie MB BS BMed Sci Dip O&G FANZCA
Dr Julia Fleming PhD FANZCA FFPMANZCA DipMed (Pain Management)

Dr Sam Leong MB BS FANZCA Grad Dip Med Stats (Newcastle)

Dr Tyrion Crofts MB BS FANZCA
Dr Jinny Marxsen MB BS FANZCA
Dr Tony Vulcan MB BS FANZCA

Dr David Henry MB BS FANZCA
Dr John Campbell MB BS FANZCA

Dr Thomas Edgley MB BS FANZCA
Dr Peter Brown MB BS FANZCA
Dr Elliott Rubinstein MB BS FANZCA
Dr Anthony Prendergast MB BS FANZCA
Dr Tzung Ding MB BS FANZCA
Dr Mae Chen MB BS FANZCA
Dr John Tang MB BS FANZCA
Dr Mihaela Diacon MB BS FANZCA
Dr Ashley Webb MB BS (Hons) FANZCA Grad Cert Quality Improvement Healthcare (Newcastle).

Research Highlights

Dr Helen Kolawole completed a six month sabbatical in Australia and New Zealand studying the role of medical simulation in teaching and research. During this time she acquired qualifications as an instructor in medical simulation. Dr Kolawole was also involved in the preparation and presentation of the new subject at Monash University: ‘MEDS102 Developments in Clinical Practice: Patient Safety’.

Dr Ashley Webb completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research at Leeds University in the United Kingdom.

Publications

Loughnan T, Bowden C. ‘Assessing the accuracy of self-reported height and weight in an elective surgical population in a Melbourne Metropolitan Hospital’, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care. Accepted for publication.


This presentation was announced winner of the Gilbert-Brown Medal for the best new research presented at the meeting from Australia and New Zealand.


Presentations

Orthopaedics

The Orthopaedic Unit of Peninsula Health comprises eight surgeons, three registrars and two HMOs. Two of the registrars are accredited trainees on the Victorian Orthopaedic Training Scheme.

The Unit provides a wide range of Orthopaedic Services to the population of Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula. An ever increasing trauma load maintains expertise in fracture management and sub specialisation allows the Unit to offer up-to-date elective services.

Most surgery is performed in the main theatre complex at Frankston Hospital. Some less complex surgery is performed at Rosebud Hospital and the Day Surgery Unit at Frankston.

The Unit holds twice weekly ward rounds and X-ray conferences with input from the Radiology Unit. Monthly clinical conferences as well as quarterly Audit meetings are also conducted.

Specialist areas of interest where members of the Orthopaedic Unit have been active in research include joint replacement, knee surgery, shoulder surgery and foot and ankle surgery.

The Orthopaedic Unit collaborated with Allied Health and the outpatient department to develop an innovative multidisciplinary first referral clinic for orthopaedic surgery in February 2006. The clinic functions in a multidisciplinary manner with joint medical and physiotherapy assessment of all patients referred to the waiting list.

Members

Surgeons
Chairman - Mr Peter Brydon MB BS FRACS
Mr Gerard Bourke MB BS FRACS
Mr Nigel Broughton MB ChB (Hons) FRCS (Ed) FRCS (Eng) FRACS
Mr Peter Hamilton MB BS FRACS
Mr Peter McCombe MB BS FRACS
Mr John Rehfisch MB BS FRACS
Mr Andrew Weber MB BS FRACS
Mr Reinhart Wuttke MB BS FRACS.

Registrars 2006
Dr Derek Carr (Accredited)
Dr Tanya Burgess (Accredited)
Dr Richard Large (Unaccredited).

Presentations
De Juan Ng, Tham S, Wells P. The relative motion between the scaphoid and the lunate. Peninsula Health Registrar Research Prize & Tyco Award. Frankston, VIC, November 2005. Oral presentation.
Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery

The Plastic and Maxillofacial Unit comprises seven surgeons, an accredited plastic surgery registrar, and an HMO. The Unit runs a twice weekly multidisciplinary outpatient clinic with the Occupational Hand Therapists providing more than 3,000 therapy services each year.

The Unit operates at both Frankston and Rosebud campuses, carrying out procedures ranging from excision of skin cancers, hand surgery such as carpal tunnel release, duypytrens and ganglion excision, to complex microsurgical procedures such as breast and lower limb reconstruction.

The Unit deals with a large volume of trauma such as hand fractures, dog bites, burns and pretibial leg lacerations.

Three of the Unit members (David Hunter-Smith, David Ross, Marie Rostek) have travelled overseas in the last year with the Interplast program to Asian Pacific Countries to operate on people in third world countries who normally have no access to reconstructive plastic surgery. They operate on children and adults disfigured by congenital conditions such as cleft lip and palates, burns and hand deformities. They volunteer their services and travel with a small team including an anaesthetist and nurses and all the equipment required to operate on the patients.

The Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit is committed to improving education within the hospital.

Members

Head of Unit - Patricia Terrill
MB BS FRACS
David Hunter-Smith MB BS(Hons) FRACS
Brian McMillan MB BS BDSE MDS FRACDS(OMS) (Resigned May 2006)
John Redman MB BS FRACS LDS BDSc
Tom Robbins MB BS FRACS FRCS(Ed) FRCS
David Ross MB BS FRACS
Marie Rostek MB BS FRACS.

Planned projects for 2006

• Management of kewire pin sites in hand fractures.
• Tegaderm Absorbent Vs Kaltostat in skin-graft donor sites.

Presentations

Rostek M. Breast Reconstruction, Mornington Peninsula Division of General Practitioners, Beleura Hospital, Mornington, Vic. July 2005.

Rostek M. Breast Reconstruction. Nurses at Beleura Hospital, Mornington Vic, July 2005.


Overseas Aid/Teaching

Hunter-Smith D. Bangladesh, April 2006. Interplast.


Vascular Surgery

The main focus of the Vascular Surgery Unit’s work is patient management and surgical training. Surgical registrars learn the basics of vascular surgery as a prerequisite of their fellowship training.

The Vascular Unit performs a broad variety of routine peripheral vascular surgical procedures with the exception of dialysis access surgery and ‘open’ thoracic aneurysm repair. Since the acquisition of a modern angiography table in the operating rooms four years ago, an increasing number of endovascular interventions have been performed. Endoluminal aortic aneurysm repairs now outnumber the traditional invasive surgical interventions.

Further improvement is expected this year after the opening of the long awaited dedicated angiography facility at Frankston Hospital.

The Unit consists of three vascular surgeons. The vascular team is working to meet the ever increasing demand of the growing population of the Mornington Peninsula.

Members
Head of Unit - Mr George M Somjen MS FRCS(Ed) FRACS DDU
Mr Graeme C Last MB BS (Hons) FRACS(Vasc)
Mr Wai-Leng Chue MB BS FRACS(Vasc).

Research Interests and Future Directions
Research is regarded as an integral part of surgical training. All surgical registrars attached to the Unit are assigned a research project, and encouraged to present their results at various forums.

The research topics in the past included the pathophysiology of venous insufficiency, deep venous thrombosis and evaluation of endoluminal repair of aortic aneurysms.

The Vascular Unit has an ongoing interest in wound management and the treatment of diabetic foot complications.

Further plans include the introduction of carotid stenting to complement carotid endarterectomy.

Current Projects
• Nationwide clinical trial of the Cook Zenith AAA Flex Endovascular Graft.
• Incidence of pelvic vein and ovarian vein reflux in patients with lower extremity varicose veins.
• Patterns of early and late recurrences after varicose vein surgery.

Presentation
MEDICAL AND CRITICAL CARE
Department of Medicine

The Department of Medicine is affiliated with the Monash University Faculty of Medicine and oversees the post-graduate training of registrars in general internal medicine (basic physician training) and in specialty fields (advanced physician training), as well as the teaching of medical students from The Monash University Medical School.

The Department of Medicine at Frankston Hospital oversees acute general medical services at Frankston Hospital through four general medical inpatient units. The Department also oversees specialist medical services including cardiology, oncology, thoracic medicine, endocrinology and diabetes, neurology, nephrology, infectious diseases, intensive care medicine and gastroenterology. There exists a close relationship with palliative care services, geriatric and rehabilitation services, and emergency medical services.

The Department comprises five staff specialists, two with academic appointments at Monash University and a large number of affiliated visiting medical officers.

The Department hosts the FRACP clinical exams every second year and now has five accredited advanced training positions in oncology, endocrinology, cardiology, thoracic medicine and gastroenterology. Educational activities include a general medical journal club, multiple choice questions and curriculum review sessions, weekly grand round, short and long case training for the clinical examination and tutorials for interns and other junior staff.

Members

**Medicine and Critical Care**
Director of Medicine  
Associate Professor D Langton  
MB BS(Hons) MRACMA FCCP FRACP

**Medical Staff Cardiology**
Dr P Carrillo MB BCh FRACP (Director)  
Dr R Lew MB BS FRACP  
Dr G Szto MBBS FRACP  
Dr G Toogood MB BS FRACP  
Dr B Wood MB BS FRACP.

**Medical Staff Endocrinology**
Dr D Dutta MB BS PhD FRACP  
Associate Professor C Gilfillan MB BS PhD FRACP (Head of Unit)

**Medical Staff Infectious Diseases**
Dr R Hoole MBBS FRACP  
Dr Steven Morris MBChB (Auk) FRACP  
Dr Suresh Varadarajan MBBS FRACP.

**Medical Staff Gastroenterology**
Dr D Badov MB BS FRACP  
Dr R Herrmann MB BS FRACP  
Dr M Merrett MB BS (Hons) FRACP  
Dr Lee Min Yap MB BS FRACP.

**Medical Staff General Medicine/Renal**
Dr P Fiddes MB BS FRACP (Head of Unit)  
Dr P Nayagam MB BS (Hons) MRCP (UK) FRACP  
Dr M O’Ryan MRCP(UK) FRACP  
Dr B Pathik MB BS MD MHPed FRACP DDU  
Dr G Perry MB BS FRACP  
Dr A Prendergast MB BS FFAARACS FANZCA  
Dr M Taverner MB BS FRCA FANZCA FFANZEC Dip PainMgt  
Dr E Thevathasan MB BS(Hons) FRACP.

Snapshot

Dr Barry Chan graduated from The University of Melbourne in 1995 and joined Peninsula Health in 2003 as a registrar. His current role is as Emergency Physician in the Emergency Department at Frankston Hospital. In 2004 he became a Fellow of the Australian College of Emergency Physicians, and this year Barry achieved his Graduate Certificate of Clinical Research Methods. Barry’s research interests are varied. He is presently looking into aggression management in the Emergency Department. Last year he conducted a study entitled ‘Overview of the use of the Observation Ward’ and in 2003 his research focus was on ‘Reducing the need for Doppler scan for patients with suspected DVT’.

Peninsula Health Health Research Report 19
Research

Research in the department of medicine is largely carried out in the individual specialty units as detailed in the following pages. This year, as a new initiative, basic physician trainees are being encouraged to complete a small project during their period of training at Frankston hospital. It is hoped that in future years the department will be able to report on a number of these small clinical projects in the area of general internal medicine. The department is also providing training for registrars in research methods, trial design and critical appraisal of medical literature to arm them to be critical thinkers as they progress through their medical careers.

Cardiology

Clinical activities of the Cardiology Unit include ward service and investigative services for patients and day patients including ECG, blood pressure monitoring, pacemaker testing, exercise stress testing and holter monitoring. There is a comprehensive echocardiography service including stress and pharmacological echocardiography.

The Cardiac Angiography Suite provides Cardiac Angiography and Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)/stent, pacemaker replacement and transoesophageal echocardiography.

Members

Head of Unit - Dr Phillip Carillo
MB BCh FRACP
Dr Arun Arunothayaraj MB BS
MRCP FRACP
Dr Robert Lew MB BS FRACP
Dr Greg Szo MB BS FRACP
Dr Rodney Teperman MB BS PhD
FRACP DDU
Dr Geoff Toogood MB BS FRACP
Nurse Unit Managers
Coronary Care unit - Ms Gill Dixon
RN Div1 CCRN
Angiography - Mr Robert Templin
RN Div1 Cardiac Technologist
Cardiology - Mr Damian Flenery
RN Div1

Current Projects

Szo G. The Australian Acute Coronary Syndromes Prospective Audit.

Genous Bioengineered r-stent, Post Marketing Registry.

Publications


Abstract submitted for Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, August 2006.

Diabetes and Endocrinology

The Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology at Peninsula Health comprises specialist physicians, a registrar completing advanced training in endocrinology, clinical nurse consultants (diabetes educators) and research nurses. Using a team approach in close relationship with dietitians, podiatrists and ward and clinic nursing staff, the Unit provides a comprehensive clinical service to inpatients and outpatients.

Services include:
- Inpatient acute services at Frankston Hospital.
- Inpatient services at Rehabilitation, Aged and Palliative Care Services at Mt Eliza and Golf-Links Road supported by diabetes nurse educators and registrar.
- The diabetes complications clinic - a multidisciplinary clinic devoted to the care of type 1 and 2 diabetics and the prevention of complications.
- The gestational diabetes clinic - a clinic devoted to the intensive management of women with all types of diabetes in pregnancy.
- The insulin stabilisation clinic - a nurse-run clinic where patients receive full education on the use of insulin injections and intensive support through the early weeks of therapy.
- The Young Adults with Diabetes (YADS) clinic - an evening clinic for young people with Type 1 diabetes.
- The medical endocrinology clinic (MENDOC) - for follow-up and treatment of patients with a number of endocrine diseases from thyroid disease to osteoporosis.
- Paediatric Specialist Nurse Clinic - this clinic provides diabetes education for children aged between 2yrs – 16yrs.

In 2006, the Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology welcomed Dr Debra Renouf as an advanced trainee in Endocrinology. Dr Renouf will be involved in clinical research during her year at Frankston, being the principal investigator in a trial of diabetes self-management groups as an adjunct to the diabetes complications clinic. Research activity continues to increase with commencement of new sponsored trials and investigator initiated research projects. The Department is currently running nine international clinical drug trials in diabetes testing the efficacy of two new orally active drugs for the management of type 2 diabetes. The Department also has three investigator initiated research projects currently underway.

There has been success in achieving funding for these studies from the pharmaceutical industry for drug trials, the Regional Diabetes Support Scheme and through grants from the Peninsula Health Research Development Fund. There are two other major projects under development that will form the basis for applications for NH&MRC funding applications and the attachment of postgraduate students to the Unit in 2007.

Members

Head of Unit
Associate Professor Christopher P Gilfillan MB BS(Melb) PhD FRACP.

Physicians
Dr Deepak Dutta MB BS PhD FRACP
Dr Steven Morris MB ChB(Auk) FRACP
Dr Suresh Varadarajan MBBS FRACP.

Diabetes Educators
Sue Cole RN CDE Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Debbie Distefano RN CDE Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Helen Irwin RN RM GCDE Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Kylie Ball RN BNsg CDE Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Liz Allen RN CDE Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Fiona McKeeman RN BN BAppHSc GCDE.

Research Nurses
Shona Lynch RN BNsg GCDE GCTM MRCNA Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Kaye Quick RN Cert Perioperative Nursing
Lisa McCormack, RN BNsg (Hons).

Current Projects

- Diabetes self management groups trial - studying the impact of self-management training and motivation on the extent to which diabetic patients reach their treatment targets.
- Telomere project - Studying the relationship of glycaemic and oxidative stress exposure of the foetus and telomere length in the newborn.
• Thyroid tumour bank - Searching for genetic alterations that will help with determining the diagnosis and prognosis of thyroid tumours.
• Osteoporosis intervention trial - studying the impact of a hospital-based intervention on the extent to which fracture patients are on fracture-preventing therapy at one year.
• IDIPAMI - studying the effect of Insulin-Dextrose Infusion on outcome Post Acute Myocardial Infarction.
• SYR 332 sulph - studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in sulphonylurea treated patients.
• SYR 332 naive - studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in treatment naive patients.
• SYR 332 insulin - in patients using insulin.
• SYR 332 extension - a 12 month extension of the above three studies.
• MK 431 021 - studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in treatment naive patients.
• MK 431 036 - studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in patients using metformin.
• Research database epidemiology study - studying the characteristics of the diabetic population on the Peninsula to enable better planning of services.

Presentations


Gilfillan C. Titration of insulin to achieve maximal glycaemic control in Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Diabetes Partnership Meeting, Melbourne, Vic, March 2006.


Snapshot

Shona Lynch is the coordinator for the Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Unit. Her role is to ensure that the patients receive appropriate diabetes education and that the coordination of medical and nursing care is ensured during their visits to the unit. Her interest in research was sparked when she completed her Post Graduate studies in Diabetes Education in 2003. Shona’s original hospital-based nursing training was completed at PANCH and she first came to Frankston Hospital in 1989.
Publications

Gilfillan C, Strauss B, Rodda C, Bowden D, Kean A, Obaid M, Crawford B. A Randomised, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial Of Intravenous Zoledronic Acid In The Treatment Of Thalassaemia-Associated Osteopaenia. - Submitted - Calcified Tissue International

Infectious Diseases

The department is currently headed by Dr Sheena Broughton. The unit will soon be expanding with the appointment of Dr Paul Vinton. Dr Vinton has a strong research focus, particularly in Mycobacterial infections.

Current projects

• Hand Hygiene project (continued from 2005).

Phase One of the Victorian Quality Council’s Hand Hygiene Project was a success, with the levels of infection from Multiple Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) going down in all six pilot hospitals. As one of those six, Frankston Hospital is now serving as a mentor to another Victorian public hospital now beginning the program in Phase Two.

Staff education and awareness programs, the use of Chlorhexidine Hand Rubs and close monitoring helped reduce the spread of MRSA at the hospital from 0.5% in July 2005 to 0% in June 2006.

• Antimicrobial Stewardship Rounds.

This is a joint project with Sarah Chao of the Department of Pharmacy to improve Vancomycin prescribing. Twice weekly history reviews of all patients on Vancomycin assess both the appropriateness of prescribing and offer advice on dosing schedules. 80% of recommendations were accepted over the first 6 months of the ASR. It is hoped to expand the rounds to include other antimicrobials with the aim of improving both patients’ clinical outcome and safety. Sarah Chao is completing her Masters Project on the Implementation of an Antimicrobial Stewardship Round to improve Vancomycin prescribing and has submitted the 6 month results for presentation at the Society of Hospital Pharmacists later this year.

• Study of the appropriateness of antimicrobial prescribing in bacteremia.

This is a prospective observational cohort study in conjunction with Dr Gary Braun, Dr John Botha, Dr Ian Carney, Dr Leong Goh and Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil. Early appropriate antimicrobial therapy is well recognised to improve patient outcomes and is now a major focus of campaigns to improve survival from sepsis. The study will assist educational activities with medical staff, allowing feedback on both the micro-organisms causing bacteraemia among patients at Peninsula Health, and advice on the most appropriate empirical and directed antibiotic choices.

Gastroenterology

The Gastroenterology Unit provides inpatient and day-stay gastroenterological services at Frankston Hospital. The Unit provides inpatient management of Digestive Diseases including Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Liver disease. The Gastroenterology Unit also provides endoscopic services including diagnostic and interventional gastroscopy, colonoscopy and ERCP. The Unit currently performs over 3000 endoscopic procedures per year.

The Head of Unit, Dr David Badov, and his team have a keen interest in research. Dr Badov is the principal co-investigator in a current Hepatitis C management trial (CHARIOT), and has been involved in more than a dozen clinical trials on various gastrointestinal conditions including chronic liver disease, irritable bowel syndrome, dyspepsia and cancer.

Members

Head of Unit - Dr David Badov
MB BS FRACP
Dr Rob Herrmann MB BS FRACP
Dr Michael Merrett MB BS FRACP
Dr Lee Min Yap MB BS FRACP
Dr Aaron Thornton MB BS
Registrar: Dr Marios Efthymiou MB BS.

Current trials

CHARIOT Hepatitis C trial examining the effect of induction dosing with the combination Interferon and Ribavirin therapy in
Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C infected with Hepatitis C Genotype 1.

A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 induction study to assess the efficacy and safety of 6uG Sargramostim (Leukine) administered subcutaneously once daily for 8 weeks in patients with active Crohn’s Disease. Short title: NOVEL 8 - NOVEL = New Opportunities To Verify Evolving Logic In Crohn’s Disease. Principal Researcher: Dr Michael Merrett.

Presentations


Publications


Intensive Care

The Intensive Care Services for Peninsula Health are based at Frankston Hospital and comprise a 10 bed Intensive Care Unit. The Unit is multidisciplinary and approximately 600 patients are admitted annually. The Unit is a mixed medical/surgical intensive care unit (ICU) with a varied case mix excluding neurosurgical and cardiac surgical patients.

Dr John Botha is the Director of ICU and the Clinical Dean for Frankston Hospital. Dr Ian Carney is the Deputy Director and also an examiner for the College of Physicians. Dr Subhash Arora, who was previously Director of Critical Care Services at Latrobe Regional Hospital, works as an Intensive Care Specialist at Frankston Hospital. Dr Arora brings with him a wealth of clinical teaching and research experience. The Unit continues to have a major commitment to both undergraduate and post-graduate teaching at Peninsula Health.

Dr John Botha is currently on sabbatical leave learning practical echocardiographic techniques and during his absence Dr Himangshu Gangopadhyay has been temporarily appointed. Dr Gangopadhyay is a Fellow of the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care and has extensive critical care experience. The Unit continues to maintain a high profile in both hospital based clinical research involvement in multi-centre clinical trials.

Dr Nina Fowler, a PhD basic scientist, continues in her role as Data Collector and Research Coordinator for the Unit. Dr Fowler has been instrumental in establishing the Aortic Database, which contributes to the ANZICS Database. The data confirms that the standardised mortality ratio of critically ill patients at Frankston Hospital compares favourably with Victorian and Australian ICUs.

The Unit continues to embrace a philosophy of educating both local and international graduates. Dr Timm Matthieson, previously employed by The Berlin Heart Institute completed a successful year in the Intensive Care Unit and has returned to Germany to further his career in cardiology. Dr Narcelita Lim, who is a Fellow of the Philippine’s College of Intensive Care, has completed a year of intensive care and demonstrated a commitment to clinical excellence and teaching. She is currently on rotation through the Department of Anaesthesia to fulfil criteria for intensive care training. Dr Sanjiv Vij completed an accredited year in the Unit and having completed a year of general internal medicine is now gainfully employed as a senior registrar in the Alfred Hospital Intensive Care unit prior to sitting the Fellowship of the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care. Dr Ajith Kumar has passed the theoretical examination of the Diploma in Intensive Care from the European Society of Intensive care. The Unit has a full complement of junior medical staff for 2006 and has numerous international applicants enquiring about training positions for 2007.
Sadly, the Unit bade farewell to the Unit Manager Mr Ian Kenny. He has been replaced by Mr Peter Taylor who has displayed an enthusiastic approach to both education and research.

The nursing staff continue to excel and at the date of publication 77% of the nursing staff working in the Unit have post graduate critical care qualifications. Three members of the senior nursing staff hold masters degrees in nursing. At undergraduate level, students from Monash University still continue their final year selective rotations in ICU.

The Unit has upgraded its ventilators with the installation of five Puritan Bennett ventilators. These ventilators will provide new modalities of ventilation and ventilatory monitoring. The Unit has also installed new Draeger monitors so that patients in Intensive Care will have access to state of the art monitoring facilities.

Both transthoracic and transoesophageal echocardiography in the assessment of the critically ill are utilised by the Unit. Dr Arora has completed a Postgraduate Diploma of Peri Operative and Critical Care Echocardiography through the University of Melbourne and both Dr Botha and Dr Carney are enrolled in the Diploma course. It is hoped that these new skills will optimise the assessment and management of the critically ill patient at Frankston Hospital.

The Frankston Hospital Intensive Care Unit has established a national reputation for competence in multi-centre research. In 2005 two trials were completed and four trials are underway during 2006. The intensive care registrars continue to contribute to the research profile of the Unit and have had four presentations since the inception of the Registrar Research Prize. Both national and international presentations continue with a further presentation at the Brussels Intensive Care Symposium in March.

Members

**Full time intensivists:**
Director of Intensive Care Dr John Botha MB CHB MMed FCP(SA) FRACP FJFICM
Deputy Director of Intensive Care Dr Ian Carney B Sc MB BS(Hons) FRACP MPH&TM FJFICM
Dr Subhash Arora MBBS(India) MD(Medicine) FRCP (Glasgow) FRACP FJFICM Diploma Peri operative Critical Care Echocardiography
Dr Himangshu Gangopadhyay MB BS (India) MD (Anaesthesia) FFARCS (Ireland) FJFICM.

**Part-time intensivists:**
Associate Professor David Langton MBBS FRACP FJFICM
Dr Gary Braun MB BS FRACP
Associate Professor Graeme Hart MBBS FANZCA FJFICM
Dr William Kelly MB BS FRACP FJFICM.

**Nurse Unit Manager:**
Mr Peter Taylor Dip. HE Nursing (adult) ENB A13 923 FHAEC 7306/7 ISM B48.

Research Interests and Future Directions

During the past five years the Unit initially concentrated on local research and retrospective studies. This achieved its purpose of establishing a research ethos and ascertaining where the Unit’s strengths lay. This strategy led to nine national presentations, three international presentations and numerous publications in peer reviewed journals. With the establishment of the Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Clinical Trials Group, the Intensive Care Unit was well poised to partake in multi-centre studies. Numerous multi-centre studies have been completed, and during 2006 four multi-centre trials and two Unit based trials are underway.

Dr Botha has an interest in acute renal failure and renal replacement therapy in the critically ill. He also has an interest in sedation and analgesia in the Intensive Care Unit. He also has an interest in organ donation and is a liaison intensivist for the Victorian organ donation initiative. He is currently enrolled in a Postgraduate Diploma in Perioperative and Critical Care Echocardiography through the University of Melbourne.

Dr Carney has a particular interest in nutrition, infectious diseases and echocardiography. Dr Arora has expertise in ventilator associated pneumonia and echocardiography of the critically ill. Dr Fowler has a doctorate in the basic sciences and was appointed as data collector and research.
coordinator. Her appointment has been vital in facilitating multi-centre research in the Intensive Care Unit.

The strategic plan for the next five years will be to encourage research at all levels. In particular research by members of the nursing staff and allied health will be facilitated. With current expertise in echocardiography, this modality of investigation will be used to conduct further unit based research. It is envisaged that if benchtop facilities are available Dr Fowler will commence bedside to benchtop research. Consideration will also be given to a Frankston initiated multi-centre trial.

Education will continue to be a major focus in the next five years, and senior registrars will be encouraged to enrol with the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine. An international approach to education will be maintained and suitably trained foreign medical graduates will be considered for appointment. Final year medical selectives through Monash University will be accommodated with unit based education focussed on their needs.

Current projects

- Renal Study. A Multi-centre, Unblinded, Randomised, Controlled Trial to assess the effect of Augmented vs. Normal Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) on 90 day all cause mortality of Intensive Care Unit Patients with Acute Renal Failure (ARF).

Frankston Intensive Care Unit will be one of 20 large units and 15 smaller units participating in the study. The study will provide level one evidence about the comparative effects of different targets for CRRT dose in patients with ARF treated in the Australian intensive care setting. Given the incidence of severe ARF in Australia alone, this intervention could save approximately 250-300 lives/year thereafter and approximately 15,000 people worldwide.

- Enteric Study: The Early Nasojejunal Tube to Meet Energy Requirements in Intensive Care Study.

In critically ill patients, artificial nutritional support is now considered to be the standard of care as it improves wound healing, reduces complication rates and improves clinical outcomes. The primary objective of the study is to establish whether early jejunal feeding (using a frictional Naso Jejunal tube) increases the amount of enteral nutrition delivered during ICU admission in mechanically ventilated medical-surgical critically ill patients with reduced gastric motility when compared to standard feeding (commencing through a naso gastric tube). The study is a prospective, multi-centre, concealed, stratified, randomised, clinical trial. The setting will be 15 Australian medical surgical ICUs.

- PROTECT. Prophylaxis of ThromboEmbolism in Critical Care Trial.

Critically ill patients have an increased risk of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) due to their acute illness, procedures such as central venous catheterisation and immobility. The objective of the trial is to evaluate the effect of Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) vs Unfractionated Heparin (UFH) on the primary outcome of proximal leg DVT diagnosed by compression ultrasound, and the secondary outcomes of PE, confirmed bleeding, Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) and objectively confirmed venous thrombosis at any site. The trial is a prospective randomised stratified concealed blinded multi-centre trial. The trial will be a collaboration between the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Clinical Trials Group. It is funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research.

- RICH. Rapid Infusion of Cold Hartmann’s Solution.

Having contributed to a pilot study, Frankston Hospital is now one of a number of Australian Hospitals participating in this randomised trial. This trial will evaluate the effect of a rapid infusion of Cold Hartmann’s solution on neurological outcome in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The patients who have out-of-hospital cardiac arrests will be randomised and the treatment arm will receive infusions of large volumes of cold intravenous Hartmann’s
Department of Medicine

Solution. This will be initiated by the ambulance staff and it is hoped that this may lead to an improved neurological outcome.

• A comparison of high flow nasal oxygen to high flow face mask oxygen in extubated patients.

This project continues from 2005. It is a randomised cross over study examining the effectiveness of high flow oxygen delivery using a face mask or nasal interface. Patient recruitment has started and will continue through 2006.

• Intensive care nurses’ knowledge of arterial pressure monitoring.

This observational study will review the intensive care nurses’ knowledge of this technique of monitoring.

Future Directions

• Early parenteral feeding in the Intensive Care Unit.

The Frankston Intensive Care Unit envisages participation in a multi-centre trial which evaluates the impact of early parenteral nutrition on the nutritional status of the critically ill.

• Welpicus study.

This European based study is an observational study reviewing end of life decisions and withdrawal of therapy in critically ill patients. Frankston Hospital Intensive Care Unit will be one of the Australasian units contributing to this study.

Publications


Botha J, LeBlanc V, Mudholkar P. Ventilation of patients with Obstructive Airways Disease: Intensive Care Outcome. Submitted for publication.

Cerebral Fat Emboli: MRI findings and a review of the literature. In writing.

Intravascular lymphoma: An unusual cause of anasarca and pyrexia. In writing.

Role of echocardiography in management of critically ill patients. In writing.

Presentations


Arora S. Use of echocardiography improves the management of critically ill patients. ANZICS Adelaide, SA, October 2005.

---

Snapshot

Peter Taylor is Frankston Hospital ICU’s new nurse unit manager. Peter’s nursing career began 12 years ago in the UK and he has since gained specialist clinical experience in the critical care setting in high profile ICUs in London and Melbourne. When Peter joined Peninsula Health last year, he took on the role of clinical nurse educator attached to the emergency department at Rosebud Hospital where he was responsible for the design and implementation and clinical supervision of the nurse education program. Peter’s areas of professional and academic interest include resuscitation, defibrillation, ECG interpretation, venipuncture and life support.
Medical Oncology

Cancer services at Frankston Hospital were initiated in 1994 with the appointment of the first medical oncologist. This has expanded to a team of three oncologists; one specialist haematologist and registrars for both oncology and haematology and three outpatients clinics. The Unit currently treats patients from Monday to Friday at Frankston and Tuesday and Thursdays at Rosebud with plans to treat patients on Saturday at Frankston and Monday-Friday at Rosebud.

One important focus is clinical research which has become an integral part of the service with more than 75 trials being conducted over the last seven years. Participation in clinical trials has resulted in a vast improvement in the quality of care within the Unit and has allowed patients to access some of the latest treatment developments in oncology and haematology.

The trials are co-ordinated by a team of seven research staff who have a wide range of skills including nursing and psychology.

Further, participation in clinical trials has only been made possible by the continual support of other hospital departments, in particular nursing, radiology, pharmacy, pathology and medical records.

Research Affiliations

Australasian Gastro-intestinal Trials Group (AGITG)  
Australian and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG)  
International Breast Cancer Study Group (IBCSG),  
European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)  
National Surgical Adjuvant Breast & Bowel Project (NSABP)  
Gynaecological Oncology Group (GOG)  
Australian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG)  
Australasian Lung Trials Group (ALTG)  
Medical Research Council of the U.K.  
European Study Group for Pancreatic Cancer (ESPAC)  
Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG)  
National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC).

As well as the multi-centre collaborative groups, a number of local clinical trial programs are now developing. Frankston Hospital will commence a pilot program using a novel treatment for Small Cell Lung Cancer which may extend to other sites. The Unit will continue participation in a unique in-house study in the management of locally advanced breast cancer with Monash Medical Centre with preliminary results being presented soon.

Members

Head of Unit - Dr Vinod Ganju  
MB BS FRACP  
Dr John Catalano MB BS FRACP  
Dr Nicole Potasz MB BS FRACP  
Dr Jacqui Thomson MB BS FRACP  
Dr Ranjana Srivastava MB BS FRACP.

Registrars:
Dr David Pook B Med Sci  
(Hons) MB BS  
Dr Vethavalli Aravindan MD(HAEM)  
Nurse Unit Manager Carmel O’Kane RN.

Research staff:
Theresa de Man PhD  
Sharon Maliepaard RN Div1  
Mellisa McCormack BN (Hons)  
Judi Clarke RNDiv1  
Judith Reilly RN Dip Onc  
Sally Blandford RNDiv1.

Research Highlights 2006

The Medical Oncology and Clinical Haematology Unit at Peninsula Health continues to participate in a very broad range of collaborative clinical trial activities. With the increased strength and resources in the research department the Unit has started on a new phase of development which involves clinical and biological studies which are emanating from the Unit's centre and which may be disseminated to other clinical trial centres.

Research Papers

to pre-operative chemotherapy for locally advanced breast cancer: A comparison of conventional methods with PET scan and biological markers. Fifth Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Society for Breast Disease, September 2005.


**Novel therapies**

HyCAMP - this compound combines the chemotherapy agent irinotecan with hyaluronic acid, a naturally occurring substance found in the human body. It is hoped that HyCamp can more effectively bind to tumour cells and hence deliver a higher dose. Further, it also appears to be effective in reducing the degree of diarrhoea, which is one of the main side effects of irinotecan. The Unit is currently participating in a clinical trial of this new agent in patients with advanced colorectal cancer and will shortly begin trialling it for Small Cell Lung Cancer.

Panitumumab - new drug in new setting. The Unit will shortly commence using panitumumab in combination therapy to treat colorectal cancer. The Unit previously trialled this compound in patients with very advanced disease. The new study will compare standard chemotherapy with or without the new compound panitumumab.

Denosumab is a new compound to help with bone metastases. The Unit will be participating in two trials - one with breast cancer patients and the other with other cancers and multiple myeloma (but excluding prostate and breast cancer). In both trials, patients will be given either denosumab or the standard treatment zoledronic acid to treat bone metastases.

SETUP for Breast Cancer Sequential Evaluation of tumours undergoing pre-operative chemotherapy for breast cancer. This is a clinical trial which aims to examine detailed biological and radiological characteristics of breast cancer which is undergoing preoperative chemotherapy. This research involves very detailed analysis of the tumours with conventional imaging studies, PET scans as well as analysis of the tumour and blood for genetic proteinomic and molecular characteristics that predict responses to specific drugs.

The long term aim of this type of research is to specifically target the right drugs for the right sorts of tumours.

**Current trials**

**Breast**

A randomised, multi-center Phase 3b, open-label, study of letrozole vs anastrozole in the adjuvant treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor and node positive breast cancer (FEM345Study#CFEM345D2411) In this study patients with early breast cancer receive hormone treatment with either letrozole or anastrozole.


Suppression of ovarian function trial (SOFT): A phase 3 trial evaluating the role of ovarian function suppression and the role of exemestane as adjuvant therapies for premenopausal women with endocrine responsive breast cancer. In this study hormone treatments are offered to premenopausal women with early breast cancer.

A randomised, open-label, multi-centre, phase 3 study of epoetin alfa plus standard supportive care versus standard supportive care in anemic patients with metastatic breast cancer receiving first-line standard chemotherapy (Protocol number: EPOANE-3010).

In this study, patients who are being treated for early breast cancer and become anaemic with the treatment may receive maintenance.
Chemotherapy in hormone non-responsive breast cancer: Low-dose cytotoxics as “anti angiogenesis treatment” following adjuvant induction chemotherapy for patients with ER-negative and PgR-negative breast cancer (IBCSG – 22-00). In this study patients with early breast cancer who are not suitable for hormone therapy are offered a low-dose chemotherapy treatment.

PET scans of breast tumours (before and after pre-operative chemotherapy).

Phase 2 trial of oral vinorelbine in combination with capecitabine, and trastuzumab as first-line therapy in women with previously untreated HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer. Women with advanced breast cancer and whose tumour is HER2 positive are offered an oral version of the chemotherapy drug Navelbine as well as Herceptin.

Colorectal

Randomised phase 3 trial of De Gramont schedule 5-fluorouracil and leucovorin plus irinotecan versus single agent irinotecan, for people with previously treated metastatic colorectal cancer. Patients receive either irinotecan alone or in combination to treat metastatic colorectal cancer.

The MAX study: A randomised phase 2/3 study to evaluate the role of mitomycin C, avastin and xeloda in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (Protocol number: AG0501CR). Patients are offered a new treatment option for their metastatic disease.

Randomised phase 2 trial of irinotecan with hyaluronan (HYCAMP) versus irinotecan as treatment for patients with metastatic colorectal cancer who have failed 5-FU based chemotherapy.

A randomised, multi-centre Phase 3 study to compare the efficacy of Panitumumab in combination with chemotherapy alone in subjects with previously treated metastatic colorectal cancer.

Gastric

ATTAX2: An open label, multi-centre phase 2 Study evaluating the efficacy and toxicity of docetaxel plus cetuximab (ErbituxTM) as second line treatment of docetaxel refractory oesophago-gastric cancer. This study is only for patients who participated in the earlier ATTAX study. Patients whose disease worsens within 6 months of treatment are treated with docetaxel and cetuximab.

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia

An open-label, multi-centre, randomised, comparative, phase 3 study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of rituximab plus fludarabine and cyclophosphamide (FCR) versus fludarabine and cyclophosphamide alone (FC) in previously treated patients with CD20 positive B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). In this study, patients have the possibility of receiving the new compound rituximab in addition to standard treatment for their CLL.

Lung cancer

An expanded access program of TarcevaTM (erlotinib) in patients with advanced stage 3B/4 non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Protocol MO18109. This study gives patients who have previously been treated with chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy access to the drug Tarceva. The study will continue until Tarceva becomes PBS listed.

A randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled study of subjects with previously untreated extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) treated with platinum plus etoposide chemotherapy with or without darbepoetin alfa. Patients who are anaemic prior to treatment for SCLC receive etoposide/placebo to assist their production of red blood cells.

A phase 3, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of subjects with previously untreated extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) treated with platinum plus etoposide chemotherapy with or without darbepoetin alfa. Patients who are anaemic prior to treatment for SCLC receive etoposide/placebo to assist their production of red blood cells.

A randomised phase 2 study of two regimens of palliative chemoradiation therapy in the management of locally advanced non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). This study compares two different chemotherapies in combination with radiation treatment for NSCLC.

Melanoma

Phase 3 trial of taxoprexin injection versus dacarbazine in patients with metastatic malignant melanoma. Patients with
melanoma are treated with one of two treatments, including a new combination.

**Multiple Myeloma**
Open-label, single-arm study of the safety and efficacy of CC-5013 monotherapy for subjects with multiple myeloma: A companion study for studies THAL-MM-003, CC-5013-MM-009, and CC-5013-MM-010. In this study, all patients receive the study drug revimid. It is only for people who participated in one of two earlier trails.

**Pancreatic**

Phase 3 adjuvant trials in pancreatic cancer comparing (1) 5FU and D-L folinic acid versus (2) gemcitabine versus (3) no adjuvant treatment. In patients with inoperable pancreatic cancer, the effectiveness and side effects of chemotherapy and/or no treatment is evaluated.

**Biliary tract carcinomas**
A phase 2 trial of gemcitabine in fixed dose rate infusion combined with cisplatin in patients with inoperable biliary tract carcinomas. A new trial offering a novel treatment for biliary tract carcinoma.

**Ovarian**
A multinational, randomised, phase 3, GCIG intergroup study comparing pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (CAELYX®) and carboplatin versus paclitaxel and carboplatin in patients with epithelial ovarian cancer in late relapse (>6 months): GCIG Calypso Study. In this study patients are given standard treatment or a new modified form of an established chemotherapy drug.

**Chronic myeloid leukemia**
A randomised open-label study of 400 mg versus 800 mg of Gleevec®/Glivec® (imatinib mesylate) in patients with newly diagnosed, previously untreated chronic myeloid leukemia in chronic phase (CML-CP) using molecular endpoints (Study number: CSTI571K2301). In this study, two different doses of Glivec are compared for the treatment of CML.

**Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma**
A multi-centre, phase 3, open-label, randomised study in patients with advanced follicular lymphoma evaluating the benefit of maintenance therapy with rituximab (MabThera®) after induction of response with chemotherapy plus rituximab in comparison with no maintenance therapy (PRIMA study)(ALLG. Protocol number NHL16). All patients have treatment with standard chemotherapy and rituximab and then half will also receive continued treatment (maintenance) with rituximab.

A trial of rituximab versus a watch and wait strategy in patients with advanced stage, asymptomatic, non-bulky follicular lymphoma (grades 1, 2 and 3a) (Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG) StudyNHL14 and Cancer Research UK and UCL Cancer trials Centre Watch and Wait Trial). This trial will investigate the benefit of treating patients with the drug rituximab prior to being symptomatic compared to treatment once patients are symptomatic.

**Bone metastases**
A randomised, double-blind, double-dummy, multi-centre study of denosumab compared with zoledronic acid (Zometa®) in the treatment of bone metastases in advanced breast cancer.

A randomised, double-blind, multi-center study of denosumab compared with zoledronic acid (Zometa®) in the treatment of bone metastases in subjects with solid tumours (excluding breast and prostate cancer) or multiple myeloma (20050244).
Theresa De Man has been the Research Manager of Oncology Clinical Trials at Peninsula Health since 2001. Theresa gained her Doctor of Philosophy in 1988 from La Trobe University and prior to that, her Bachelor of Behavioural Sciences, also from La Trobe. Her research roles have included studies into mental health issues such as dementia, schizophrenia and bi-polar, as well as investigations into genetics and cancer. Theresa’s current role includes trial recruitment, analysis, and developing affiliations with national and international cancer research groups.
Colon

A clinical trial comparing 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) plus leucovorin (LV) and oxaliplatin with 5-FU plus LV for the treatment of patients with stages 2 and 3 carcinoma of the colon.

A randomised, multi-centre phase 3 trial of irinotecan in combination with three different methods of administration of fluoropyrimidine: infusion 5-FU (FOLFIRI); bolus 5-FU (Day 1 & 8) and oral capecitabine (Day 1-14): with celecoxib versus placebo as first-line treatment for patients with metastatic colorectal cancer.

A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study of oxaliplatin/5 fluorouracil/leucovorin with PTK787/ZK 222584 or placebo in patients with previously treated metastatic adenocarcinoma of the colon or rectum (Protocol number: CPTK787 0133/304946).

Lung

An open label, randomised, phase 1/2 study of DMXAA in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel in patients with locally advanced and metastatic non small cell lung cancer (AS1404-201).

Lymphoma


An ANZLG/TROG prospective study of limited chemotherapy and involved field radiotherapy for patients with clinical stage 1-2 Hodgkins’ disease.

Ovarian

A phase 3 randomised trial of paclitaxel and carboplatin versus triplet or sequential double combinations in patients with epithelial ovarian or primary peritoneal carcinoma.

Myeloma

Phase 2 trial of combination treatment with thalidomide and celecoxib for patients with multiple myeloma.

A multi-centre, randomised, placebo controlled study of combination thalidomide plus dexamethasone therapy versus dexamethasone therapy alone as induction therapy for previously untreated subjects with multiple myeloma.

A multi-centre, randomised, parallel group, double-blind, placebo controlled study of CC-5013 plus dexamethasone versus dexamethasone alone in previously treated subjects with multiple myeloma.

Prostate

A phase 2 study of paclitaxel and vinorelbine (PacVin) in hormone refractory metastatic prostate cancer: Double tubulin targeting.

Rectal

A randomised trial of preoperative radiotherapy for stage T3 adenocarcinoma of rectum.

Renal Cell Carcinoma

A randomised, double-blind phase 3 study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of bevacizumab in combination with interferon alfa-2a (Roferon) versus interferon alfa-2a and placebo as first line treatment administered to nephrectomised patients with metastatic clear cell renal cell carcinoma. (Protocol number: B017705).

Other

A randomised, double-blind, placebo controlled study of darbepoetin alfa for the treatment of anaemia in subjects with non-myeloid malignancy receiving multicycle chemotherapy.

Multi-centre, double-blind, placebo controlled roll-over study to protocol 20010103 of darbepoetin alfa for the treatment of anaemia of cancer.
Anaemia in cancer
A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of darbepoetin alfa for the treatment of anaemia in cancer patients who have had chemotherapy and anaemia patients are treated with a compound which stimulates red cell production.

Publications
Optimal tolerance of an all-oral combination chemotherapy (CT) of oral vinorelbine (NVBo), capecitabine (C) with/without trastuzumab (T) in metastatic breast cancer (MBC) patients (pts): Safety Results of two International multi-center studies. Chan A, Tubiana N, Ganju V, Conte PF, Bougnoux P, Aubert D, Bourlard T, Becquart D. Presented at ASCO 2006.


Respiratory Medicine

The Department of Respiratory Medicine has two main areas of research interest - lung disease and sleep related breathing disorders. In addition, the Department takes an active role in quality assurance activities.

Patients suffering sleep disordered breathing are referred to the Sleep Laboratory where they are monitored overnight. The sleep laboratory in the Frankston Integrated Health Centre is a 3-bed, fully computerised laboratory which performs more than 700 sleep studies each year. The sleep laboratory aids in the diagnosis and treatment of people with sleep disordered breathing, such as obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA).

The lung function laboratory offers measurement of lung volumes and capacities, flow-rates, bronchial hyper-reactiveness, allergy testing, hypoxia-altitude simulation test, exercise walking tests (for evaluation of home oxygen) and cardiopulmonary exercise testing. More than 3000 tests are performed each year at Frankston and Rosebud.

Members

Head of Unit - Associate Professor David Langton MB BS (Hons), MRACMA, FCCP, FRACP
Dr Gary Braun MB BS FRACP
Dr Nicholas Manolitsas MB BS (Hons), FRACP
Julie Sharp, Respiratory Nurse Consultant
Rita Coffee, Asthma Educator
Van Le Blanc, Senior Respiratory Scientist.

Current projects


This study was conducted to update the Home Oxygen Recipient Database and therefore allow ongoing statistical analysis of the data collected. The size of this study of 248 home oxygen patients will have state-wide implications in relation to health care planning and delivery, and hospital utilisation. These implications will be evaluated in future studies. Amongst the outcomes of the study, it was found the average Mornington Peninsula home oxygen recipient was aged 69 years, suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and had used oxygen funded by Victorian Aids and Equipment (VAEP) Program for an average of 31 months.

- Asthma Study.

Patients have now been recruited for this study which compares two different ways of treating both the underlying asthma and its symptoms.
Aged Care Medicine

Aged Care Medicine is a major clinical specialty within the Rehabilitation, Aged and Palliative Care Services (RAPCS) at Peninsula Health. Together with other units within RAPCS, it provides the complex clinical care required to assist the patient recovering from acute and chronic diseases and promotes a return to their own home. Each of the Units within RAPCS is in line with the development of the sub-specialties with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

The Department is headed by Professor Joseph Ibrahim, who was appointed in 2004 by Peninsula Health and Monash University to develop a Centre of Excellence in clinical practice and research in aged care medicine and healthy ageing. This is a foundation position for an Academic Director of Aged Care Medicine at Peninsula Health that involves establishing a teaching and research program, as well as maintaining and improving clinical care for aged patients.

RAPCS has a major interest in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and has further increased its involvement with the development of teaching programs for medical, nursing and allied health students. Plans for the establishment of a clinical school for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy students have been discussed with Monash University and could result in joint appointments of lecturers, tutors, provision of ongoing research support, as well as a joint appointment of an Associate Professor to be based at Peninsula Health. The Unit also supports advanced training of registrars in aged care medicine, rehabilitation medicine and palliative care medicine. These posts are accredited by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. RAPCS contributes to the teaching of these registrars and to the interns and medical officers rotated into the service from Frankston.

Staff Members

Aged Care Medicine
Head of Department - Joseph E Ibrahim MB BS Grad Cert HE PhD MRACMA FAFPHM FRACP
Stephen Denton MB BS DGM Dip Pall Med
Stephen Gong MB BS FRACP MRCP (UK) MRCP (I) Hon Sen Lecturer Fac Med Monash Uni
Sam Kumar MB BS FRACGP DGM Grad Dip Hlth Ad Dip Pall Med
Sanmugam Sabanayagam MB BS FRACP FRCP
Senior Research Fellow: Christopher King BA (Hons) MA (Japan) PhD
Administrative support: Wendy Smith, Lorennre Barnard.

Rehabilitation
Head of Department - Selva Mudaliar DS+m (Fiji) FAFRM (RACP) Hon Lecturer Fac Med Monash Uni Member Court of Examiners Fac Rehab Med RACP
Marylou Leach MB BS(Hons) Dip RACOG FRACGP FAFRM (RACP) FRCP
Juris Rubenis MB BS FAFRM (RACP) DGM
Administrative support: Margaret Cambridge.

Palliative Care Medicine
Head of Department: Brian McDonald MB ChB FChPM MSc.

Research Activities and Interests

The Department of Aged Care Medicine will continue developing its strategic plan over the next 12 months to develop research programs into healthy ageing and into clinical practice in aged care medicine. The specific areas of work that will be highlighted include safety and quality of patient care in aged care medicine in the acute, sub-acute and residential aged care sectors. Research will also be conducted to develop a program exploring interdisciplinary care, in particular how teams work together in providing care for patients and how risk is assessed by different health professions in determining a patient’s ability to return home.

Professor Ibrahim’s areas of interest include improving the safety and quality of health care, particularly the evaluation and prevention of iatrogenic diseases in medicine and determining methods of successfully improving the utilisation and delivery of medical services. His interest in medical education is focussed on training of senior and junior medical staff and medical students in systematic approaches to clinical decision making.

Dr. Christopher King’s research interests include applications in information and communications technologies for delivery of aged care services, dementia interventions, and the influences of social and cultural factors on the delivery of aged care. Dr King’s interest in medical education is on bridging the gap between health
care practice and social science perspectives on the organisation of health and illness.

**Supervision of Postgraduate Student Research**

**Professor Joseph Ibrahim**  
Ms R Potelli, Master of Health Services Management, Monash University, Case Study. Learning to be a manager. Sole Supervisor 2006.

**Dr Christopher King**  

**Conference Presentations**

**International and National**

Ibrahim J. Promoting patient safety through the investigation of death: the role of the Clinical Liaison Service. The Tokyo University Hospital, Tokyo, Japan, January 2006. Invited speaker-sponsored.


**Regional**


Ibrahim J. What is the future of aged care services? Western Melbourne Division of General Practice, Aged Care Weekend Seminar December 2005. Invited Speaker.


Abstracts and Posters


Publications


Ibrahim J. Interview about reporting of hospital deaths to the State Coroner’s Office. Stateline, ABC Television current affairs program broadcast on public television. Victoria, Australia 7:30pm 10/06/2005.

Aged Care Medicine

Australian New Zealand Journal of Surgery 2005; 75:1000-1004

Research Grants

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Dementia Community support grant 2006: King C, Gray L, Morse C and Leake S. Meeting the dementia information and service needs of the baby-boom generation in Mornington Peninsula.

Department of Human Services (Vic) and Uniting Care 2006-7: King C, Savy B and Rogers C. Respite service utilisation by people with dementia in the Hume Region of Victoria 2004-2006. A pilot research project to understand patterns of services utilisation for a larger project that will develop interventions to overcome barriers to dementia respite services in regional Victoria.

Monash University Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Strategic Grant 2004-05: Darzins P, King C. The influence of medical interns’ attitudes towards old age on their patients’ perceptions of care: An interactionist perspective.

National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant 2003-05: Oakley J, Clarke S, Ibrahim JE, Robins R, Kuhse H. An ethical analysis of the disclosure of surgeons’ performance data to patients within the informed consent process. The objective of the research is to develop an ethical framework or model to incorporate information about individual health care providers into the patient consent process.

Emergency Medicine and Acute Ambulatory Care

The Department of Emergency Medicine provides care based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis and management of acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups with a full spectrum of physical and behavioural disorders. The Department of Emergency Medicine is also linked to the development of pre-hospital and in-hospital emergency medical systems and the skills necessary for this development. It is also well integrated with community based health care systems with solid linkages between Peninsula Health and community health care professionals through Hospital in the Home and Response Outreach Support Services.

Peninsula Health is incorporated into the Victorian Trauma System. Frankston Hospital Emergency Department (ED) is designated as a Metropolitan Trauma Service and Rosebud Hospital ED as a Primary Injury Service. Both sites have a helipad to enable critical care transfers both in and out of the health service.

The Department of Emergency Medicine has a formal Quality Improvement program, including morbidity and mortality review, dedicated clinical and management information systems, and formal disaster mitigation plans. Several staff members represent the Department of Emergency Medicine on principal hospital planning committees. There is a formal training program in Emergency Medicine and Emergency Nursing as well as in-service education opportunities for all staff. There is an undergraduate education program and an evolving research program.

The Department of Emergency Medicine is accredited by the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine for advanced vocational training in Emergency Medicine. The Department has a formally appointed Director of Emergency Medicine Training. As an academic department, it is a teaching department for medical, nursing and ambulance undergraduates from the Monash University Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

Frankston Hospital

The Emergency Department at Frankston Hospital is a busy, sophisticated, purpose-designed unit with a separate resuscitation area with capacity for frequent management of medical emergencies in adults and children, major trauma and other life-threatening emergencies. It has capacity for invasive monitoring and short-term assisted ventilation. The Department provides resuscitation, stabilisation and initial treatment for all emergencies. The Department is also designated by the State Medical Displan as one that must be prepared to send out teams of appropriately trained staff to a disaster site.

Frankston Hospital is designated as a Metropolitan Trauma Service. As such it expected to receive all major trauma victims from Peninsula Health’s catchment area and either manage injuries on site or stabilise and transfer patients to one of the three Victorian Major Trauma Services. Frankston provides a consultatory service to the Emergency Department at Rosebud Hospital within a newly developed continuum of service context.

The Department has access to specialists in Intensive Care, Anaesthesia, Paediatrics, Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Liaison Psychiatry, medical and surgical sub-specialties at all times. There is extended hours access to allied health professionals including a social worker and Crisis Assessment Treatment worker.

It is anticipated that the Department of Emergency Medicine will see more than 50,000 patients at Frankston Hospital and admit approximately 30% of these attendees to a ward under the care of an inpatient clinical service.

Rosebud Hospital

The Emergency Medicine service at Rosebud Hospital continues to evolve as a free standing emergency department. The Department is equipped and staffed to provide assessment and treatment of acutely unwell patients. It is also equipped for the resuscitation and stabilisation of critically ill patients whilst awaiting transfer to either Frankston Hospital or a tertiary referral service beyond Peninsula Health. The Department continues to be staffed with more senior doctors and has a specialist emergency physician present everyday.

Within the Victorian state-wide trauma system, Rosebud remains designated as a Primary Injury Service and as such is focused...
on the management of minor injury with basic stabilisation, early consultation and transfer of any major or minor injury requiring specialist consultation.

**Hospital in the Home (HITH)**

Hospital in the Home (HITH) is a clinical care service that sees patients referred from inpatient units, outpatients, the emergency departments, private hospitals, community outreach programs, specialist medical practitioners’ rooms and from general practitioners. HITH provides continuing inpatient style care, such as the administration of intravenous antibiotics, within the community for a specified range of clinical conditions.

This year, it is anticipated that 700 patients will be managed by HITH. Patients referred from the emergency departments and general practitioners comprise 53% of HITH’s workload.

**Members**

**Director of Emergency Medicine**  
Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil C StJ MB MS (Monash) MClInEd (USNW), FACEM MRACMA MACLM Cert IV Train & Assess.

**Operations Director/Principal Nurse Emergency and Ambulatory Services**  
Ms S Jones (Senior Lecturer) RN RM BNsg MNsg CertMgmt CertAdvNurEmerg.

**Clinical Director Frankston Emergency Department**  
Dr Leong Goh (Lecturer) MB BS (Melb.) FACEM.

**Acting Clinical Director Rosebud and Director of Emergency Medicine Training**  
Dr Mark Smith (Senior Lecturer) MB MS (Monash) BMedSci Hons (Monash) FACEM.

**Emergency Physicians**  
Dr Varna Amarasinghe MB BS (Colombo) FACEM  
Dr Tim Baker MB BS Hons (Monash) BMedSci Hons (Monash) FACEM  
Dr Kate Bristow MB ChB (Otago) FACEM  
Dr Barry Chan MB BS (Melbourne) FACEM  
Dr Darsim Haji MB ChB (Mosul) FACEM

**Emergency Paediatrician**  
Dr Peter Francis (Senior Lecturer) MB BS FRACP.

**General Practitioners**  
Dr Martin Jackson MB BS (Melb) BMedSci (Melb) DipObs RACOG FRACGP  
Dr Richard Ward MB BS Hons (Melb) FISMS  
Dr Geoff Macaulay MB BS (Melb) DipObs RCOG ACCAM.

**Nurse Unit Managers**  
Frankston Emergency Department  
Mr Antony Browne BA RN (Div 1) CertICU (RPH Sydney) CertPaed (Lond) from May 2006  
Rosebud Emergency Department  
Mr Gerard Matthews BSc (Newcastle) BNurs (Newcastle) MNur (Sydney) DipAppSciNur (Newcastle) ICU Certif RN Hospital in the Home  
Ms Susan Knight RN (Div 1) CertSmlBusMgmt.

---

**Snapshot**

Dr Andrew Tay graduated from Monash University in 1997 and first joined Peninsula Health as a registrar in the Emergency Department at Frankston Hospital in 2000. Andrew is actively involved in teaching and research within the department. His audit of the utilisation of CT brain scans at Frankston Hospital resulted in a committee which was set up to draft recommendations for ordering urgent CT brain scans. He also studied the incidence of post-dural puncture headache in the ED setting and has conducted an audit of UTI and antibiotic susceptibility of over 4000 positive urine culture results.
Peninsula Health Research Report

Project Officer
Ms Nyree Parker GradDipAppNur
BA MA Grad Dip CritCareEN
Grad Cert Health ProfEd GradCert
Health Prom.

Research Interests

• Demand Management
• Casemix evaluation
• Clinical service development
• Clinical Education
• Bedside investigative solutions
• Disaster Medicine
• Decision support
• Resuscitation.

Current Projects & Trials

Chiezey I, Baker T, Wassertheil J.
Do children receive analgesia as efficiently and effectively as adults with isolated long bone fractures? Department of Emergency Medicine and Acute Ambulatory Care Research.

Wassertheil J, Jackson M, Ganju V,
McCormack M, de Man T. Aspirin to Prevent Recurrent Venous Thromboembolism (ASPIRE). A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial examining the efficacy and safety of low-dose aspirin after initial anticoagulation to prevent recurrent venous thromboembolism. NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, Camperdown NSW.

Collaborative Research

The Department of Emergency Medicine, in conjunction with the School of Business Systems, Faculty of Information Technology and Department Accounting and Finance, Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University, is currently involved in the following collaborative research projects:

• Development of knowledge based and driven decision support system for Disaster Medicine.
• The efficacy of a computer assisted decision support program for emergency department and triage.

Publications

Referred Journal Publications

Ceglowski R, Churilov L,

Churilov L, Siew E-G, Smith K,

Wassertheil J. There are sensitive and specific clinical findings that indicate the need for resuscitation in an apparently unresponsive victim who is found initially facedown. Within the context of this question, the victim is considered to be one who has collapsed and landed or is found in a facedown or prone position. Circulation. 2005;112: b1 - b14.


Wassertheil J. Pausing CPR after a minute to determine if there is a pulse is potentially harmful. Circulation. 2005;112: b1 - b14.

Referred Book Chapters


Referred Conference Proceedings

Padmanabhan N, Burstein F,
Wassertheil J, Hornblower B,

Padmanabhan N, Burstein F,
Churilov L, Wassertheil J.
Completed Non-Published Academic Works

Wassertheil J, Chen R, Cox T, Holloway B, Sdrinis S. An event review of inpatients experiencing greater than eight hours transit time from the Frankston Hospital Emergency Department to a ward bed. Peninsula Health, September 2005.

Book Chapters & Other Publications


Presentations


This paper was awarded the best paper and presentation of the conference.

Haji D. CAPTION-Acquired Pneumonias: Towards, improving outcomes nationally, The Peninsula Health experience. Poster Presentation: Peninsula Health Research Week, November 2005. This poster was runner-up in the Best Scientific Poster section of the Research Week Poster Display and Competition.

Fellowship Examinations

Associate Professor Wassertheil and Dr. Mark Smith participated as senior examiners for both Primary and Fellowship Examinations of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.

Principal Registrars Dr. Bogodan Slawinski and Andrew Tay passed the Fellowship Examination and completed their specialist training at Peninsula Health.

Drs. George Huth, Ekram Gadallah, Jacob Matera, Hui Li Shi, Ihab Saif and Belchi Chiezezy successfully completed the Primary Fellowship Examination and commenced advanced vocational training in Emergency Medicine.

Current Financial Support and Research Grants

National Health & Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Centre, Australia “Aspire Trial. Aspirin to prevent recurrent venous thromboembolism”

Researchers (Peninsula Health): A/Prof J Wassertheil, Dr M Jackson, Dr V Ganju.

Victorian Trauma Foundation with additional in-kind input from Peninsula Health and the Monash University Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies, Clever Directions and other stakeholder organisations.


Monash University Faculty of Information Technology Small Grant Development of a computer assisted decision support program for Disaster Medicine Triage. Administering Institution: School of Information Management & Systems, Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University Researchers A/Prof. F. Burstein A/Prof. J. Wassertheil and A/Prof. L. Churilov.

Pain Management

The Pain Management Unit of Peninsula Health provides a consultant supervised acute pain service and interventional pain relief treatments for chronic pain. Inpatient services include specialised treatment for chronic non-cancer pain and severe cancer pain.

This year, the research focus of the Unit has been on treating patients with painful knees with selective nerve blocks and pulse radiofrequency treatment. Two linked studies are being conducted in conjunction with the Department of Anaesthesia.

Knee pain is a common problem with 19-23% prevalence in people aged between 40 and 79 years. Frankston Hospital has 138 patients awaiting knee arthroplasty and many more patients on waiting lists for knee surgery. Preliminary work suggests patients with anterior, medial and lateral compartment knee pain who have not had open knee surgery may obtain complete albeit temporary pain relief and functional improvement from anaesthetising the cutaneous nerves supplying the knee joint.

The studies seek to validate the local anaesthetic injection technique, determine which nerves need to be injected and identify which patients, pain patterns and pathology are likely to benefit from a pulse radiofrequency treatment. The aim is to decrease the suffering of patients on the orthopaedic waiting list for joint replacements.

Members

**Head of Unit**
Dr Murray Taverner MB BS FRCA FANZCA DipPainMgt (Head of Unit)
Dr Tony Prendergast MB BS FANZCA.

**Current Projects**

Double-blind randomised selective nerve blocks with local anaesthetic or N-saline for complex knee pain in patients awaiting knee replacement.

Objective: To determine if complex knee pain in patients waiting reconstructive or joint replacement surgery can be relieved by selective nerve blockade with small volume subcutaneous injections of 1% lignocaine and if this result can be used to identify patients likely to benefit from a pulse radiofrequency treatment in the same area.

A pilot study of pulse radiofrequency treatment for complex knee pain in patients awaiting knee replacement who obtained relief with selective nerve blocks with 1% lignocaine or N-saline.

Objective: To determine if patients with complex knee pain awaiting joint replacement surgery responding to selective nerve blocks can obtain useful pain relief from a pulse radiofrequency treatment.
Psychiatric Services

The Psychiatric Services’ research activity has been led by Specialist Psychiatrists with specific research interests and the Chief Nursing Officer, who leads the Nursing, Education and Quality Improvement Program. This program continues to be active in identifying and evaluating training and educational needs in clinical areas.

The Department has also recently employed a research coordinator to assist in the development and maintenance of research programs within Psychiatric Services.

The Service continues its active quality improvement processes led by the quality coordinator. Psychiatry trainees are involved in a Masters program in Medicine in addition to the training program of the RANZCP.

Members

Director of Psychiatry
Clinical Assoc Professor Richard Newton MRCPsych MB ChB (Edin) FRANZCP Senior Lecturer.

Director of Aged Psychiatry
Dr Stephen Macfarlane MBBS FRANZCP.

Chief Nursing Officer
Barbara Keeble-Devlin RPN BAppSc DipAppSciPsychNurse MEd.

Research Coordinator
Birgit Schaedler B App Sc B Sc (hons) Executive Project Officer - Quality Ian Oliver RN.

Current Projects

Olanzapine Trial
Olanzapine plus Carbamazepine versus Carbamazepine alone in the treatment of Manic or Mixed Episodes associated with Bipolar 1 Disorder. Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Richard Newton.

A multi-centre randomised, double-blind study investigating the efficacy and side-effects of combining Olanzapine with Carbamazepine versus Carbamazepine alone in the treatment of Bipolar Disorder. This study is now completed and results will be known later this year.

Quetiapine SR
A multi-centre, double-blind, randomised, parallel-group, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study of the efficacy and safety of quetiapine fumarate sustained release (Seroquel SR TM ) in combination with an antidepressant in the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder with inadequate response to an antidepressant treatment (ONYX STUDY).

Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Richard Newton Co-Investigator: Dr. Lucinda Smith. This study has recently been given Research & Ethics Committee approval and is currently in the recruitment stage.

Risperdal

This study has recently been given Research & Ethics Committee approval and is currently in the recruitment stage.

Snoezelen Room
Study into behavioural change associated with the establishment of a multi-sensory environment or Snoezelen Room in Aged Psychiatry.

Principal Investigators: Jakqui Barnfield, Psychiatric Nurse Educator and Anna Ciotta, Neuropsychologist. This study is currently in the recruitment stage.

Presentations


The Frankston Hospital Radiology Department provides a comprehensive service including Radiography, Ultrasound with Doppler, Digital Fluoroscopy, Multi-slice Computed Tomography (MSCT), Nuclear Medicine, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Interventional Radiology.

In 2005/06, 65,330 imaging procedures were performed. A significant amount of the Department’s workload is in supporting the Emergency Department, surgical imaging, and musculoskeletal, oncological and neurological services but it covers all facets of modern medical practice. Since September 2005, the Department has been undergoing a major redevelopment. Anticipated completion of this project will be early August 2006.

The final stage, when completed, will provide the Department with an additional ultrasound, general X-ray and interventional suite which will add the services of Digital Subtraction Angiography. Redevelopment of the adjacent ‘old Paediatrics Ward’ has been completed and features a conference facility for Radiology/Clinical interdisciplinary meetings. Frankston Hospital has been involved in the selection of a vendor for the DHS/PACS project which will involve the digitisation of all radiology images and reports. These will be available online to all clinical sites throughout Peninsula Health. This facility will greatly assist clinical education within and outside the Department as well as providing a research tool in all aspects of clinical medicine. It is anticipated this facility will be functional in 2007.

**Members**

Director of Radiology - Dr Chris O’Donnell MB BS FRANZCR M Med
Manager Radiology - Mr Bert Thorbecke Dip Med Radiography Grad Dip Ultrasound.

**Visiting Radiologists:**

- Dr Paul Menssink MB ChB FRANZCR
- Dr Robert Southwell MB BS FRANZCR NSQAC
- Dr Alan MacKenzie MB BS FRANZCR
- Dr John Waugh MB ChB FRANZCR RCRL
- Dr Richard Farris MB FRANZCR
- Dr Rajeev Jain MB BS MD.

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

Dr O’Donnell has specific interests in all facets of MRI and in forensic imaging. Dr. O’Donnell has provided support to Mr. Gerard Bourke, Orthopaedic Surgeon, in a study for assessment of the ankle with MRI following ankle joint replacement.

**Current Projects**

Members of Radiology staff have been interviewed to provide imaging in prospective research studies to be conducted in 2006-07 by ICU:

- Investigation of DVT in patients - PROTECT study.
- Effect of placement of NG tube - ENTERIC study.
Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health

Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health is a collection of services at Frankston Hospital provided from an integrated unit which was purpose built and opened in October 2002. In 2003, Peninsula Health appointed Professor Robert Burrows as Professor Director of Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health. This was a joint appointment with Monash University. Professor Burrows retired in September 2005.

Women Services oversees almost 1900 deliveries a year and conducts gynaecological surgery daily. Frankston Hospital is a level two referral centre offering comprehensive pregnancy care except for neonatal intensive care. The Inpatient Unit comprises a 25 bed integrated unit. Women’s Services comprises multiple outpatient clinics.

Women’s Service research interests are mainly focused on women’s health issues nationally and internationally but do not preclude studies outside of traditional spheres that also impact upon women’s health.

In addition, journal clubs and the teaching of evidence-based medicine have become regular events within this Unit involving health care providers at all levels.

The Women’s Division has supported international studies, including the Term Breech Study which was initiated and run by Mr Ian McCahon.

Members

Acting Clinical Director -
Mr Ramesh Vasant MB BS
FRANZCOG FRCOG(UK)
Mr Geoffrey Baker MB BS
FRANZCOG FRCOG FRCS (Edin)
Mr Keith How MB BS
FRANZCOG MRCOG
Mr Thomas Jobling FRCOG
FRANZCOG CGO MD
Mr Douglas Johnson MB BS
FRANZCOG FRCOG
Mr David Luiz MB BCh
FCOG(SA) MRCOG FRANZCOG
Dr Petra Porter FRANZCOG
MBBS
Dr Refaat Guirgas FRANZCOG
MBBS

NUM Inpatient Services: Kate
Brown RN RM GradDip CMP MN
Acting Nurse Manager Womens
Services: Della Attwood RN RM
Project officer: Monica Finnigan
RM MHSc.

Presentations

Gilmour C, Moore C. Sink or Swim

Gilmour C, Moore C. Sink or Swim


Research Interests and Future Directions

- Smoking in pregnancy. Multi-centre trial through QUIT. Awaiting NH&MRC funding.
- Diabetes Research in Pregnancy. In collaboration with Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan, Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology.
NURSING, COMMUNITY AND ALLIED HEALTH
This year there has been an increased focus on research and academic pursuits amongst nursing staff in both acute and sub-acute settings.

At the inaugural Peninsula Health Allied Health and Nursing Research Symposium in November, Helen Irwin, Barbara-Anne Cass, Cecilia Webster, Helen Wearne, Diana Clayton and Betty Williamson presented their research projects. Cecilia Webster’s study, ‘Palliative Care Work - between Death and Discharge’, was announced the winner. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamson’s study, ‘Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access Coronary Angiography from the Nursing Perspective’, received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. In the poster competition, Betty Williamso

Skin Integrity continues to draw a high level of research activity, and in May, Fiona Butler, skin integrity nurse, participated in the Victorian Pressure Ulcer Point Prevalence Survey (PUPPS3) as a core team member for education and site co-ordinator across Victoria.

Peninsula Health’s continued partnerships with Monash University, Peninsula Hospice and Royal District Nursing Service in supporting the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in Nursing, Palliative Care. The School of Nursing and Midwifery, Monash University has been extremely valuable thanks to the support and contribution of Professor Margaret O’Connor.

Members

Head of Nursing Research
Executive Director of Nursing
- Elizabeth Wilson RN CTCert Diploma Health Num diploma (Nurs) BAppSc (N Admin) MHA FRCNA
Jakqui Barnfield RPN BNSg GradCertPsychNsgPrac MHS C (Nsg) MRCNA MANZCMHN
Jan Child RN GradDip (Behavioural Sc) GradDipHlthAdmin Maureen Habner RN RM BAppSci(AdvNsg) Ed MHA Shamala Jones RN RM BNSg MNsg CertMgmt CertAdvNurEmerg
Barbara Keeble-Devlin RN DipAppSci AdvPsychNsgs) BAppSci (Adv Nsg) MEd St. FRCNA MANZCMHN
Professor Margaret O’Connor AM DM MN B Theol RN FRCNA AIMM
Nyree Parker RB BAppSci(Nsg) BNs GradDipCritCare MNsg GradCertHealth Betty Williamson RN BNSg CCU RN.

Snapshot

Deidre Burgess joined Peninsula Health’s occupational therapy unit in 2002 and is now Senior Occupational Therapist for the health service. Deidre’s career focus and major research interest is on the role of occupational therapists in the palliative care setting. Her current role involves goal and priority setting with patients to improve their quality of life. Deidre graduated as an occupational therapist in 1985 from Lincoln Institute and completed a post graduate certificate in Palliative Care at Edith Cowan University in 1998 after developing a keen interest in the care of terminally ill patients. Her current research study is on mapping competence in provision of occupational therapy in palliative care.
Current Projects

• End of life care - a study of the end of life care needs of Veterans.

A scoping study for Department of Veterans’ Affairs, to investigate where and how veterans die and what is distinctive about a veteran’s death; whether needs of dying veterans are currently being met; and to make policy recommendations in relation to the palliative care needs of veterans.

Phase 1 of this project ($43,000) which involved a literature review and a retrospective audit of patient histories is now completed. Phase 2 will commence later in 2006.

• Linking the Parts:— Describing palliative care nurse consultant roles.

Nurses in acute hospitals in Melbourne, including Peninsula Health, have been interviewed and data has been collected about their activities. A $2,000 ANF grant has been provided to assist with the analysis of this study.

• Communication issues in palliative care units, with staff and families.

A $3,000 grant from the Nurses Board of Victoria was provided to explore the issues of family involvement in decision-making in the inpatient palliative care setting (that may lead to aggressive/violent behaviour).

In conjunction with the Health Services Commissioner, policies for staff, including strategies for dealing with these situations, will be developed.

• An investigation into the causes and management of dehydration in the frail patient. Liz Suhr and Barbara Cass.

• Scope of practice issues in Palliative Care Unit. Cecilia Webster in conjunction with Monash.

• Management of staff stress in Palliative Care Unit. Jan Logan and Cecilia Webster. This project is being considered for Monash fellowship.

• Bereavement management in non-palliative care wards. Cecilia Webster - expanding on previous study.

• Student research: Joan Yalden PhD commenced March 2005. Implementation of a palliative approach in aged care using a practice development framework.

• Breastfeeding cessation in early weeks after birth. Gillies L, Harrison B, Gilmore C, Atwood D, Moore C - project in process.

• Exploring the potential of undergraduate night duty clinical placement for nursing readiness. Mckenna L, French J, Habner M, Jameson M, Wilson E.

• What value do weekend clinical placements have for nursing practice readiness? Habner M, Jameson M, Wilson E (co-investigators, Peninsula Health), McKenna L, (chief investigator, Monash), French J (co-investigator, Monash).

These are two collaborative projects with Monash University and have been funded by DHS.

This study aims to: explore the potential value and viability of night duty clinical placements for undergraduate nursing students; identify benefits and limitations of providing undergraduate nursing students with night duty rotations; pilot a clinical education model that would enhance graduate readiness for clinical practice realities; evaluate the pilot program from the perspectives of students, clinicians, the health care agency and university; and explore the value of night duty placements for enhancing work readiness and understanding of clinical nursing practice realities.

Presentations


Butler F. Improving wound management documentation and poster presentation - skin


Irwin H. Developing and Implementing a Comprehensive Diabetes Mellitus Service Across RAPCS. Peninsula Health Nursing Research Symposium, Frankston, Vic, November 2005.

Cass BA. The Experience of Patients Receiving Home Based Palliative Care Deciding to go to a Hospital Emergency Department. Peninsula Health Nursing Research Symposium, Frankston, Vic, November 2005.


Barnfield J, Hill S. Give Yourself to the Dark Side: Sustaining the Psychiatric Nursing Workforce Australian & New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses, Fremantle WA. October, 2005. This poster presentation won the $500 first prize in the poster competition.


Keeble-Devlin B, Hoppner C. Increasing influence through effective leadership: Lead, follow or get out of the way. Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA), Annual conference, Cairns, QLD, July 2006.

Publications


Butler F. National Wound Management Documentation Survey- research underway and outcomes accepted for publication as a journal article.
Community Health

Community Health Services at Peninsula Health provide quality health services which promote wellness and encourage people to share in the responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

Community Health is divided into seven service streams:
- Drug Treatment Services (PenDAP), Koori Services and Youth Services
- Dental Services
- Chronic Disease and Early Intervention Services
- Children’s, Family and Community Services
- Peninsula Complex Care Program
- Volunteer Program
- Frankston/Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership.

A large amount of research being conducted in Community Health stems from the Peninsula Complex Care Program (PCCP). The PCCP is funded through the Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) a component of the Department of Human Services Hospital Demand Management (HDM) Strategy. HARP is fundamentally looking at the best way to change the health system so that it efficiently and effectively meets the needs of clients.

Members

General Manager Community Health – Rob Macindoe BA GDRec GDBis MAAppSc AFCHSE CHE.

Peninsula Complex Care Program

- David Field - Program Manager
- Psychologist (from Feb 2006)
- Fiona Turner - Program Manager OT (until Feb 2006)
- Nicole Romney - Project Officer (Data & Quality Coordinator) (RN)
- Gay Taylor - Administration Assistant
- Griet Hofer - CHF Case Manager and CHF Stream Leader (RN)
- Judith Grant - CHF and Complex Care Case Manager and Complex Care Stream Leader (RN)
- Helen Stubbs - CHF Case Manager
- Peter Blewitt - Pharmacist
- Rhamba Thoman - Physiotherapist
- Alison Wheeler - Dietician
- Naomi Kubina - Dietician (no longer with CCP)
- Sofia Khouw - Diabetes Care Coordinator (Psychologist)
- Billy Bentley - D&A Liaison and D&A Stream Leader (RN)
- Dellie McKenzie - D&A Liaison (RN)
- Dave Kelly - D&A Liaison (RN)
- Debbie Distefano - Care Coordinator (RN Diabetes Educator) - (no longer with CCP)
- Jill Colson - Care Coordinator (RN Diabetes Educator)
- Bill Faulkner - Complex Care Respiratory Care Coordinator and Respiratory Stream Leader (RN)
- Jo Welsh - Respiratory Care Coordinator (RN)
- Stephen Kennett - Respiratory Care Coordinator (RN)
- Jill Gurney - Complex Care Care Coordinator and CCP Stream Leader
- Fiona Withers - Complex Care, Care Coordinator
- Peter Blewitt - Pharmacist
- Rhamba Thoman - Physiotherapist
- Alison Wheeler - Dietician
- Naomi Kubina - Dietician (no longer with CCP)
- Sofia Khouw - Diabetes Care Coordinator (Psychologist)
- Billy Bentley - D&A Liaison and D&A Stream Leader (RN)
- Dellie McKenzie - D&A Liaison (RN)
- Dave Kelly - D&A Liaison (RN)
- Debbie Distefano - Care Coordinator (RN Diabetes Educator) - (no longer with CCP)
- Jill Colson - Care Coordinator (RN Diabetes Educator)
- Bill Faulkner - Complex Care Respiratory Care Coordinator and Respiratory Stream Leader (RN)
- Jo Welsh - Respiratory Care Coordinator (RN)
- Stephen Kennett - Respiratory Care Coordinator (RN)
- Jill Gurney - Complex Care Care Coordinator and CCP Stream Leader
- Fiona Withers - Complex Care, Care Coordinator
- Peter Blewitt - Pharmacist
- Rhamba Thoman - Physiotherapist
- Alison Wheeler - Dietician
- Naomi Kubina - Dietician (no longer with CCP)
- Sofia Khouw - Diabetes Care Coordinator (Psychologist)
- Billy Bentley - D&A Liaison and D&A Stream Leader (RN)
- Dellie McKenzie - D&A Liaison (RN)
- Dave Kelly - D&A Liaison (RN)
- Debbie Distefano - Care Coordinator (RN Diabetes Educator) - (no longer with CCP)
- Jill Colson - Care Coordinator (RN Diabetes Educator)
- Bill Faulkner - Complex Care Respiratory Care Coordinator and Respiratory Stream Leader (RN)
- Jo Welsh - Respiratory Care Coordinator (RN)
- Stephen Kennett - Respiratory Care Coordinator (RN)
- Jill Gurney - Complex Care Care Coordinator and CCP Stream Leader
- Fiona Withers - Complex Care, Care Coordinator

Snapshot

Paediatric Occupational Therapist, Lisa Knightbridge, is part of Community Health’s Child and Family Team, a multidisciplinary team which works within a self health and family centred model. Lisa has a particular interest in evaluation and applied research and recently achieved a Master level in program evaluation. Lisa is currently involved in evaluating the School Readiness program. This outreach program is designed to assist children with learning difficulties or developmental delays in making the transition from pre-school to primary school. Lisa developed a survey to evaluate the impact of the program and the positive results were submitted to support a successful grant application, which has enabled the program to be extended locally.
Community Health

Kaye Doutch - Complex Care, Care Coordinator (OT)
Russell Primrose - Complex Care, Care Coordinator
Susie Sullivan - Complex Care, Care Coordinator (RN)
Joannah Tozer - Systems Review Project Worker (OT)
Lynn McLauchlan - Systems Review Project Worker & Complex Care, Care Coordinator (PT)
Chris Taplin - SHARPS Project Worker (RN).

Current Projects

A number of projects have been funded across Peninsula Health by HARP to implement new services, based on action research methodology, to test and trial new ways of providing care to clients with chronic diseases or complex needs, who are at high risk of needing to be hospitalised.

These include:

- AQoL (Assessment of Quality of Life) for all clients except the CHF group.
- HEI-Q (Health Education Impact Questionnaire) to evaluate the CHF rehabilitation program.
- Better Health Self Management course for clients.
- The development of Emergency Management Plans for clients who frequently present to ED.
- SHARPS Needs Analysis Survey. SHARPS (Southern Hepatitis AIDS Resource & Prevention Service) Project nurse, Christine Taplin is currently conducting a survey of 100 clients that use the needle syringe program. Over a three month period, Christine aims to collect data about the clients (demographics, drug usage, nutrition) and also what they would like to see if a primary health care clinic is established in the future. The survey is modelled on one completed by Dr James Rowe, RMIT, with his permission.

Presentations


Information Management

Information Management at Peninsula Health is comprised of four units: Health Information Services; Computer Services; Management Information Services and Clinical Informatics Support.

Working in concert, these services strive for excellence in the provision of high level patient care. The provision of a range of Computer and Information Technology tools by the Department assists staff of Peninsula Health to work more effectively and increase productivity, with the ultimate goal of providing better health care.

A key focus of technology development at Peninsula Health is the provision of infrastructure to link all parts of Peninsula Health to achieve better integration of services both internally and externally. Staff deliver training and education for the health service to enable the use of information technology as a core component of decision making in clinical practice. A number of staff members hold honorary teaching positions with the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Monash University.

The availability of high quality clinical data via integrated information systems, coupled with highly trained, information-literate staff, will ensure an increase in the research quantum delivered by Peninsula Health into the future.

Members
Director
Brendon Gardner BAppSc MRA MHA UNSW
Manager, Health Information Services
Emelia Pezzi BAppSc HIM
Manager, Information Technology and Telecommunications
Eric Aspinall HND (Business Studies) MACS
Manager, Management Information Services
Dean Athan BSc BEc DipBA
Manager, Clinical Informatics
Bob Ribbons RN ICCert BAppSc (Nur) MEd (Computing) FACHI Applications Specialists
Kate Allan RN BNurs GradDipEd & Career Devlpmt
Helen Roper RN BAppSc (Nur) Project Manager Patient/Client Management Systems
Anne Roman BAppSc HIM

Current Projects

- The department is working with researchers from Monash University to study clinicians’ adoption of electronic prescribing and related computerised Clinical Information Systems.

- Collaborative development of the Rapid Assessment and Discharge Project using Bluetooth technology to support the patient care delivery process. Victorian Public Hospitals Award commendation.

- TOPHATS – The Orion, Peninsula Health Advanced Technology Solution: An innovative project to improve the continuum of care on the Mornington Peninsula.

The project team introduced Orion electronic discharge summaries as a way of:
- enhancing the quality and timeliness of discharge information communicated to GPs
- reducing discharge medication prescribing errors
- providing enhanced clinician access to patient laboratory and radiology results.

The system uses browser-based technology (Concerto™, Orion Systems International) to integrate multiple hospital information systems, including an e-prescribing component, providing clinicians with a seamless ‘single patient view’ information system. The e-discharge component provides clinicians with an easy to use, point-and-click method of creating discharge summaries. Upon discharge, the summary is transmitted to the GP’s surgery via automatic fax or directly to their desktop computer via a secure network, HealthLink.

The TOPHATS project won the 2005 Victorian Public Hospitals Award for Innovation in Health IT.

Presentations


Publications

Nutrition and Dietetics

All Dietitians working at Peninsula Health are Accredited Practising Dietitians.

Dietitians are essential members of the health team who create strategies to enable clients to achieve their food and nutrition related goals using evidence-based medicine. They assess the nutritional needs of patients, plan appropriate nutrition interventions and educate patients and their families. Dietitians also consult with the Food Services Department.

Clinical Dietitians working with inpatients identify nutrition problems, develop care plans and monitor the effectiveness of interventions. They specialise in diabetes, heart disease, cancer, children and infants, aged care, gastrointestinal disorders, artificial feeding, eating disorders, weight management, other special medical needs and medical nutrition therapy.

Dietitians offer Outpatients and Community Rehabilitation Centres nutrition programs and healthy eating resources. They work with individuals, groups and communities in order to improve clients’ nutritional well being, prevent disease, increase access to healthy food and enhance personal control of health. Dietitians also manage patients requiring home enteral nutrition - this includes both adults and children.

Members

Head of Unit - Marlis Gelsheimer MSc APD
Acute Program Coordinator - Helen Stratmann Master Nutrition (Research) APD
RAPCS Program Coordinator - Raisa Shaikh B.Sc (Nutr. & Diet) APD
Andrea Bramley BSc MND APD
Lisa Schneider B App Sci (HM Nutr.) MND APD
Kathy Wheatland APD
Fiona Turnbull APD
Louise Buckley APD.

Research Interests and Future Directions

- Malnutrition prevalence screening and diagnosing early interventions and determining outcomes.
- Specialised supplementation to improve wound healing in selected patients.
- Determining Dietetic outcomes of outpatient services.
- Supervision of Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics Honours Project.
- Focussing on evaluating the new TPN protocol.
- Benchmarking nutrition practices.
- Evidence-based enteral nutrition guidelines.
- Participation in multi-centre randomised control trials focusing on enteral nutrition in the critically ill.
- Evidence-based guidelines for nutrition management of stroke.

Presentations


Awards and Innovations

Schneider L, Turnbull F. Evaluating the effectiveness of dietetic intervention in the chemotherapy day unit. Runner-Up, People’s Choice Award in Peninsula Health Research Week Poster Display and Competition. Frankston, Vic, November, 2005.

Multidisciplinary Nutrition Support Team established to promote best practice in parenteral nutrition.
Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy enables people to retain or regain function in their daily activities and occupations despite impairments, disabilities or handicaps which limit activity or participation or pose risks to their wellbeing.

More than 70 occupational therapists are employed across the acute, sub-acute, residential care, mental health, domiciliary care and community health services of Peninsula Health.

In the past year, a number of significant strategies have been put in place to ensure that continuous quality improvement and evidence-based practice is embedded into clinical care.

Monash University School of Occupational Therapy has become a partner in establishing research capacity building within the occupational therapy service. Associate Professor Farnworth and Dr Brown provide onsite mentoring on a fortnightly basis. Emphasis on developing critical analysis skills and enhancing capacity to apply research to practice within EBP framework underpins this support.

An EQuIP committee, with representatives from across the health service, meet monthly to evaluate and monitor all quality activities within the department. To date the committee has overseen more than 120 individual activities. The committee also aims to increase staff knowledge and understanding of the Quality Cycle in preparation for ACHS accreditation.

OT Research Committee

Members

Director, Occupational Therapy
Kate MacRae Dip OT (Edin)
AFCHSE
Sheila Baker Bsc PsyHons
BAppSc OT MSc OT
Deidre Burgess BAppSci MA
OT Grad Cert Palliative Care &
Allied Health Grad Dip Pastoral
Counselling
Josephine Chow Dip Occ
Therapy (NZ) Grad Dip Business
Admin (SIM)
Alison Closter BAppSc OT
Susan Davies BAppSc OT Grad
Dip Counselling
Annette Leong BAppSc OT Dip
Business FLM.

Research Interests
and Future Directions

The range of Quality Improvement Teams (QIT) within the Department has been expanded to address areas of specific clinical practice, to ensure evidence-based practice principles are applied. Clinical areas now addressed through this formal structure are:

• Cognition
• Upper limb
• Lymphoedema
• Neurology
• Cardio pulmonary.

In addition a number of process teams have been formed to address Education and Competencies, Documentation, EQuIP and Safe Practice.

The Education and Competency process team coordinates all internal education offered to the Occupational Therapy Department, within a monthly Professional Development calendar. To expand this team’s role the Department is funding members to undertake Certificate 4 in Workplace Assessor Training to enable them to develop specific competencies related to clinical practice. This is an area of need within the profession as a whole and it is hoped Peninsula Health will be able to share these competencies, once developed, with other health services.

Completed Research

Development of a discharge predictor tool for THR/TKR patients. Lambrou H, Meadows A. A pre-operative risk assessment form was developed to enable accurate prediction of discharge destination and hence appropriate targeting of physiotherapy and occupational therapy interventions with 81% accuracy.

What are the lived experiences of palliative care occupational therapists whilst facilitating dying at home? Burgess D, thesis as part requirement for Master of Clinical Science (Occupational Therapy) Curtin Institute of Technology. A phenomenological study exploring the lived experiences of palliative care occupational therapists as they have assisted palliative patients to return home.

Coronary Care.- Improving Educational opportunities for patients. Howard R. Chalmers A. This quality project involved the review of the education of patients with pacemakers or following CAGS (Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery). A review of the
existing service and benchmarking with the Alfred Hospital occurred. Completion of this project has facilitated the development of an educational handout for patients with pacemakers.

Comparison of discharge planning processes and outcomes between GMR and GPMEDR. Closter A (OT), Edis K (Dietician) and Garofalo L (SW). Retrospective chart audits, comparisons of length of stay and unplanned readmission rates and qualitative analysis of staff perspective were utilised to evaluate the effect of the implementation of the General Medical Unit at Rosebud Hospital on the discharge planning process and outcomes.

To measure patient outcomes deemed directly attributable to a specific increase in treatment provided to stroke patients in the occupational therapy department at MEC. Wells-Hawker C, Petelin-Tol A, Cabatingan G. The study looked at functional gains made by CVA/TIA patients from increased occupational therapy intervention for patients admitted from April to June 2005. Functional gains from this group of patients were compared with patients admitted from Oct to Dec 2004 before recruitment of one EFT. Improvements were evident in some outcome measures and a patient satisfaction survey indicated positive results.

**Current Departmental Projects**

- Walking the final road together …Mapping competence in provision of occupational therapy in palliative care. Burgess D.

This study looks at the acquisition of competencies for occupational therapists working in palliative care, noting it is a crucial developmental phenomenon. These competencies are identified in literature and supported through research into occupational therapy practice around palliative home assessments. The study will also link how those competencies are transferable to clinicians working with patient groups where constant deterioration is inevitable.

- Southern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Services (SMICS) has awarded a $15,000 grant to conduct a quality project. The grant is to be used to: identify unmet functional needs of chemotherapy day unit (CDU) clients; identify service gaps in the sub-acute ambulatory care service (SACS) for CDU clients; to improve staff and client knowledge of community treatment options.

This quality activity will follow the Plan - Do - Check - Act cycle. Having defined the problem, underlying possible causes will be fully explored, data collected and analysed and an action plan articulated and the four stages of quality cycle framework followed. A continuous improvement and measurement strategy will be determined within this process with a view to the sustainability of the final outcome.

Completion date: September 2006. Project Manager: Deidre Burgess.

- Establishment of a Hands Teaching Clinic in Sub-Acute Ambulatory Care J Chow, S Baker, A Leong.

This project was commenced following identification of a gap in upper limb service needs for the community. The knowledge and confidence of community therapists in working with hand conditions was established using a learning needs survey. Clients who would benefit from the introduction of this upper limb teaching clinic were identified. A system was established to triage appropriate patients into these clinics. Additional in-services, led by a senior occupational therapist with expertise in hands, were completed fortnightly to meet the learning needs of the community occupational therapists.

**Current Collaborative Projects**

- Competency Standards for Victorian Occupational Therapists in Acute Health - The Initial Assessment. Celia Curkpatrick.

Project Manager: Cheryl Schneider, Celia Curkpatrick, B App Sc (OT), FLM Dip Business – member of the Expert Working Group (EWG).
This project commenced October 2005 and was completed in May 2006. The standards represent the knowledge, skills and attributes which the profession considers necessary for occupational therapists to provide quality assessment and recommendations for clients with physical, cognitive, perceptual or psychological impairment.

- Improving management of the hemiplegic shoulder following stroke in acute care. Celia Curkpatrick and Michael Davies.

A review across physiotherapy and occupational therapy practice in managing the upper limb in acute stroke patients led to the introduction of The Hemiplegic Shoulder Risk Assessment and Best Practice Model of Management (BPM) in June 2005. This model was acquired through consultation with OT and PT at Royal Melbourne Hospital. A three month trial at Frankston Hospital, ending August 2005 resulted in an increased compliance rate of 87%, compared to 37% whilst using the under-developed assessment and management model introduced October 2004. This model of management is now included in the clinical stroke pathway, and future research opportunities with RMH are anticipated.


Peninsula Health was one of 13 health services that participated in research led by Northern Health to establish benchmarks on financial, staffing, caseload and treatment considerations in the areas of hand therapy. Results suggested that use of AHAs and extended scope practitioners needs to be considered to meet the growing needs of public hospital hand therapy services.

- Oncology and Palliative Care Home Assessments. Deidre Burgess and Sue Davies participated in a research project which aims to develop outcome measures for oncology and palliative care occupational therapy home assessments. This research is being conducted by the OT Australia – Vic Oncology and Palliative Care Special Interest Group. It is anticipated results will be disseminated in several ways – poster (See above at WFOT) and completion of journal articles.

- Stroke Management. Celia Curkpatrick and Michael Davies Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy together with Dr Butler and the nursing staff of the stroke unit are participating in AVERT (Phase 3); the first large, multi-centre, single blind, randomised controlled trial of very early rehabilitation (with a focus on mobilisation), versus standard care after stroke. This trial includes a comprehensive economic evaluation.

Presentations


Burgess D. What are the lived experiences of palliative care occupational therapists whilst facilitating dying at home? Peninsula Health Allied Health Research Symposium, Frankston Vic, November 2005.


Policy Development - State and National representation

Deidre Burgess was invited by the National Professional body - Occupational Therapy Australia to attend the following;
• Palliative Care National Referral Framework Consensus Meeting, in Sydney August 2005. Participants were invited from national peak bodies to a one day consensus workshop on draft guidelines for a Palliative Care referral tool. Participants also included consumer representatives. The aim was to review a referral tool that allows ongoing screening by healthcare professionals to match patient and caregiver needs with level of palliative care service involvement. This program of work is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and managed through the Centre for Health Research and Psycho-oncology (CHeRP), based at The University of Newcastle.

• Palliative Care Australia Quality Resource Guide (November 2005). Participants were invited to a one day workshop introducing the Palliative Care Australia Quality Resource Guide, a review of population based planning and the need for equity of Palliative Care. Australia Quality Resource Guide access for all Australians to palliative services. Feedback from attendees is to be collated and used to produce and disseminate a “Way Forward” document that will facilitate adoption and implementation of the Palliative Care standards within the primary and specialist sectors.

The program of work is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and managed through the Palliative Care Australia Standards and Quality Committee.

Stroke Care Strategy for Victoria

Kate MacRae is a member of the DHS Expert Advisory Group. This strategy aims to provide a planning framework for acute and sub-acute stroke care services for the next 5-10 years. The strategy aims to guide the future provision of care both in the design of the organisation of stroke care, the delivery of stroke services and the development of an appropriate workforce to support this.
Pharmacy

The Pharmacy service provides a comprehensive range of clinical, supply and information services to all sites within Peninsula Health. Four Pharmacy Departments are located at Frankston Hospital, Mt Eliza Centre, Golf Links Road and Rosebud Hospital. In addition, there are three satellite pharmacies at Frankston Hospital on the 4th and 5th floors and Psychiatry ward.

Pharmacy services include: the purchase and supply of all pharmaceuticals; clinical/ward pharmacy services; specialist outpatient monitoring and clinical services; clinical trial management; oncology chemotherapy services; outpatient and discharge prescription dispensing; methadone maintenance for inpatient; medication counselling; therapeutic drug monitoring; drug information; research; sterile and non-sterile manufacturing; undergraduate/postgraduate training and supervision of pharmacy students and trainees; and clinical education services to undergraduate/postgraduate nursing staff and medical staff. The department hosts and supervises the diploma thesis projects for overseas pharmacy students from Austria.

The service provides professional expertise on committees such as the Drug and Therapeutics Committee and the Research and Ethics Committee. Director of Pharmacy, Skip Lam BPharm FSHP Accredited Consultant Pharmacist Frankston Hospital Pharmacy Manager Ben Leung BPharm MBA Rehabilitation, Aged and Palliative Care Services (RAPCS) Pharmacy Manager Alastair Walker BPharm FSHP Rosebud Hospital Pharmacy Manager Ron Hookway MPS Phc.

Members

**Director of Pharmacy Skip Lam BPharm FSHP Accredited Consultant Pharmacist Frankston Hospital Pharmacy Manager**

**Rehabilitation, Aged and Palliative Care Services (RAPCS) Pharmacy Manager Alastair Walker BPharm FSHP Rosebud Hospital Pharmacy Manager Ron Hookway MPS Phc.**

This will assist achieving safer prescribing by uniformity of best practice documentation as well as better education systems for undergraduate medical, nursing and pharmacy staff.

**CAPTION project** Francis Caplygin has been involved in the CAPTION project which ensures best and most appropriate antibiotic therapy for all patients presenting with pneumonia.

**The role of clinical pharmacy in the emergency department**

Francis Caplygin is preparing to undertake this project to research the role of clinical pharmacy in the emergency department. This will facilitate the documentation of accurate medication histories when patients are first admitted and enable medical officers to have all relevant information at hand when writing the drug therapy chart.

**The ease of use, perceived usefulness, facilitators of and barriers to, the use of an electronic prescribing system at Peninsula Health**

Pharmacy and Clinical Informatics are joint investigators with a Monash University Pharmacy PhD student to conduct this survey.

**Research Activities**

- Peter Blewitt and Jan deClifford are currently filming a DVD to provide patient education about warfarin therapy. This will enable all patients prescribed warfarin to be educated in a timely systematic manner and to be given a copy of the DVD to take home with them to refresh their education or to show relatives.
The DVD will be trialled and may be expanded to be promoted to other hospitals and to include a multilingual format.

• Three 2005 post graduate trainee pharmacists, Kenny Yeoh, Lamyaa Bondok and Hy Lim, successfully passed the exams to become registered pharmacists. Hy has joined Peninsula Health as a qualified pharmacist whilst Kenny and Lamyaa have decided to undertake postgraduate medical training.

• Guy Wilkes has taken up an exciting role in RAPCS as Medication Safety Officer and will be involved in a number of projects over the next 12 months to improve all aspects of medication management in RAPCS.

• Trainee Preceptor Sarah Chao is currently undertaking her Masters in Clinical Pharmacy at Monash University and her research project involves the introduction of a concept known as antibiotic stewardship. This involves the review of antibiotic therapy to ensure that it is appropriate for the micro-organism being treated and that it is correctly monitored according to the patients’ individual clinical condition. This project will also help to ensure that development of resistant micro-organisms is minimised.

• Rebecca Pang has completed a Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice from Monash University.

• Joanne Smith is currently developing guidelines to enable easier adjustment of warfarin. This has involved researching the literature for best practice standards, developing guidelines and developing a campaign to educate and promote the guidelines to medical staff.

• Austrian pharmacy students Ulrike Thumfart and Gerlinde Stampfer are completing their diploma theses at Peninsula Health. Ulrike is also assisting with the warfarin protocol project and Gerlinde is assisting with national inpatient medication chart implementation.

Presentations


Snapshot

Sara Chao’s role in the Pharmacy department is as ICU and Drug Information pharmacist. She is also the pharmacy pre-registrant education co-ordinator and oversees the training program for the pre-registrants as they prepare for their final examination. Sarah has also been invited by the Pharmacy Board to be an examiner at the Final Pharmacy Board Examinations for pre-registrants in October. After achieving her Bachelor of Pharmacy degree in 1997, Sarah completed her one year traineeship at Peninsula Health and was employed as clinical pharmacist in 1998. Sarah is currently studying for a Master of Clinical Pharmacy at Monash University and hopes to complete the course by the end of 2006.
Physiotherapy is involved with assisting people to gain or regain movements and skills. Physiotherapists are trained to assess the underlying causes of joint, muscle and nerve injuries and provide effective treatment. They use a wide range of drug-free techniques to relieve pain, restore movement and prevent further problems.

Peninsula Health physiotherapy service is delivered across acute, sub-acute and ambulatory care settings. These can range from the intensive care unit to rehabilitation within an individual’s home.

The physiotherapy department is committed to excellence in service delivery. It actively promotes ongoing professional development and ensures all staff participate in both internal and external development opportunities. The physiotherapy department consists of more than 60 qualified physiotherapists. Approximately 10% have a postgraduate or master level degree. Another 10% are currently completing their postgraduate study.

Peninsula Health physiotherapy department is a clinical school for the Monash University physiotherapy degree course and provides a wide range of clinical teaching across its many areas of care. This is at an undergraduate and postgraduate level. The physiotherapy department also provides clinical training to overseas qualified physiotherapists seeking registration in Australia.

Members

Director of Physiotherapy – Natasha Toohey BPhysio (Hnrs) MPH MAPA AFACHSE.

Physiotherapy Research Committee Members

- Michael Davis B App Sci (Physio)
- Peter Hough B App Sci (Physio)
- Grad Dip Health Admin Grad Dip Rehab Studies
- Evelyn Kwan BA Apps (Physio)
- David McKenzie BA Apps (Physio)
- B Science
- Scott McGill B App Sci (Physio)
- Diploma in Business
- Caroline Stapleton BA Apps (Physio)
- Narelle Watson BA Apps (Physio)
- B Science (Hnrs) Master of Physio (Musculoskeletal).

Completed Research


A simple reliable and valid assessment tool was developed as an initial screen to be administered by nurses in aged care sub-acute and residential care settings. The Falls Risk Assessment Tool (FRAT) research project was commenced in 1996, involving a multidisciplinary team, in collaboration with LaTrobe University and the National Ageing Research Institute. The project resulted in a simple risk assessment tool that was found to be valid and reliable for differentiating between fallers and non-fallers in the non-acute aged care settings. The research was presented at the Australian Society of Geriatric Medicine conference in Leura, NSW in 2001. At the inaugural Peninsula Health Allied Health and Nursing Awards the project was awarded the Allied Health Research Presentation Award in 2005. The FRAT has been included in the Victorian Quality Council Falls Prevention Guidelines in addition to the Australian Recommendations for Falls Prevention. The Falls Prevention Service contributed to the formation of the Victorian Quality Council Falls Prevention Guidelines in 2003/04.

- Physiotherapy assessment and treatment of patients on the orthopaedic elective surgery waiting list and the impact on patients’ quality of life, pain management, physical functioning and satisfaction. Lambrou H, Toohey N, Russell C, Abernathy J.

In July 2005, the Frankston Hospital physiotherapy department commenced a 12 month pilot to improve management of patients awaiting elective hip and knee replacements via individualised physiotherapy intervention and participation in an 8 week strengthening and mobility program. The results of this study indicate a statistically significant but not a clinically significant difference in pain and physical function in patients awaiting elective hip/knee replacement following an 8 week strengthening program by a physiotherapist. 41% of patients reported > 50% subjective improvement in function as a result of the program.

- Development of a discharge predictor tool for THR/TKR patients. Lambrou H, Meadows A.

A pre-operative risk assessment form was developed to enable accurate prediction of discharge destination and
hence appropriate targeting of physiotherapy and occupational therapy interventions with 81% accuracy.

• Improving outcomes for evaluation and management of inpatients suffering from a fractured neck of femur (NOF). Manokoran M, Hough P, Toohey N.

An investigative study into the effect of a programme of heightened therapy into the discharge destinations, lengths of stay and functional outcomes of patients admitted to an Evaluation and Management setting with the primary diagnosis of fractured NOF.

• The use of Outcome Measures to measure the impact of low back pain on everyday activities. MacCombie W, McGill S, Watson N.

• Introduction of a suite of valid and reliable Musculoskeletal Outcome Measures across physiotherapy outpatient settings has enabled both client/carer and therapist monitoring of specific client-centred functional treatment outcomes.

• Introduction of Functional Outcome Measures into the outpatient setting and the impact on length of treatment time. Watson N, MacCombie W.

Current Research

• Learning to walk following stroke made easier: An investigation into the impact of hip and knee motion at initial contact on the rest of the gait cycle. McKenzie D.

• Introduction of a Chronic Pain Program to the outpatient setting and the impact on patient outcomes. Sounthakith V, McGill S, Toohey N.

• Evaluation of the introduction of the Agestrong strengthening program on patient outcomes and length of stay in the inpatient setting. Hough P, Hunt A.

• Dynamometry reliability study - An investigation into the inter-rater reliability of an objective clinical measure of muscle strength amongst diverse conditions in an aged care setting following a short training program. Hough P, Hunt A.

• Hip protector compliance study - An investigation into the potential to improve long-term (6 month) compliance rates of hip protector use following introduction of an initial inpatient trial period. Hough P, Hunt A.

Research Interests and Future Directions

• Comparison of different modes of group strengthening in the frail elderly and their effectiveness in improving standing balance. Sloane J, Watson N.

• Peninsula Health S.A.F.E. Multidisciplinary Falls Project. Hough P.

• Evaluation of circuit strengthening program in stroke. Kent F.

• Vestibular rehabilitation program introduction and effectiveness. Rogers A, Kwan E, Ho S, Sounthakith V.

Presentations


McKenzie D. Learning to walk following Stroke made easier: An investigation into the impact of hip and knee motion at initial contact on the rest of the gait cycle. ISPGR International Society for Posture and Gait Research Conference Marseille, France June 2005.


Publications

Social Work and Integrating Care

The social work and integrating care service includes more than 40 social workers who facilitate discharge planning across the health service in both inpatient and ambulatory care services.

Services within the integrating care area include:
- ACCESS, the single point of referral for all Peninsula Health’s sub-acute services which also incorporates post acute care.
- RAD, the interdisciplinary team in the emergency department.
- ROSS, the residential outreach and support service.
- Transition care providing care in either a bed-based or home-based setting for people with residential level of care needs.

Members

Sue Goonan: Director, Integrating Care
Judith Whitfort: Manager, ACCESS
Julie Grant: Senior Social Worker, Acute services
Paul Colosimo: Senior Social Worker, Sub-acute Services
Belinda Berry: Team Leader, RAD
Jenny Chapman: Team Leader, ROSS
Sally Church: Manager Transition Care Program.

Current Projects

- ROSS and residential care admissions - medical record audit.

  Principal Investigator: Jenny Chapman, senior social worker.
  Co investigators: Jo Crowe, occupational therapist, Sharon Kensell, RN, Lisa George RN, Martin Jackson, medical officer.

  The aim of ROSS, residential outreach and support service, is to respond with an interdisciplinary approach to provide timely assessment, intervention and care planning for residents in hostels and nursing homes in the Peninsula Health catchment area. This ensures the best outcome for older people and reduces the need for acute care services.

  Over the past two years, ROSS has completed several medical record audits. These audits identified that falls were the primary reason residents of residential care facilities presented to Peninsula Health, at both Rosebud and Frankston Hospitals. As a result, ROSS, in partnership with the falls specialist service, now provides falls prevention assessments for people in residential care. Falls assessments now account for the majority of ROSS referrals.

- Dementia Care education strategy - Portfolio model of education in RCFs.

  Jenny Chapman is currently developing a dementia competency education strategy for residential care staff, in partnership with Peninsula Health’s cognitive dementia and memory service (CDAMS) at Mt Eliza Aged Care Assessment Service.

Presentations


Speech Pathology

Speech pathologists are qualified to assess and treat people who have a communication disability or have difficulties swallowing food or drink.

Speech pathologists work in a variety of ways including providing individual therapy, working in small groups, involvement in home-based programs, and providing resources, information, advice, and direction to clients, their carers, the local community, and other professionals.

The Speech Pathology Department at Peninsula Health provides: assistance for babies having difficulty feeding; services for pre-school age children with communication difficulties; assessment and management with adults who have problems with stuttering or voice disorders; assessment and management of patients in acute inpatient wards who have swallowing or communication problems, often resulting from stroke or other neurological problems; assessment and management of patients needing rehabilitation in inpatient units, community rehabilitation centres and at home for communication and swallowing problems; consultation and referral for people with hearing disorders; and support for people in palliative care having difficulties with communication or swallowing.

The speech pathology department is a dynamic team of more than 20 speech pathologists and support staff, involved in innovative research and program development. The department also has a strong commitment to clinical education, with close links with Latrobe and Charles Sturt Universities.

Members

Director of Speech Pathology – Ms Hannah Halloran BAppSc (SpPath) MSPAA CPSP AFCHSE
Senior Speech Pathologist – Acute Ms Michelle Sargent BAppSc(SpPath) MSPAA CPSP
Senior Speech Pathologist – Paediatrics Ms Susan Everard BSpPath MSPAA CPSP Hanen Certified Practitioner
Senior Speech Pathologist - Rehabilitation & Aged Care Ms Noni Bourke BAppSc(SpPath) MSPAA CPSP GradCert Gerontology.

Current Projects

• Parent perceptions of children’s communication difficulties – Lisa Finamore and Hannah Halloran.

The speech pathology literature suggests that parents have difficulty identifying communication difficulties in their own children.

This project was commenced within the Paediatric Speech Pathology Outpatient Clinic as part of a quality activity to determine if we could improve information received from parents at point of referral. Since changing the information provided and gathered at referral, parents have been able to identify areas of difficulties in their own children more accurately.

This project has suggested that parents may have better skills in this area than previously recognised. The department plans to continue to build on this project further and share findings with the broader speech pathology profession and early intervention workers.

• Building an evidence-based practice network for speech pathologists.

The speech pathology department at Peninsula Health is committed to providing evidence based services to its consumers. This year, Peninsula Health has been working in partnership with Southern Health to develop a network of highly skilled and informed speech pathologists with a focus on evidence-based practice. Through building skills in critical appraisal of available research, speech pathologists are also learning about various clinical research methodologies and are better able to design small research projects to answer their own clinical questions.
• Development of credentialling programs for speech pathologists.

The Speech Pathology department is working to develop accreditation (credentialling) programs for speech pathologists working in specialist or ‘high-risk’ patient areas. These programs are designed to ensure speech pathologists at Peninsula Health have the ability to provide a high quality service to our complex clients on the Peninsula.

Research Interests & Future Directions

• Speech pathology services in residential aged care settings.
• Building research capacity in allied health departments.

• Supporting clients with aphasia in their community.
• Interdisciplinary education for clients post-stroke.
• Delegation of traditional speech pathology roles: implementation of the dysphagia screening tool.
• Utilisation and impact of group services in adult and paediatric speech pathology.

Presentations


Halloran H. Let’s start at the very beginning: building research capacity in rehabilitation teams. 14th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, May 2006.


Snapshot

Hannah Halloran joined Peninsula Health in 2004 as the Director of Speech Pathology. She is also responsible for Podiatry and Neuropsychology within the division of RAPCS and Allied Health and is the Allied Health representative on the Research Development Committee. Hannah graduated from Sydney University in 1997. Her current area of research interest is on workforce issues in speech pathology including delegation of traditional professional responsibilities.
Research & Ethics Committee Report

2005/2006 Research
and Ethics Committee

Board Directors’
Representatives
Ms Liza Newby (Chair)
Ms Diana Ward

Peninsula Health
Representatives
Dr Peter Bradford
Ms Jenny Chapman
Dr Vinod Ganju
Ms Marion Brown
Ms Jan de Clifford
Dr Stephen Denton
Ms Maureen Habner
Dr Steve Macfarland
Dr Humsha Naidoo
Mr Simon Ruth
Ms Lee-Anne Clavarino
Ms Kerryn Kaio (minutes)

Community
Representatives
Mr Peter Brookhouse
Ms Marion Brown
Dr Crofton Hatsell
Mr Malcolm Taylor
Rev Alan Collins.

Trials considered by the committee
during the period July 2005 until
end of June 2006:

• Phase 4 randomised multi-
centre efficacy and safety study examining the effects
of induction dosing with the combination of Peginterferon
Alfa-2A and Ribavirin In patients
with chronic Hepatitis C infected
with Hepatitis C Genotype 1.
Principal researcher: Dr David
Badov. Duration: July 2005 -

• A randomised open-label study
of 400 mg versus 800 mg of
Gleevec®/Glivec® (Imatinib
Mesylate) in patients with newly
diagnosed, previously untreated
chronic Myeloid Leukaemia in
chronic phase (CML-CP) using
molecular endpoints (study
No: CSTI571K2301). Principal
researcher: Dr John Catalano.
Duration: August 2005 -

• Randomised open-label, multi-
centre phase 3 study of Epoetin
Alfa plus standard supportive
care versus standard supportive
care in anemic patients with
metastatic breast cancer
receiving first-line standard
chemotherapy (protocol
number: EPOANE-3010.
Principal researcher: Dr Jacqui
• Pear juice: A natural solution to constipation in aged care patients. Principal researcher: Mr Stephen Ratcliffe. Duration: July 2005 - December 2006.


• A randomised phase 3 trial of Exemestane versus Anastrozole in postmenopausal women with receptor positive primary breast cancer (IBCSG Trial 30-04: Ncic Ma.27). Principal researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju. Duration: September 2005 - December 2020 (Supported but not sponsored).


Research and Ethics Committee members pictured below from left to right: Ms Liza Newby (Chair), Dr Humsha Naidoo, Ms Kerry Kaio, Ms Lee-Anne Clavarno, Rev Alan Collins, Ms Marion Brown, Dr Crofton Hatsell, Ms Maureen Habner, Mr Simon Ruth, Ms Gwenneth Austin, Ms Diana Ward, Ms Jenny Chapman, Dr Peter Bradford.
Not present: Mr Peter Brookhouse, Mr Malcolm Taylor, Dr Vinod Ganju, Dr Stephen Denton, Dr Steve Macfarlane, Ms Jan de Clifford.
• The early nasojejunal tube to meet energy requirements in intensive care study (the ENTERIC study). Principal researcher: Dr Nina Fowler. Duration: October 2005 - December 2006.


• Changing to “all in one” parenteral nutrition improves glycaemic control and decreases complication rates. Principal researcher: Dr Nina Fowler. (Internal retrospective audit for an Honours project.) Duration April 2006 - December 2006.

• Are 1% And 2% lignocaine of equal efficacy in providing topical anaesthesia in fiberoptic bronchoscopy? Principal researcher: Dr Matthew Rodrigues. Duration: November 2005 - June 2006.


• Trial of Rituximab versus a watch and wait strategy in patients with advanced stage, Asymptomatic, non-bulky follicular lymphoma (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) (ALLG NHL14 Watch And Wait) Principal researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju. Duration: November 2005 - December 2011.


• Study 1 - SYR-322-SULF-007 A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to determine the efficacy and safety of SYR110322 (SYR-322) when used in combination with Sulfonylurea in subjects with type 2 diabetes. Principal researcher: Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan Duration: January 2006 - November 2006. Sponsored.

• Study 2 - SYR-322-INS-011 A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled
study to determine the efficacy and safety of SYR110322 (SYR-322) when used in combination with insulin in subjects with type 2 diabetes. Principal researcher: Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan. Duration: January 2006 - November 2006.

- Study 3 - SYR-322-PlC-010
  A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to determine the efficacy and safety Of SYR110322 (SYR-322) when used in combination with placebo in subjects with type 2 diabetes. Principal researcher: Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan Duration: January 2006 - November 2006. Sponsored.


- A randomised, multi-centre phase 3, open-label, study of Letrozole versus Anastrozole in the adjuvant treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor and node positive breast cancer (FEM345Study # CFEM345D2411) Principal researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju. Duration March 2006 - December 2014. Sponsored.

- Chemotherapy adjuvant study for women at advanced age: Phase III trial evaluating the role of adjuvant Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin (PLD, Caelyx®, Doxil®) for women (Age 66 Years Or Older) with endocrine non-responsive breast cancer who are not suitable for being offered a “standard chemotherapy regimen”. (IBCSG TRIAL 32-05 / BIG 1-05 (CASA). Principal researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju. Duration: March 2006 - December 2023. Non-sponsored in collaboration with the ANZBCTG and IBCSG.


- The EORTC Tarceva study: “A randomised, multi-centre, phase 3 study of Tarceva™ versus observation in patients with no evidence of disease progression after first line, platinum-based chemotherapy for high-risk stage I and stage II-IV ovarian epithelial, primary peritoneal, or fallopian tube cancer. Principal researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju. Duration: 2-3 years recruitment and lifetime follow-up. A non-sponsored trial being conducted by ANZGOG.


• Does additional home based physiotherapy post total knee joint replacement improve outcomes in a sub-group of patients who are at risk of a poor outcome? Principal researcher: Nicola Gillett. Duration: April 2006 - March 2007.


• Randomised, multi-centre phase 3 study to compare the efficacy of Panitumumab in combination with chemotherapy to the efficacy of chemotherapy alone in patients with previously treated metastatic colorectal cancer. Principal researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju. Duration: June 2006 - December 2010. Sponsored.

• A 50 week extension to a multi-centre, randomised, double-blind factorial study of the co-administration of MK-431 and Metformin in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who have inadequate glycemic control. Principal researcher: Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan. Duration: August 2006 - December 2007. Sponsored.

• A multi-centre, double-blind, placebo and active controlled, randomised study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the addition of Sitagliptin 100mg once daily in patients with type

---

**Snapshot**

Jenny Chapman joined Peninsula Health’s department of Social Work and Integrating Care in 2001 after graduating from the University of Melbourne. Her current role is team leader and senior social worker for the Residential Outreach Support Service (ROSS), where she is involved in providing a Best Practice Falls Education Strategy for Residential Care Facilities, in partnership with the Falls Specialist Service. Jenny is also involved in developing the dementia care education strategy and is working in partnership with the Mornington Peninsula Division of General Practice to improve the admission and discharge interface between residential care and the health service. Jenny has been a member of Peninsula Health’s Research & Ethics Committee since 2003.
2 diabetes with inadequate glycemic control on Metformin monotherapy. Principal researcher: Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan. Duration: June 2006 - December 2006. Sponsored.

- A pilot study of pulse radiofrequency treatment for complex knee pain in patients awaiting knee replacement who obtained relief with selective nerve blocks with 1% Lignocaine or normal saline. Principal Researcher: Dr Murray Taverner.

- Double-blind randomised selective nerve blocks with local anaesthetic or normal saline for complex knee pain in patients awaiting knee replacement. Principal researcher: Dr Murray Taverner.


- Multi-centre, prospective, observational study of 900 subjects with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder in Australia, for whom the clinical decision has been made to initiate treatment with Risperdal CONSTA® as per the local product information. Consta


- An Australian multi-centre phase 2 study of Bortezomib (VELCADE™) and Dexamethasone as treatment and maintenance for patients with multiple myeloma who have relapsed after autologous BMT or following re-induction with Thalidomide and/or Dexamethasone. Principal researcher: Dr. Vinod Ganju. Duration: August 2006 - December 2010.

- The incidence of iodine deficiency and thyroid function abnormalities in pregnant women in their first trimester on the Mornington Peninsula. Principal researcher: Dr Charlie Willmott. Duration: June 2006 - October 2006.
Peninsula Health Research Week 2006

Saturday 11th November (morning)
Peninsula Health Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award
The Academic Centre, Frankston Hospital
Presentations of research projects conducted by Peninsula Health Registrars

Monday 13th November to Friday 17th November inclusive
Research Week Poster Display
The Foyer, Frankston Hospital
Posters on display from various Peninsula Health clinical areas

Wednesday 15th November (afternoon)
Allied Health Research Prize and Nursing Staff Research Prize
The Academic Centre, Frankston Hospital
Presentations of research projects conducted by Peninsula Health
Allied Health and Nursing Staff

Friday 17th November (1230hrs)
Poster Display Prize Presentation
The Foyer, Frankston Hospital
Awarding of Prizes

Friday 17th November (evening)
Peninsula Health Research Dinner and
Jeremy Anderson Oration
The Peninsula Country Golf Club, Frankston
Oration by Professor David de Kretser, AC, Governor of Victoria.
Presentation of Allied Health, Nursing and Registrar Research awards.
Peninsula Health Research Report 2006