In 2002 Peninsula Health introduced the Peninsula Health Registrar Research Prize which will be awarded annually.

It is awarded for the best research project performed and presented by a junior medical staff member. All Registrars in all disciplines and craft groups in Peninsula Health are eligible to apply.

Dr Marco Larobina was the winner of the inaugural Peninsula Health Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award in 2002.

Dr Larobina won the award for his work on laparoscopic surgery complications during cholecystectomy. His paper was entitled “Laparoscopic Access Injuries – a single surgeon series of 5900 cases of open laparoscopy and meta-analysis”.

A panel of adjudicators, including at least one from another institution, chooses the award recipient at the conclusion of a Scientific Symposium. The prize is supported by a $1000 award from Tyco.

Many junior medical staff are involved in research projects and if the number of projects submitted exceeds the number that can be presented at the Symposium a selection is made by a review panel.

Each researcher invited to present provides a 10 minute overview of the project and this is followed by a five minute discussion.

Presentations and projects are judged on the originality of the idea, planning and design, methodology, analysis, conclusion, presentation, discussion and a provided abstract.

There were nine presentations to the 2002 Scientific Symposium. Other presentations were:

- Dr Y Lahham: Accuracy of visual assessment of the surgical margins of Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) and Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC).
- Dr F Pond: Endoluminal repair of aortic aneurysms: three year follow-up by computed tomography.
- Dr K Wong: Trauma teams in Australia.
- Dr M Yeung: Open bilateral parathyroid exploration remains the gold standard in patients undergoing surgery for hyperparathyroidism.
- Dr N van Zyl: Dermal lymphatic metastatic spread in cutaneous squamous cell cancer: the clinical profile of 10 patients.
- Dr A Griffin: Sleep apnoea treatment in patients receiving rehabilitation post stroke.
- Dr M Holland: The effect of a sedation scale on ventilation hours, sedative, analgesic and inotropic use.
- Dr S Rorke: The role of the cysteinyl leukotrienes in adenosine 5’- monophosphate-induced bronchoconstriction in asthma.

The 2003 Scientific Symposium and presentation of the Peninsula Health Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award will be held on Saturday, November 29.

Cover photo shows Dr Franklin Pond and Associate Professor Jonathan Serpell.
Introduction

It is my pleasure to introduce a report that records the professional and scholarly activities of Peninsula Health’s clinicians, nurses and allied health professionals.

The report details their involvement in a wide range of research and education activities at the local, national and international level. It clearly illustrates the often innovative nature of the collaborative interdisciplinary activities in which our staff are involved.

The majority of research is conducted at Frankston Hospital, which includes a major psychiatric unit. However staff at our Rosebud Hospital, Mt Eliza and Rosebud Aged Care facilities and the Rehabilitation units are also well represented in this report.

Research enables Peninsula Health to extend its community of care beyond the bounds of Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula. Through articles in professional journals, presentations to national and international conferences and contributions to texts, our researchers build on and enhance the existing body of knowledge in many areas of medicine, nursing and allied health.

Our research contribution will grow in the future. The recent joint appointment with Monash University of Dr Robert Burrows as Professor of Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health will strengthen research already taking place in these areas.

Our ties with Monash are close and another joint appointment, Professor Margaret O’Connor as the inaugural Vivian Bullwinkel Chair of Palliative Care Nursing, will strengthen research efforts in this important service.

They will provide strong leadership and mentoring skills and compliment the well established work of Associate Professors: David Langton in Medicine; Colin Russell and Jonathan Serpell in Surgery and Jeff Wassertheil in Emergency Medicine.

The Research and Ethics Committee at Peninsula Health meets monthly to consider proposed clinical trials, studies and projects and monitor progress. This very active Committee is Chaired by Paula Irani, a member of the Board of Directors and her report is included in this publication.

The research conducted at Peninsula Health embraces clinical, laboratory and public health. The integration between research and clinical care, the collaboration across specialties and disciplines, results in enhanced research and better health care for our extended community.

Dr Sherene Devanesen, Chief Executive Officer
The Committee actively supports and encourages research within Peninsula Health. Applications to conduct research are submitted to the Committee and are increasing in number each year. Such research is conducted under all professional fields and, as in other years, is undertaken as observational studies, projects, surveys and clinical trials.

Clinicians, nurses and health professionals from many fields conduct a wide range of research and report on it through refereed journals, other publications and presentations or posters at conferences. The Committee is delighted at the scope of this work and welcomes the recording of their achievements through this Research Report.

The Committee operates in accordance with the guidelines set out in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). As in other years, the dedicated members of the Committee give generously of their time on a monthly basis to consider the applications and to provide appropriate advice to both researchers and applicants and to assist them in setting up their projects and refining the protocols associated with the proposed research. The Committee works in close collaboration with the Drugs & Therapeutic Committee of Peninsula Health, on all trials which involve therapeutic drugs. Legal advice is sought where considered appropriate.

On occasion, the Committee is requested by the Board of Directors to consider other ethical issues as they arise within Peninsula Health. The committee will also review quality activity if there are perceived ethical issues.

Ms Paula Irani
Research and Ethics Committee Chair and Board Director

Committee Members

Research and Ethics Committee Chair and Board Director
Ms Paula Irani

Members of the Board of Directors
Ms Diana Macmillan (to July 2003)
Dr Virginia Mansour (from July 2003)

Executive Director Medical Services
Dr Peter Bradford

Theologian
Mr Mark Dowling

Community representatives
Ms Avril Minife
Mr Peter Brookhouse
Dr Crofton Hatsell

Senior clinicians representing different professional disciplines and services
Ms Elizabeth Wilson
Ms Maureen Habner (alt)
Ms Louise Brown
Ms Pat O’Leary
Mr Paul Colosimo

Representative with academic/research backgrounds
Dr Vinod Ganju
Dr Stephen Denton
Dr Richard Newton

Senior Pharmacist (or delegate)
Ms Jan de Clifford

Legal Representative
Mr Malcolm Taylor

Convenor
Mr John Callahan

The Board of Directors of Peninsula Health wishes to thank all members of the Committee for their significant contribution.
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[Peninsula Health Research Report 2003](#)
It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Peninsula Health Research Report.

Peninsula Health has undergone enormous development since Frankston Hospital first opened in 1941. The development has paralleled the growth of the Mornington Peninsula’s population and now Frankston Hospital is a major tertiary teaching hospital providing services in almost all major specialty areas. In parallel with this has been growth in medical unit specialisation in the broadest sense and, accompanying this, growth in research within multiple diverse areas. It is now timely, therefore, to record their achievements in what will become an annual Peninsula Health Research Report.

Much of the research is clinically based but there is also some basic science research, data based research and clinical trial research contributing to multi-centre trials both national and international, particularly in the area of cancer.

Clinical and data based research dove-tails into other important hospital activities such as audit, continuing medical education, quality assurance, improvement programmes and clinical risk management and often leads to changes in clinical practice, with improved outcomes and efficiency. Recognition of alignments in these areas is important, and the role of clinical research in providing evidence-based guidelines for management of patients is critical. Much of the research contained and described in this report provides examples of the importance of this translational research; that is the application of clinical research findings to clinical practice.

The notable features of much of the research are the collaborative nature between multiple disciplines and the support of young investigators, especially registrars. Clinical research is an important skill for all trainee registrars to learn and it is apparent that this is being provided in a major way at Peninsula Health. This research now has the opportunity of being presented on an annual basis at the Peninsula Health Registrars Research Prize which is held annually in November.

In parallel with Peninsula Health’s development of clinical research, we have seen the development of multi-disciplinary clinics and meetings. Both activities support the other and ultimately enhance outcomes for patients. Some examples include the Breast Cancer Multidisciplinary Team Meeting, the Combined Endocrinology/Endocrine Surgery Multidisciplinary Meeting, the Gastrointestinal Oncology Multidisciplinary Meeting and the Wound Management Multidisciplinary Team Meeting.

At Peninsula Health the increasing specialisation of units has provided fertile ground for opportunities in clinical research and examples of this include the development of investigational cardiology services, respiratory services, medical oncology, specialisation within general surgery, and increasing profiles in specialty surgical units such as plastic surgery, orthopaedic surgery, and vascular surgery.

Peninsula Health is well positioned to engage in epidemiological research because of its unique geographic situation and this has already occurred with the development of the Mornington Peninsula Colorectal Database.

Research activity is not possible without enthusiasm from individual personnel, but also support from Peninsula Health management and the important role of the Research and Ethics Committee and I wish to acknowledge their important contribution.

This 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.

Jonathan W Serpell
Director, Surgical Research and Education
General Surgery

General Surgery at Peninsula Health is divided into three General Surgery Units – Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery, Colorectal Surgery and Breast, Endocrine and Surgical Oncology. All Units have a major subspecialty interest, but cover the full range of General Surgery.

Associate Professor Colin Russell is also Director of Surgery and Associate Professor Jonathan Serpell is also Director of Surgical Research and Education.

The Department of General Surgery has major interests in teaching and currently is responsible for both fifth year and sixth year clinical teaching in surgery. In addition, Associate Professor Serpell is a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and is involved in the Board of Basic Surgical Training for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and is Chairman of the Clinical OSCE committee of the Board of Basic Surgical Training, responsible for running the OSCE examination for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The units support the advanced training of four general surgery registrars (two each on rotation from The Alfred and Monash Medical Centre).

Members

General Surgery Unit 1 – Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery
Head of Unit – Associate Professor Colin Russell, MB ChB, MS, FRACS GradDipBus, MRACMA
Mr Ian Wheatley, MB BS, FRACS, B App Sc, M Comp, FACS
Mr Peter Evans, MB BS, FRACS
Mr Warwick Glover, MB BS, FRACS, FRCS(Edin)

General Surgery Unit 2 – Colorectal Surgery
Head of Unit – Mr Peter Gray, MB BS (Melb), FRCS(Edin), FRCS(Eng), FRACS
Mr Richard McIntyre, MB BS, DPhil(Oxon), FRACS
Mr Eric Torey, MB BS(Hons), FRACS

General Surgery Unit 3 – Breast, Endocrine and Surgical Oncology
Head of Unit – Associate Professor Jonathan W Serpell, MB BS(Melb), MD, FRACS, FACS
Mr Stewart Skinner, MB BS, PhD, FRACS
Mr Graeme Minifie, MB BS, FRACGP, FRACS
Ms Belinda Brown, MB BS, FRACS

Nurse Unit Managers -
Ms Julie Emanuelle, RN, BNsg, DipFrontLine Mgt
Ms Julie Stephens, RN, RM, CCCert, BNsg
Ms Gay Walters, RN, DipHospNsg/WardAdmin, FCNA

Research Interests and Future Directions

The Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery Unit is currently developing liver surgery at Frankston Hospital. In addition, this Unit has a major interest in Day Case surgery and through Associate Professor Colin Russell, a major interest and academic input into health management and waiting list management.

The Colorectal Unit has recently developed a Colorectal Cancer Database, which covers the whole of the Mornington Peninsula, including public and private hospitals under the direction of Mr Eric Torey and Associate Professor Serpell. Twelve months of data has been accumulated and presented at Surgical Forum.

The Breast, Endocrine and Surgical Oncology Unit has a number of major interests, particularly in clinical research. Databases have been developed on thyroid surgery, parathyroid surgery, parotid surgery, soft tissue sarcoma surgery, and malignant melanoma surgery. These databases have lead to a number of published papers. Multidisciplinary team meetings, including Oncologists, Radiologists, Pathologists, Surgeons, Nursing and Ancillary staff have been developed for breast cancer and for endocrine surgery. The Unit has developed a major leadership role within Australian Endocrine Surgeons and has established the Victorian Section of Australian Endocrine
Surgeons which has lead to a web-based parathyroid database for all Melbourne Endocrine Surgeons. In breast cancer, we are currently developing sentinel lymph node biopsy and have REC approval to be a part of the sentinel lymph node biopsy trial of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

**Current Projects**

Yeung M, Serpell JW. The development of a parathyroid database in Melbourne and review of the last 50 cases. Submitted to ANZ J Surgery.

Pond F, Serpell JW. Thyroid neoplasms in renal transplant recipients. A study examining the incidence and outcome of patients with thyroid neoplasms in renal transplanted patients utilising the Australasian renal transplant database.


**Publications**


The Colorectal Unit has recently developed a Colorectal Cancer Database, which covers the whole of the Mornington Peninsula.
Chapters


Presentations


The Department provides specialist anaesthetic services for all theatre procedures at Frankston and Rosebud Hospitals in addition to supporting the Labour Ward, Endoscopy and ECT Suites.

There are 11 staff specialists and nine Visiting Medical Officer anaesthetists. The Department is actively involved in training and we currently have seven accredited registrars representing all five years of the ANZCA program. Four of the staff anaesthetists are College examiners.

**Members**

Director of Anaesthesia - Dr Terry Loughnan, MB BS, FANRACS, FFARACS, FANZCA  
Dr J John Copland, MB BS, FFARACS, FANZCA  
Dr Helen Kolawole, BmedSci, MB BS, FANZCA, MRACMA  
Dr Ashley Webb, MB BS (Hons), FANZCA  
Dr Gary McKenzie, MB BS, FFARACS, FANZCA  
Dr Noel Roberts, MB BS, FANZCA  
Dr Julia Fleming, PhD, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA, DipMed (Pain Management)  
Dr Sam Leong, MB BS, FANZCA  
Dr Tyson Crofts, MB BS, FANZCA  
Dr Jinny Marxsen, MB BS, FANZCA  
Dr Tony Vulcan, MB BS, FANZCA

**Current Projects**

Webb A, Skinner B, Taverner M, Crofts T, Burn S. The Addition of a Ketamine Infusion to Tramadol for Postoperative Analgesia. A Double Blinded, Placebo Controlled Randomised Trial After Abdominal Surgery.  
Status: Patient recruitment.

Marxsen J, Webb A. Recovery Room Stay Greater than Two Hours – An Audit of Three Years of Clinical Indicators Data.  
Status: Abstract presented at ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting, May 2003, Hobart.

Dr Gary McKenzie is the Medical Clinical Supervisor. Blood Matters Collaboration. Statewide effort to improve provision of Blood Component Therapy.

Kolawole H. A Prospective Questionnaire of the Study Habits and Methods Used by Candidates for First Part FANZCA.  
Status: Early Implementation.

**Publications**


**Presentations**


The Orthopaedic Unit at Frankston Hospital continues to grow in order to keep up with the increasing population of the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula area.

Orthopaedic trauma spans the ages from early paediatric fractures through to the aged population. As the average age of the population increases, the number of osteoporotic fractures managed by the unit has increased and this remains a significant area of expertise.

Paediatric trauma and bone infections are dealt with by all members of the unit and, more recently, paediatric elective surgery has been carried out by Gary Nattrass who shares his Frankston duties with his work as a consultant at the Royal Children’s Hospital. At the Children’s Hospital, Mr. Nattrass has significant research interests in cerebral palsy and is very involved with the Hugh Williamson Gait laboratory.

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

The unit is supported by three Registrars and two Residents. One of the Registrars is an accredited trainee on the Victorian Orthopaedic Training Scheme. There are twice weekly ward rounds with regular input from the Radiology and Geriatric units, regular audit meetings, business meetings, meetings with the Pathology department and “multi-disciplinary” clinics with other specialty units.

Members

Surgeons
Chairman – Mr P McCombe, MB BS, FRACS
Mr G Bourke, MB BS, FRACS
Mr N Broughton, MB ChB (Hons), FRCS (Ed), FRCS (Eng), FRACS
Mr P Brydon, MB BS, FRACS
Mr P Hamilton, MB BS, FRACS
Mr G Nattrass, MD, FRCSC, FRACS
Mr J Rehfisch, MB BS, FRACS
Mr A Weber, MB BS, FRACS
Mr R Wuttke, MB BS, FRACS

Research Interests and Future Directions
Various surgeons have different areas of special interest within Orthopaedics. These areas include Joint Replacement (including Revision Surgery), Shoulder surgery and Foot and Ankle surgery. All surgeons maintain an interest in Knee surgery.

Members of the unit have been active in research. All three registrars were involved in papers presented at the March State clinical meeting of the Australian Orthopaedic Association and Reinhardt Wuttke is the current state Chairman of this Association.

Current Projects
McCombe P, Williams S. Randomised control trial comparing radiological wear rates of zirconia on polyethylene versus stainless steel on polyethylene in total hip replacement.


Publications


McCombe P, Williams S. A Randomised Controlled Trial Comparing Polyethylene Wear between a Cemented and a Cementless Cup. Accepted JBJS(Br) (in press).

Presentations


Australian Orthopaedic Association Meeting March 2003.

Callahan M, McCombe P. The Anatomy of a Chair Lift Collapse.

McCombe P. All Poly Cups – Are they wasted on the Elderly?


Crick B, Bourke G. Total Ankle Arthroplasty- A Short Overview and Early Results.

Nattrass GR. Surgery in Cerebral Palsy-increasing the science while maintaining the art; Using the gait lab for more than CP; Treatment of Osteochondritis Dissecans in the lower Extremity. 25th Annual Townsend Paediatric Orthopaedic Seminar, Canada, October 2002.


Chapters

The Unit has developed over the past 10 years into a specialised unit performing over 1000 procedures per year. A wide range of procedures are carried out including skin cancer surgery, hand surgery, microsurgery, general plastic surgery and maxillofacial surgery. Participation in active research by the accredited registrar is actively encouraged.

Members

Head of Unit - Miss Patricia Terrill, MB BS, FRACS
Mr Guy Dowling, BSC (Hons), MB BS, FRACS
Mr Brian McMillan, MB BS, BDSE, MDS, FRACDS(OMS)
Mr David Hunter-Smith, MB BS(Hons), FRACS
Mr John Redman, MB BS, FRACS, LDS, BDSc
Mr Tom Robbins, MB BS, FRACS, FRCS(Ed), FRCS
Mr David Ross, MB BS, FRACS
Miss Marie Rostek, MB BS, FRACS

Research Interests and Future Directions

Active research in wound healing will continue. An evaluation of the use of mefix adhesive dressing as a non sterile wound dressing on the acute surgical wound is planned. Other lines of research that are under preliminary investigation are the use of iontophoresis and tran dermal application of steroids to reduce postoperative scarring and reduce scar bands due to Dupytrens Contracture.

Current Projects


A study is underway to evaluate two nonadherent dressings applied as part of a tie-over dressing associated with a full thickness skin graft repair of a skin defect on the head and neck region after removal of a skin cancer. The evaluation is designed on a prospective, randomised controlled protocol of 40 consecutive surgery patients having a full thickness skin graft on the head and neck region. The aim is to investigate the properties of 2 different dressings: Tulle gras and Atrauman (Hartmann). The evaluation will look at ease of application and removal, patient comfort, skin graft take and infection rates.

Publications


Salerno S, Terrill PJ. MAC will be back (Microcystic Adenexal Carcinoma), Australian and New Zealand J. of Surgery 2003 (in press).


Abstracts

Salerno S, Terrill PJ. MAC will be back (Microcystic Adenexal Carcinoma). Poster Presentation ASC 2000.
Presentations


Salerno S, Terrill PJ. MAC will be back. The RACS Registrar’s Conference 2000.


Thoracic Surgery

Management of malignant thoracic surgical conditions is optimised if decisions are made regarding treatment in a Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinic Setting and this has been a part of the Thoracic Surgical Unit for several years. In this Clinic, projects involving Medical and Radiation Oncologists as well as surgery are undertaken.

Members of the Multidisciplinary Group are actively involved in the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, the Australian Cancer Network, Medical Oncology Group and Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group as well as The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Members

Head of Unit - Dr Peter Cole, MB BS, FRACS, FRCS (Ed), FACS, FCCP, STS

Current Projects

Our present project is to establish a protocol for the addition of adjuvant therapy to surgery for primary lung cancer, as recommended in the latest World Congress on Lung Cancer in August 2003.

The Unit is establishing a Lung Cancer Data Base based on a system from the Queensland Lung Cancer Study Group. There are already several thousand patients on this database and the data obtained from our hospital will provide valuable demographic information for helping us with future management of lung cancer.

A first for the Peninsula this year was a meeting of all the Cancer Support Groups on the Peninsula under the auspices of CAN (Cancer Alliance Network). Cancer support groups from Peninsula Health attended and over 50 attendees heard presentations from each group.

Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)

The ENT Department at Peninsula Health is a general paediatric and adult unit. Most of the common ear, nose and throat disorders are managed and most ENT disorders requiring surgery are catered for. There is a large case load, and it is envisaged the unit will have an accredited trainee in ENT surgery in the near future.

Members

Head of Unit – Mr N Vallance, MB BS, FRANCS (ENT)
Mr W B Hurst, MB BS, FRCS (Edin), FRCS (Eng), FRACS
Mr J F Redman, MB BS, FRACS, LDS, BDSc

Research Interests and Future Directions

The ENT Unit has active research interests in several areas including the relatively common cause of deafness and otitis externa, exostoses.

Current Projects

Vascular Surgery

The main focus of the work of the Vascular Surgery Unit is patient management and surgical training. A broad variety of routine peripheral vascular procedures are performed with the exception of dialysis access surgery and thoracic aneurysm repairs. Since the acquisition of a modern angiography table in the operating rooms two years ago, an increasing number of endovascular interventions have been performed. The unit performs approximately 400 interventions per year.

Members

George M Somjen, MS, FRCS(Ed), FRACS, DDU
GC Last, MB BS (Hons), FRACS

Research Interests and Future Directions

- Pathophysiology of venous insufficiency – investigations using the duplex ultrasound.
- The anatomy of the lower limb venous system.
- Deep Venous thrombosis.
- Endoluminal repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Current Projects

We are currently upgrading the study on the outcome of endoluminal aortic aneurysm repair (presented at the 2002 year Registrar Research Prize by Dr Franklin Pond). The four year follow-up was presented at the June Educational Meeting of the Melbourne Vascular Surgical Association and the Annual Endoluminal Interventional meeting of the Cook company.

Priestley J et al. Recently a retrospective study has been commenced on the management of ruptured aortic aneurysms at Frankston Hospital. This is a combined project of the Intensive Care Unit and the Vascular Surgery Unit.

Al-Lahham Y. Venous compression in the thoracic outlet. The project focuses on the anatomical predisposing factors leading to axillary/subclavian vein thrombosis.

Urology

The Urology Unit at Peninsula Health offers a range of services including management of oncological problems, prostate conditions, urinary stone disease and urinary incontinence.

Members

Head of Unit - Mr C Cham, MB BS, MD, FRCS, FRACS
Mr A Tan, MB BS, FRACS (Urology)
Ms K McKertich, MB BS, FRACS (Urology)
Mr A Troy, MB BS, FRACS

Research Interests and Future Directions

Tan A. Developing the technique of Laparoscopic renal surgery.

Current Projects

Tan A. The unit has introduced a new technique of prostatectomy for large prostates, utilising a bipolar diathermy principle of removing the tissue through the urethra. This allows a safer operation particularly for large prostates, which previously would have required an open prostatectomy. Control of bleeding at the time of surgery is improved, and recovery times are quicker. The benefits of the procedure are undergoing evaluation.
The critical care services for Peninsula Health are based at Frankston Hospital and comprise a ten-bed Intensive Care Unit. The unit is multidisciplinary and approximately 580 patients are admitted annually. The unit is a mixed medical/surgical unit with a varied case-mix apart from neurosurgical and cardiac surgical patients.

Dr John Botha is the Clinical Dean for Frankston Hospital. Dr Ian Carney is Director of Physician Training and is an examiner for the College of Physicians. Dr Ramesh Nagappan is Director of Clinical Training and is also an examiner for the College of Physicians. Dr Nagappan is also an invited lecturer at the regular course for advanced trainees in Critical Care.

**Members**

Director Intensive Care - Dr John Botha, MB ChB, MMed, FCP(SA), FRACP, FJFICM
Deputy Director Intensive Care - Dr Ian Carney, BSc, MB BS(Hons), FRACP, MHP&TM, FJFICM
Staff Intensivist, Director of Clinical Training - Dr Ramesh Nagappan MB BS, MD, FRACP, FJFICM

Nurse Unit Manager – Mr Ian Kenny, RN, CCCert, BHM

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

Current areas of interest are:
- Sedation in the Critically Ill
- Acute Renal Failure
- Renal Replacement Therapy
- Nutrition in the Critically Ill
- Anoxic Brain Injury
- Critical Care Of The Elderly

Intra Vesical Pressure in Critically Ill Patients-
Comparison of Transduced Intravesical Pressure and the Urine Column Method.

A Comparison of Common Iliac Venous Pressure, Superior Vena Caval pressure and Peripheral Venous Pressure and their correlation with Intra Vesical Pressure in Critically Ill Patients with Intra-Abdominal Hypertension.


**Current Projects**

**International Collaborative Research**
Botha J. BEST (Beginning and Ending Supportive Therapy) for the kidney study – A multi centre trial co-ordinated by Prof Bellomo from the Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre.

Botha J. Developing and evaluating evidence – based guidelines for nutritional support in the Intensive Care Unit. Multi centre Trial – in progress. Principal Investigator: Dr G Doig (Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney).

**Publications**


**Invited Editorials**

Presentations


International Presentations

Nagappan R. Composed & Conducted Critical Care Quiz – 2003; Critical Care of the Elderly; Management of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy. Invited Faculty at the 9th Indian Critical Care Congress, Jaipur, Feb 2003.


From Left: Dr John Botha and Nurse Unit Manager, Ian Kenny.
It is anticipated that the Department of Emergency Medicine will see about 44,000 patients at Frankston Hospital and about 15,000 patients at Rosebud this year. The admission rate is about 35 per cent.

The Frankston Emergency Department 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. It is also a teaching Emergency Department for medical, nursing and ambulance undergraduates from the Monash University Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

**Members**

**Director of Emergency Medicine**  
Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil, C Stj, MB MS, MClInEd, FACEM, MRACMA, MACLM

**Clinical Director**  
Dr. Leong Goh, MB BS, FACEM (Senior Lecturer)

**Director of Emergency Medicine Training**  
Dr. Mark Smith, MB MS, BMedSci, FACEM (Senior Lecturer)

**Emergency Physicians**  
Dr. Tim Baker, MB BS, BMedSci, FACEM  
Dr. Luke Yip, MD, FACEP, FACMT, FACEM  
Dr. Varna Amarasinghe, MB BS, FACEM  
Dr. Tony Bottrall (Part time), MB BS, FACEM

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

**General Practitioners**  
Dr. Martin Jackson, MB BS, BMedSci, FRACGP  
Dr. Fred Reiseger, MRCS LRCP MB BCHirCant

**Clinical Fellows in Emergency Medicine**  
Dr. Kate Bristow, MB ChB  
Dr. Helen Hewitt, MB BS

**Operations Director/Principal Nurse Emergency**  
Ms. Shamala Jones (Senior Lecturer), RN, RM, BNsg, MNsg, CertMgmt, CertAdvNurEmerg

**Unit Manager**  

**Research Nurse**  
Ms. Nyree Parker (Lecturer), RN, BAAppSci(Nsg), BNsg, GradDipCritCare, MNsg, GradCertHealth

**Research Interests**

- Demand Management
- Casemix evaluation
- Bedside “Point of Care” testing
- Brain Natriuretic Peptide

**Current Projects**

Time to analgesia and nurse initiated analgesia. National Institute of Clinical Studies project.

Time to thrombolysis. National Institute of Clinical Studies project.

Time to antibiotics in pneumonia. National Institute of Clinical Studies project Streamline services.


**Papers in Progress**

Wassertheil J, Fisher N, Keane G. A Model for the provision of basic and advanced life support at major sporting and entertainment venues.

Wassertheil J, Fisher N, Keane G. Outcome of cardiac arrest using an on site purpose specific first response strategy at major public events.

Cooper G, Wassertheil J. The Efficacy of Intramuscular Midazolam as a First Line Anticonvulsant for Seizure in Ambulance.
The Department of Emergency Medicine expects to see about 44,000 patients at Frankston Hospital and about 15,000 patients at Rosebud this year.
Clinical Trials
Wassertheil J. Does an elevated Triage-BNP bedside test correlate with left ventricular failure in patients presenting to an emergency department with dyspnoea. A randomised prospective reverse double blinded trial.

Publications


Wassertheil J. Development, implementation and assessment of the emergency medicine undergraduate curriculum in the revised sixth year course and the new fifth year course within the Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University. Minor Thesis. Master of Clinical Education program. University of New South Wales February 2003.


Abstracts

Other Publications

Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil

Spinal Cord Injury
Author of the chapter on Spinal Cord Injury
Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine 2nd Edition
Editors: Cameron, Jelinek, Kelly, Murray, Hayworth

Disaster Medicine
Author of the chapter on Disasters, Contamination,
Biological, Radiation Emergency Medicine. The
Editors: Fulde GWO
MacLennan and Petty Pty Ltd 2003 (in preparation).

AN@TOMEDIA™
Clinical consultant (Emergency Medicine) for all
modules.
A New Approach TO Medical Education:
Developments In Anatomy. Department of
Anatomy and Cell Biology, Melbourne University,
AN@TOMEDIA is an interactive learning program
on CD ROM for medical undergraduates
comprising multiple modules on regional and
applied anatomy.

The Case for Immobilising the Cervical Spine in
Head and Spinal Trauma.
Proceedings of the Southern Trauma Symposium,
Australasian Trauma Society, November 2002.

Advantages of Formal Training in Medical
Education (Invited Paper).
Proceedings of the 19th Annual Scientific Meeting
of the Australasian College for Emergency
Medicine, November 2002.

Presentations

Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil

Early Access to Defibrillation
Presented by Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil
Invited paper presented at the Victorian Centre
for Early Defibrillation Monash University, March

The Emergency Response System at the
Melbourne Cricket Ground.
Invited paper presented at the World Congress on
Disaster and Emergency Medicine. Melbourne,


The Case for Immobilising the Cervical Spine in Head and Spinal Trauma (Invited Paper). Southern Trauma Symposium, Australasian Trauma Society, Melbourne, Friday November 8th, 2002.


Mrs. Shamala Jones

Ms. Mary Mitchelhill


Financial Support and Research Grants

Triage BNP. Funded via loan of analyser from company.

Information technology driven re-engineering of emergency health care facilities in Australia: A process intelligence perspective. Three year Australian Research Council Linkage Grant. Held by Department of Business Information, Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University.

Data mining and visual simulation for decision support in emergency management. Masters research project funded by Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University.

Frankston Hospital was involved in a recently completed Clinical Support Systems Project (CSSP), under the auspices of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and funded by the Commonwealth Government. Frankston Hospital was in the Monash Consortium, along with West Gippsland Hospital in Warragul, the Health Issues Centre, Cabrini Hospital, Monash Medical Centre and the Monash Institute of Health Services Research.

The project was a three year study looking at influencing and changing clinicians’ behavioural patterns using evidence-based medicine (EBM) and clinical practice improvement (CPI) using existing clinical support systems such as information technology, current ward structures, resources.

The study looked at Stroke as an example, but a similar model could be applied to any clinical condition.

**Members**

Stroke Physician - Dr Prakash Nayagam, MB BS (Hons), MRCP, FRACP
Nurse Unit Manager, Stroke Unit, Frankston Hospital - Helen Lack, RN, RM, Dip NursEd, Ed

**Stroke Team, Frankston Hospital**

Stroke Liaison Nurse, CSSP project - Judith Allatt
Speech Pathologist - Monique Stojkovski
Physiotherapist - Michael Davis
Occupational Therapist - Celia Kirkpatrick
Dietician and Social worker were allocated to the team and rotated regularly.

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

Experience and evidence gained in the CSSP project helped revise the Stroke Pathway, including optimal use of MRI scan and thrombolytics in the management of acute thrombotic stroke.

Significant outcomes from this study were that adverse events following a stroke have significantly reduced from 10% to 4%. This mainly reflects the risk involved in aspiration, as well as shoulder subluxation, both of which were eliminated using the clinical pathways. Furthermore, length of stay of stroke patients decreased from 19.9 days to 11.4 days before and after the project was instituted.

One of the significant assessment tools that came out of this project was the Dysphagia Screening Tool which was developed by the Monash School of Nursing along with the Speech Therapy Department at Frankston Hospital. The Dysphagia Screening Tool is a simple procedure that nurses can use to identify stroke patients who are at risk of aspiration.

**Current Projects**

A further CSSP project (Hunter Consortium) which has incorporated Stroke Management as part of their Chest Pain evaluation model, is currently being trialled in the Emergency Department at Frankston Hospital.

**Presentations**

Palliative Care

The Tattersall’s Peninsula Palliative Care Centre accommodates both the inpatient Palliative Care Unit which is under the management of Peninsula Health, and the Peninsula Hospice Service which provides community based palliative care services and a consultant service.

The 15-bed Palliative Care inpatient unit admits patients in the advanced stages of progressive life-threatening illness including cancer and other diseases such as late stage motor neurone disease and AIDS, for whom care in the community is no longer appropriate.

The aim of the inpatient unit is to ensure symptom management at all stages of illness and dignity in the final stages and to provide support to the patient’s family and carers.

Professor Margaret O’Connor took up her appointment as the Inaugural Vivian Bullwinkel Chair of Palliative Care Nursing in March 2003. This was a joint appointment by Peninsula Hospice, Peninsula Health, Monash University, and Royal District Nursing Service.

The appointment of a full time Professor is expected to result in the development of an active research program.

Members
Clinical Director - Dr Brian McDonald, MB ChB, MRCGP (UK), FChPM, MSc
Nurse Unit Manager - Helen Wearne RN, RM, B Nursing (Post Reg), M Nursing Palliative Care MRCNA

Research Interests and Future Directions
The unit plans to further develop a Practice Development project in Palliative Care Nursing focusing on the concept of “Person Centred Care”.

Evaluation of the “Triangle of Care” model on the Mornington Peninsula, investigating the local aspects of the implementation of the model that make it work well in comparison to other regions is also being considered.

The appointment of a Registrar in Palliative Care Medicine in February 2004 will assist in the development of research projects.

Current Projects
McDonald B, Wearne H. Clinical observation program for General Practitioners over a two-year period. The program provides observational experience for GP’s in all the Palliative Care Programs across the Peninsula, including Community Nursing, Peninsula Hospice services, the Inpatient Unit, and the Peninsula Health Palliative Care Consultancy.

Presentations
McDonald B. Poster presentation. 1) Triangle of Care and 2) Methadone in Palliative Care at 5th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference, Osaka, Japan, March 2003.

Financial Support and Research Grants
Mornington Peninsula Division of General Practitioners, in partnership with Peninsula Health (The Palliative Care Unit and the Palliative Care Consultantcy), Peninsula Hospice Service and Royal District Nursing Service received funding through the Caring Communities Project, Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing. The funding is to assist with the General Practitioners project outlined above.
Pain Management

The past 10 years has seen the expansion of pain management services on the Mornington Peninsula with the development of a palliative care unit, a consultant supervised acute pain service and interventional pain relief treatments for chronic pain.

Specialised inpatient treatment (by Dr Murray Taverner and Dr Tony Prendergast) is available at Frankston Hospital for chronic non-cancer pain and severe cancer pain.

Current issues include future development of advanced pain therapy and of a local multidisciplinary pain management outpatient clinic to meet the needs of the community.

There is a strong commitment to the education of medical students, nurses, hospital and local doctors.

Dr Murray Taverner is an honorary senior lecturer at Monash University, Department of Anaesthesia and School of Nursing.

Members

Specialists in Pain Services –
Dr Murray Taverner, MB BS, FRCA, FANZCA, DipPainMgt
Dr Tony Prendergast, MB BS, FANZCA

Research Interests and Future Directions

Research interests include:
• pain of spinal & neuropathic origin,
• outcomes and demonstrating the cost effectiveness of pain management to show that a coordinated approach can make a difference.

Current Projects

Taverner M. A double blind placebo controlled pilot study of BOTOX® (botulinum toxin type A) purified neurotoxin complex for the treatment of chronic shoulder girdle muscle pain.

This study examines a new injection treatment with botulinum toxin type A for shoulder girdle pain that acts specifically on muscle spasm. This new treatment may be an alternative for patients who do not obtain adequate pain relief from conventional treatment with medication and physiotherapy.

Taverner M., Creek W. A prospective clinical outcome study to evaluate the use of intradiscal electrothermal annuloplasty (IDETA) with The SpineCATH™ followed by a standardised physical therapy program for chronic disc related low back pain.

Intradiscal Electrothermal Annuloplasty, is a minimally invasive treatment alternative to spinal fusion for low back pain caused by internal disc disruption with annular fissures and tears in patients who fail to respond to the non-invasive treatment. IDETA is performed by inserting a catheter with a 5cm electrode to heat the painful disc, which destroys the nerves transmitting the pain signal and “tightens” the collagen fibres in the disc wall. Published evidence indicates that IDETA reduces pain and improves physical function in about 70% of patients.

Presentations


Clinical activities of the Cardiology Department include ward service, coronary angiography and angioplasty, Permanent Pacemaker insertion and monitoring, Echocardiography, Exercise and pharmacological stress testing, Holter monitoring and ECG service.

**Members**

Dr P Carrillo, MB BCh, FRACP  
Dr B Pathik, MB BS, MD, MHPEd, FRACP, DDU  
Dr P Arunothayaraj, MB BS, MRCP, FRACP  
Dr G Szto, MB BS, FRACP  
Dr G Toogood, MB BS, FRACP  
Dr B Wood, MB BS, FRACP  
Dr R Lew, MB BS, FRACP  

Nurse Unit Manager – Ms Gill Dixon, RN, CCCert

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

- Arterial Puncture Project – Undertaken in the Cardiac Catheter Lab to review patient satisfaction with two different arterial puncture sites, femoral and radial.

**Current Projects**

Szto G. BNP (Brain Natriuretic Peptide) Trial – Undertaken in conjunction with the Emergency Department to evaluate the diagnostic role of a new bedside test in patients presenting with shortness of breath.

Szto G, Lew R. ORBIT Trial – Oral Rapimycin to inhibit restenosis trial to be conducted as part of an international trial directed by the Washington Heart Institute.

Dr Phil Carrillo is currently writing a book on the Performance and Interpretation of Trans-Oesophageal Echocardiography.
The Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology at Peninsula Health comprises specialist physicians, a registrar, and clinical nurse specialists (diabetes educators). Using a team approach in close relationship with dietitians, podiatrists and ward and clinic nursing staff we provide a comprehensive clinical service to inpatients and outpatients.

Services include inpatient specialist consultation and diabetes education extending to a full Hospital in the Home diabetes service. Outpatients are catered for in the diabetes complications clinic, the gestational diabetes clinic, an insulin stabilisation clinic and a Young Adults with Diabetes (YADS) clinic. In the near future a multidisciplinary clinic in endocrinology and endocrine surgery will commence.

In recent years there has been increasing research interest and activity which is planned to expand in 2003/2004.

**Members**

Head of Unit - Dr. Christopher P Gilfillan, MB BS, PhD, FRACP
Dr. Deepak Dutta, MB BS, PhD, FRACP
Dr. Steven Morris, MB ChB, FRACP

Diabetes Educators -
Ms Christine Avery, RN, RM, BNsg, GCDE, Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Ms Sue Cole, RN, CDE, Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Ms Debbie Distefano, RN, CDE, Credentialled Diabetes Educator
Ms Kylie Ball, RN, BNsg, CDE

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

Current research interests include:
- osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.
- diabetes management in patients with myocardial infarction and other critical illness.

Gilfillan C, Thevathasen M. Frankston Bone Protection Project. This project aims to identify patients admitted to Frankston Hospital with osteoporotic fracture. Such patient will be recalled for medical review and offered investigation and treatment designed to reduce the risk of further fracture.
**Current Projects**

Gilfillan C, Dutta, D, Morris S, Avery C, Cole S, Distefano D, Ball K. An audit of clinical outcomes following the introduction of an insulin infusion protocol for patients admitted with acute myocardial infarction and diabetes or hyperglycaemia. This project measured a range of clinical and biochemical outcomes in patients admitted with acute myocardial infarction who were placed routinely on an insulin and dextrose infusion if they had a known diagnosis of diabetes or were noted to have hyperglycaemia. Most patients were offered transfer to permanent insulin therapy to optimise diabetic control and reduce the chance of recurrent events. The study demonstrated that such an approach was well accepted by patients and staff and was not associated with any significant adverse outcomes.

Gilfillan C, Dutta, D, Morris S, Avery C, Cole S, Distefano D, Ball K. Inpatient insulin initiation using a hospital in the home unit. This innovative project involved the setting up of a full diabetes education and dietitian service that took place in the patients’ home while the patient was an inpatient in the Hospital in the Home unit. This meant that patients newly diagnosed with diabetes or admitted with unstable diabetes could be quickly moved out of their hospital bed after initial stabilisation to complete their education at home.

**Publications**


**Presentations**

Gilfillan C. Calcium Supplementation increases bone density in peripubertal girls in a double-blind placebo-controlled randomised trial. Oral presentation (O51) ANZBMS annual scientific meeting and international conference on metabolic bone disease, Coolum, 2003.

Gilfillan C. Recent Developments in the diagnosis and management of osteoporosis. Invited speaker, Annual Scientific Meeting, Jean Hailes Centre for Women Health, May 2003.
The Gastroenterology Unit provides inpatient and day-stay gastroenterological services at Frankston Hospital.

**Members**

Head of Unit - Dr Michael Merrett, MB BS, FRACP  
Dr Rob Herrmann, MB BS, FRACP  
Dr David Badov, MB BS, FRACP

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

- Inflammatory Bowel Disease  
- Endoscopic Anti-reflux procedures  
- Endoscopic Stenting  
- Endoscopic Mucosal Resection  
- Viral Hepatitis  
- Capsule Endoscopy

Proposed trials (Dr Michael Merrett – principal investigator):

- A Phase 3, Multi-centre, Randomised, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Arm, Study of the Efficacy and Safety of OPC-6535 Tablets in the Treatment of Active Ulcerative Colitis. (to be presented to Research and Ethics Committee November 2003.)

- A Phase 3 multinational, multicentre, open label, 52 week safety study to assess chronic therapy with the humanised anti-TNF PEG conjugate CDP870 400mg sc (dosed 4 weekly to week 50) in the treatment of patients with active Crohn’s disease (to be presented to Research and Ethics Committee November 2003.)

**Current Projects**

Merrett MN – Double blind, randomised, multicentre clinical study to compare the efficacy and safety of Eudragit-L coated mesalazine tablets (3g mesalazine/day) vs. Ethylcellulose coated mesalazine tablets (3.0g mesalazine/day) in patients with mildly to moderately active ulcerative colitis.


Berzsenyi MD, Broughton SJ, Herrmann R, Merrett MN. Spontaneous fungal peritonitis in a haemochromatotic patient with cirrhosis on long terms prophylactic antibiotics. Department of Gastroenterology and Department of Pathology Peninsula Health, Australia. Submitted to Journal Gastroenterology and Hepatology.
The Oncology Day Unit is involved in a range of clinical trials in cancer which cover breast, ovarian, lung, gastro-intestinal (including pancreatic and colorectal), and haematological (including lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and Chronic Lymphatic Leukaemia). These trials involve patients with both early and advanced disease.

The trials include a variety of new approaches to the treatment of cancer. There are groups of trials that look at improving treatment to prevent cancer relapse in both breast and colorectal cancer (called adjuvant trials). In advanced cancer, new experimental drugs such as those that target specific cancer types are being investigated. We also have trials that offer supportive treatments and are looking at quality of life issues.

**Members**

Director of Oncology - Dr Vinod Ganju MB BS, FRACP  
Dr S Mitra, MB BS, FRACP  
Dr J Catalano, MB BS, FRACP  
Dr J Thompson, MB BS, FRACP  

Nurse Unit Manager – Carmel Mellican, RN  
Oncology Research Manager – Theresa de Man, PhD  

**Clinical Research activities 1999-2003**

Since the first clinical trial in 1999, there have been 32 clinical trials introduced at Peninsula Health in addition to three special access schemes, which has involved over 200 patients. These are beneficial to both the patients and the Oncology Unit to enable:

- Access to new therapies.  
- Improved knowledge of the processes involved in assessment and management of treatment related side effects.  
- Better coordination of multidisciplinary care of some groups of patients.  
- Improved data management skills in the unit.  
- Research has shown that clinical trial patients respond better in general compared to non-clinical trial patients.

The clinical trials introduced since 1999 are listed. The trials are variously supported by differing trial groups, hospitals and industry.

[HER2 immuno-histochemistry (brown stain) for entry into breast cancer trials.]
**Clinical Trials**

**Breast Cancer**
A Phase III Study to evaluate Letrozole as Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy for Postmenopausal Women with Receptor Positive Tumours.

An Intergroup Phase III trial to evaluate the activity of Docetaxel, given either sequentially or in combination with Doxorubicin, followed by CMF, in comparison to Doxorubicin, alone or in combination with Cyclophosphamide, followed by CMF, as adjuvant treatment of node-positive breast cancer patients.

A Phase III trial to evaluate oral chemotherapy with Capecitabine versus standard chemotherapy with CMF for advanced breast cancer.

A Multicentre Phase III Randomised Trial Comparing Docetaxel in combination with Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide versus Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide followed by Docetaxel as Adjuvant treatment of Operable Breast Cancer HER2NEU Negative patients with Positive Axillary Lymph Nodes.

A Multicenter Phase III randomised Trial Comparing Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide followed by Docetaxel with Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide followed by Docetaxel, Platinum Salt and Trastuzumab in the Treatment of Node Positive and High Risk Node Negative Adjuvant patients with Operable Breast Cancer containing the HER2NEU alteration.

A multicenter phase III randomised trial comparing Docetaxel (Taxotere) and Trastuzumab (Herceptin) with Docetaxel (Taxotere) platinum salt (Cisplatin or Carboplatin) and Trastuzumab (Herceptin) as first line chemotherapy for patients with advanced breast cancer containing there HER2 agene amplification.

A randomised, Three-arm, Multicenter Comparison of 1 Year and 2 Years of HERCEPTIN Versus no HERCEPTIN in Women with HER2 Positive Primary Breast Cancer who have Completed Adjuvant Chemotherapy (HERA).

Phase II Trial of Gemcitabine and Docetaxel in Anthracycline Exposed patients with Advance or Metastatic Breast Cancer.

Phase II, randomised, open-label study of 2 schedules of single-agent oral irinotecan in patients with metastatic breast cancer who have experienced failure of prior therapy with an anthracycline, a taxane and capecitabine.

**Ovarian Cancer**
A phase III randomised trial of paclitaxel and carboplatin versus triplet or sequential doublet combinations in patients with epithelial ovarian or primary peritoneal carcinoma.

**Lymphoma**
Intergroup Trial of First Line Treatment for Patients with Diffuse Large B-Cell Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma with a CHOP-like Chemotherapy Regimen with or without the anti-CD20 Antibody Rituximab.

Chimeric anti-CD-20 monoclonal antibody (Mabthera) in remission induction and maintenance treatment of relapsed follicular non-Hodgkins’s lymphoma: a phase III randomised clinical trial - Intergroup Collaborative Study.

A multicenter phase II study of risk-adjusted outpatient-based salvage therapy for patients with relapsed and refractory lymphoma.

Opposite from Left: Registrar, Dr Jeremy Parry and Dr Cleve Magree.
Clinical trials include a variety of new approaches to the treatment of cancer, ...looking at improving treatment to prevent cancer relapse in both breast and colorectal cancer.
**Lung Cancer**
A randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled study of subjects with previously untreated extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer treated with platinum plus etoposide chemotherapy with or without darbepoetin alfa.

**Stomach Cancer**
A Randomised, Controlled trial of Pre-and Post-Operative Chemotherapy in Patients with Operable Gastric and lower Oesophageal Cancer.

**Colorectal**
A Prospective Study of Limited Chemotherapy and Involved Field Radiotherapy for Patients with Clinical Stage I-II Hodgkin's Disease.

A Randomised Trial of Preoperative Radiotherapy for Stage T3 Adenocarcinoma of Rectum.

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 II and III Carcinoma of the Colon.

A Phase II, randomised, double-blind multicentre trial of celecoxib versus placebo for the prevention of diarrhoea associated with irinotecan/5-fluorouracil/leucovorin chemotherapy in patients with previously untreated metastatic colorectal cancer.

A Phase III, Multicentre, Randomised, Active-Controlled Clinical Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of rhuMab VEGF (Bevacizumab) in combination with standard chemotherapy in subjects with Metastatic Colorectal cancer.

**Liver Metastases**
Pre and Post-Operative Chemotherapy with Oxaliplatin 5FU/LV versus Surgery alone in Resectable Liver Metastases from Colorectal Origin - Phase III Study.

**Pancreatic**
Phase 1 trial of Xeloda + gemcitabine + radiation in the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

A randomised placebo controlled study of OSI-774 (Tarceva) plus gemcitabine in patients with locally advanced, unresectable, or metastatic pancreatic cancer.

A Phase 3 Trial of ALIMTA plus GEMZAR versus GEMZAR in patients with unresectable or metastatic cancer of the pancreas.

Phase III adjuvant trials in pancreatic cancer comparing (1) 5FU and D-L folinic acid versus (2) gemcitabine versus (3) no adjuvant treatment.

**Multiple myeloma**
Phase II trial of combination treatment with thalidomide and celecoxib for patients with multiple myeloma.

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

Chronic lymphatic leukaemia
An open-label, multicenter, randomised, comparative, phase III 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 leukaemia (CLL).

General
A study to evaluate patient safety and preference following 3-4 weekly intravenous Zometa (zoledronic acid) administration in hospital clinics or at home in cancer patients commencing bisphosphonate treatment for osteolytic/osteoblastic metastases.
Neurology

The Unit provides a Stroke Service as well as care for other in-patient neurology conditions including epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease, encephalitis, meningitis, degenerative neurological disorders, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barré syndrome and neuromuscular disorders. Multidisciplinary ward rounds are conducted including medical staff, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, social workers and speech pathologists. Close links are maintained with the neurology and neurosurgery units at Monash Medical Centre.

Members

Dr Ernest Butler, consultant neurologist, MB BS(Hons), BMedSci(Hons), PhD, FRACP

Research Interests and Future Directions

Dr Butler has had extensive research experience in the neurophysiology of the cerebellar control of movement and in Parkinson’s disease. Current research interests of the Neurology Unit at Peninsula Health are in the areas of multiple sclerosis and stroke research.

The unit intends to attract more neurologists, neuropsychological input and will soon be setting up an EEG service in the hospital. In the future an EMG/nerve conduction service will also become available, complementing and completing neurology services already on offer to inpatients at Frankston Hospital. Furthermore, now that recombinant TPA has received TGA approval in Australia, its use will be applied at Frankston Hospital in the acute treatment of selected stroke patients.
The Pathology Department is highly regarded as a training institution for Anatomical Pathology registrars in Victoria. Over the last three years, the department has successfully completed the training of two anatomical pathologists.

**Members**

Director - Dr Jill Pollard, MM BS, FRCPA, MIAC, PhC  
Dr Phil Kostos, MM BS, FRCPA, MIAC  
Dr Cleve Magree, MB BS, FRCPA  
Dr Karen Talia, MB BS(Hons), FRCPA  
Dr John Catalano, MB BS, FRACP  
Dr Sheena Broughton, MB ChB, MRCP (UK), FRCPath  

Laboratory Manager - Ms Jenny Couper, BSc (Hons)

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

The medical staff have special interests and expertise in the areas of:

- Cytology, particularly fine needle aspiration cytology  
- Oncological Pathology  
- Respiratory Pathology  
- Thyroid Pathology  
- Haematologic Oncology  
- Antimicrobial prescribing  
- Haematologic morphology

**Presentations**

Dr John Catalano has a major interest in haematologic morphology. He presents at both the annual scientific meeting of the Haematological Society of Australia and New Zealand on an annual basis and monthly at the Melbourne based Haematology Blood Slide Meeting. The presentations involve teaching on rare and instructive haematological cases.


Scientist, Julia Litera.
Within the Psychiatric Service, 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, which has been active in identifying training and educational needs in clinical areas and evaluating these.

The Service has had active quality improvement processes with significant clinical audit led by the Quality Co-ordinator.

Psychiatry trainees are involved in a Masters program in Medicine in addition to the training program of the RANZCP.

Members

Director of Psychiatry – Dr John Reilly, MB BS, DPM, DipEpiBiostats, FRANZCP
Dr Richard Newton, MRCPsych, MB ChB (Edin), FRANZCP, Senior Lecturer, (Chairman)
Chief Nursing Officer – Barbara Keeble-Devlin, RPN, BAppSci, DipAppSciPsychNurse, MEd
Quality Co-ordinator - Rosemary Dowling, BSc, BSW, DipFamTherapy
Director of Aged Psychiatry - Dr John Douglas, MB BS, DPM, FRANZCP
Co-ordinator, Psychiatry Training - Dr Dennis O’Loughlin, MB BS, DipRACOG, MPM, FRANZCP
Specialist Psychiatrist, Aged Psychiatry - Dr Stephen MacFarlane, MB BS, FRANZCP
Specialist Psychiatrist - Dr Fiona McGlade, MB BS, FRANZCP

Research Interests and Future Directions

- Clinical Supervision
- Weight management and anti-psychotics
- Psychiatric Nurse practitioners
- De-institutionalisation
- Cognitive behavioural therapy
- Dementia
- Eating disorders
- Quality management and clinical documentation

Current Projects

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Project. Nursing Clinical Development Unit (NCDU) Centre for Psychiatric Nursing Research and Practice (CPNRP), Melbourne University. This innovative and challenging project aims to demonstrate the safe and appropriate clinical role of a nurse practitioner in a community psychiatric service setting.

Publications


Financial Support and Research Grants

Australian Rotary Health Research Fund – Development and use of a multi-sensory environment in a designated room in an aged acute psychiatric inpatient unit facility.

Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences – An investigation of the efficacy of practice development and clinical supervision for mental health nurses.
Frankston Hospital provides a comprehensive Radiological service to the people of the Mornington Peninsula including Radiography, Ultrasound with Doppler, fluoroscopy, Computed Tomography (CT), Nuclear Medicine, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and image guided intervention. Installation of a modern angiography suite is imminent. In 2002 it performed 68,524 imaging procedures, a 9.5 per cent increase on 2001. The department’s workload is concentrated on the emergency department, surgical imaging, and musculoskeletal, oncological and neurological services but covers all facets of modern medical practice.

Members

Director of Radiology - Dr Chris O’Donnell, MB BS, FRANZCR, M Med
Deputy Director of Radiology - Dr John Poynter, MB BS, FRANZCR
Chief Radiographer - Mr Bert Thorbecke, Dip Med Radiography, Grad. Dip. Ultrasound

Visiting Radiologists
Dr Bob Dempster MB BS, FRANZCR, BSc
Dr Simon Edelstein MB BS, FRANZCR
Dr Raad Findakly MB ChB, FRANZCR, DMRD
Dr Manish Jain MB BS, FRANZCR
Dr Michael Martin MB BS, FRANZCR
Dr Paul Menssink MB ChB, FRANZCR
Dr Mark Percy MB ChB, FRANZCR
Dr Basil Sher MB ChB, FFRad
Dr Andrew Solomons MB BS, FRANZCR
Dr Rob Southwell MB BS, FRANZCR
Dr Andrew Watson MB BS, FRANZCR, ANZAPNM
Dr John Waugh MB ChB, FRANZCR, RCRL

Research Interests and Future Directions

Dr O’Donnell has specific interests in all facets of MRI and in forensic imaging. He is currently undertaking a two-year postgraduate diploma in forensic medicine at Monash University with a view to a Masters degree in 2004. His major focus is on the application of modern imaging to the forensic environment including the concept of “virtual autopsy”.

Medical Imaging Technologist, Kylie Tregenza.
**Radiology**

**Education**
Apart from the teaching of undergraduate medical students (5th year surgical and paediatrics), the department has been involved with nursing in-service programmes including a dedicated medical imaging seminar, resident training programme and refresher courses for nurses. Two radiographers are currently undergoing post graduate study in Ultrasound at RMIT University and another has just completed post graduate study in MRI. The department has well established relationships with radiographer training institutions and provides clinical placements for students from both Monash and RMIT Universities.

Staff are actively involved in many professional craft group organisations including CT users group, MRI users group, Australian Sonographers Association and Medical Imaging Nurses Association.

**Current Projects**
The department has a strong service orientation and major projects in the last year have focussed on quality improvement. These include biopsy prequel and follow-up, contrast consent, patient information brochures (translated into 10 languages), day admission for interventional procedures and doctor information on patient procedure preparation.

The CT section together with the Department of Surgery undertook a study investigating movement of the thyroid gland in response to patient neck position. Results were presented at a surgical registrar seminar and the paper has been accepted for publication.

**Presentations:**
O’Donnell C. The Arthur’s seat chairlift disaster: Patterns of spinal injury based on MRI findings. RANZCR Annual Scientific meeting, Brisbane September 2003.


The CT section of Radiology together with the Department of Surgery undertook a study investigating movement of the thyroid gland in response to patient neck position.
The Department of Thoracic Medicine is a relatively small but very active unit, consisting of three respiratory physicians, Associate Professor David Langton, Dr Gary Braun and Dr Nick Manolitsas, together with a support crew of four respiratory scientists, four sleep scientists and two specialist nurses.

The Department has two main areas of interest – not only does it deal with patients with lung diseases, but also those with breathing problems overnight (predominately Obstructive Sleep Apnoea).

While the physicians care for those patients who are acutely unwell in the hospital or see patients in the outpatient department, the lung function laboratory staff test people with known lung disease (assessing progression of disease or response to treatment) or those with respiratory symptoms, in order to assess the presence and severity of impairment. The laboratories are situated in Frankston and Rosebud Hospitals, and together perform over 3000 tests each year.

Patients are referred to the Sleep Laboratory if there is any suggestion of Sleep Disordered Breathing on taking a history. In the Sleep Laboratory we monitor these patients overnight so as to decide if one of these diseases (eg Obstructive Sleep Apnoea) is present, and its severity. We also provide and assess treatment for those with severe disease, or for those who are very symptomatic.

In addition to performing over 700 sleep studies a year, another important part of our work at the Sleep Lab is providing an excellent and supportive environment for those starting therapy, and so a daytime clinic also operates from the lab, twice a week.

Our respiratory nurses help people (usually outpatients) with both asthma and emphysema, helping people understand their disease and assisting them in improving their health and quality of life in the community. Education sessions and support for the Peninsula’s Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programmes is also provided. The nurses are very busy, also managing many of the research programmes that pass through the department.

**Members**

Assoc. Prof D Langton MB BS(Hons), MRACMA, FCCP, FRACP  
Dr G Braun MB BS, FRACP  
Dr N Manolitsas MB BS(Hons), FRACP

**Respiratory and Sleep Scientists**

V Le Blanc  
K Bennetts  
J Hannan  
J Phipps  
D Panettieri  
P Dionysopoulos  
M McFarlane

**Respiratory Nurses**

R Coffey  
J Shard

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

The Thoracic Department is also interested in medical research with a number of studies ongoing. Most of these relate to emphysema, and include:

- Testing a new medication on exercise endurance in patients with emphysema
- Testing a different new medication in patients with emphysema, assessing the efficacy, safety and tolerability over a 12 month period
- Testing of a new device to deliver inhaler medication to patients with emphysema
- Testing the utility of Seretide (a drug commonly used in asthma) in patients with emphysema over a three year period
• Is Coenzyme Q10 of benefit in COPD in addition to usual care? Assessing whether a common supplement – Coenzyme Q10 – has any benefit in emphysema

• Assessing whether a common supplement – Coenzyme Q10 – has any benefit in addition to a formal Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme in emphysema.

Laboratory-related studies (both lung function and sleep labs) include:

• Comparing a new mattress to a conventional Sleep Study in detecting Sleep Disordered Breathing

• Does nocturnal arrhythmia predict the presence of sleep-disordered breathing?

• Comparison of a new Sensor mattress with conventional Polysomnography.

• Does bronchodilator therapy affect the measurement of DLCO?

Current Projects

Effect of 12 week treatment of 5, 25 or 75 mg BIIL 284 BS on Exercise Endurance in Patients with COPD (Double-Blind, Double Dummy, Placebo Controlled Randomised, Parallel Group Dose Ranging Study).

A Randomised, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel Group Efficacy and Safety Comparison of One-Year Treatment of Two Doses (5 ug (2 actuations of 2.5 ugs) and 10 ug (2 actuations of 5 ugs) of Tiotropium Inhalation Solution delivered by the respimat Inhaler in Patients with COPD.

A multicentre, randomised, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled study to investigate the long-term effects of salmeterol/fluticasone propionate 50/500ug bd, salmeterol 50ug bd and fluticasone propionate 500ug bd, all delivered by the Acculhaler inhaler, on the survival of subjects with COPD over 3 years of treatment.

Respiratory Physician, Dr Gary Braun.
Renal Services

Over the past 10 years Renal Services have expanded dramatically to meet the need for chronic renal failure patients on the Mornington Peninsula. Satellite dialysis units have been established at Frankston and Rosebud campuses providing dialysis care for 60 patients.

Renal services are linked to the Alfred Hospital. Current issues include further expansion of dialysis facilities on the Mornington Peninsula as well as the provision of local outpatient services.

Members

Dr Greg Perry, MB BS, FRACP
Dr John Botha, MB ChB, Mmed, FCP(SA), FRACP, FJFICM

Research Interests and Future Directions

In conjunction with the Alfred Hospital current research interests include the better co-ordination of anaemia management in the end-stage renal failure population and the appropriate timing of commencement of renal replacement therapy.

Publications


Peninsula Health offers a rheumatology referral service for inpatients at Frankston Hospital and Mt Eliza Centre. The two specialists’ interests include musculoskeletal problems, autoimmune diseases and metabolic bone diseases (osteoarthritis, Paget’s disease).

Members

Dr Mano Thevathasen, MB BS (Hons), FRACP
Dr Esther Yenson-Chu, MB BS, FRACP, MD.

Research Interests and Future Directions

Interests include cytokines and pathophysiology of inflammatory arthritides.

Publications


Presentations


Yenson-Chu E. Proinflammatory cytokines and PGE2 stimulate PTHrP production by synovial fibroblasts. Poster presentation at the ACR (American College of Rheumatology) Conference, Boston USA, 1999.

Dr Greg Perry.
Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health

Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health has a new Professor Director, Professor Robert Burrows.

Women’s Division

With the appointment of Professor Burrows, it is foreseen that more research activities will be undertaken. These are anticipated to be focused on Women’s Health issues nationally and internationally but do not preclude studies outside of our traditional spheres that also impact upon Women’s Health.

In addition, and just as important, it is anticipated that journal clubs and the teaching of Evidence-based Medicine will become regular events within this unit involving Healthcare Providers at all levels.

The Women’s Division has supported international studies, the latest being the Term Breech Study. This study was initiated and run by Mr I McCahon.

Members

Professor Director - Professor Robert Burrows, MD, FRCS(C), FRANZCOG
Director – Mr I McCahon, MB BS, FRANZCOG, FRCOG
Mr NC Diamond, FRANZCOG, FRCOG, MRACMA.
Mr WG Atchison, MB BS, FRANZCOG, COGUS, DDU, FRCOG
Mr GJ Baker, MB BS, FRANZCOG, FRCOG, FRCS (edin)
Mr K How, MB BS, FRANZCOG, MRCOG
Mr TW Jobling, FRCOG, FRANZCOG, CGO, MD
Mr DG Johnson, MB BS, FRANZCOG, FRCOG
Mr D Luiz, MB BCh, FCOG(SA), MRCOG, FRANZCOG
Dr Petra Porter, FRANZCOG, MBBS

Nurse Managers -
Womens Inpatient Services: Kate Brown, RN, RM, GradDip CMP, MN
Womens Services: Kym Davey, RN RM, BN, IBCLC, CBE, SPC (Part 1)

From Left: Dianne Macfarlane, Helen Hutchins and Paediatric Registrar, Dr Anna Murphy.


Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health

Children’s & Adolescent Division

The Children’s and Adolescent Unit comprises a Paediatric Ward and Special Care Nursery, with hospital responsibilities extending to the Accident and Emergency Department and the Midwifery Unit.

There are well established links to child support and advocacy agencies based outside of the hospital setting.

Members

The Children’s & Adolescent Unit comprises five Visiting Medical Officers who participate equally in providing rostered cover, and involvement in administrative and educational meetings, student and resident teaching.

Paediatricians -
Dr Simon Blair, MB BS, FRACP, MRCPHC
Dr Peter Francis, MB BS, FRACP
Dr Hugh Kelso, MBBS, FRACP
Dr Ted Lowther, MB BS, ChB, DCH, FRACP
Dr Anne O’Neill, MB BS, FRACP

Nurse Unit Managers -
Child and Adolescent Ward: Ms Helen Hutchins, RN
Special Care Nursery: Ms Dianne Macfarlane, RN, RM, IWC Neonatal cert, BAppSci(Nadmin), MRCNA

Junior medical staff comprise five resident Medical Officers of at least second year experience, and one paediatric registrar rotated from the Royal Children’s Hospital training program. Experience is gained in hospital and community paediatrics. Fifth year medical students are rotated for four-week paediatric rotations from Monash University.

Current Projects

We are participants in several multi-centre clinical studies of neonatal medicine:

PINT study, comparing the outcome of different transfusion thresholds and transfusion volumes in the treatment of anaemia of prematurity.

Caffeine study, comparing the efficacy of caffeine versus theophylline as a central respiratory stimulant in the treatment of apnoea of prematurity.

Magnetic resonance Imaging (MRI) study correlating serial MRI brain scans with clinical outcome of extremely premature infants.

ANZNN study analysing the outcomes of infants born in level 3 nurseries and transferred to level 2 nurseries.
More research activities will be undertaken in Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health following the appointment of Professor Robert Burrows as the new Director.
Nursing

Nurses are involved in Research activities in many areas of Peninsula Health. The Research projects may have a clinical or nursing specific focus and there are a number of multidisciplinary activities in progress.

In July 2003, the Peninsula Health Nursing Research Program was introduced under the leadership of Carol Gilmour. This initiative, together with the joint appointment with Monash University, Royal District Nursing Service and Peninsula Hospice, of Professor Margaret O’Connor and the expansion of research activities within Psychiatry, will provide momentum for the growth of nursing research activities at Peninsula Health.

Members

Elizabeth Wilson, RN, CTCert, CCCert, DipHNUMgt, BAppSci(N.Admin), MHA, FRCNA
Executive Director of Nursing

Jan Child, RN, RN, GradDip (Behavioural Sc), GradDipHlthAdmin
Principal Nurse Rehabilitation, Aged & Palliative Care Service

Carole Gilmour, RN, RM, B App Sci (Nsg), MNsg, GradDipAcup, MRCNA
Nurse Educator Midwifery & Research

Maureen Habner, RN, RM, BAppSci(AdvNsg) Ed, MHA
Senior Manager, Nursing Education and Development

Di Jamieson, RN, BN, MBus, MRCNA
Principal Nurse, Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health and Medical Specialties

Shamala Jones, RN, RM, BNSg, MNsg, CertMgmt, CertAdvNurEmerg
Principal Nurse Emergency and Ambulatory Services

Barbara Keeble-Devlin, RPN, BappSci, DipAppSciPsychNurse, MEd
Chief Nursing Officer, Psychiatry

Professor Margaret O’Connor, DN, MN, BTheol, RN, FRCNA, AIMM
Vivian Bullwinkel Professor of Nursing (Palliative Care)

From Left: Dr Mark Smith, Shamala Jones and Alex Johnson.
Nyree Parker, RN, BAppSci(Nsg), BNsg, GradDipCritCare, MNsg GradCertHealth
Clinical Educator/Research Nurse Emergency Department

Jane Poxon, RN, PeriOp Cert
Principal Nurse, Surgery

Jodie Ten-Hoeve, RPN, GradDipPsychNsg
Clinical Nurse Consultant, Psychiatry

Research Interests and Future Directions

Arrebola J, - Frankston Rehabilitation Unit
Client Centred Goals in Rehabilitation.

Barnfield J, Ciotta A, Friebe L, Keeble-Devlin B, Macfarlane S.
Development and use of a multi-sensory environment in a designated room in an aged acute psychiatric inpatient facility.

Hellier W, - Ward 4 Mt Eliza
Exploration of the issues related to admission of patients for investigation of falls.

Lester B – MEPACS Personal Assistance Call Service
Evaluation of MEPACS falls management.

McCauley K, Elsom S, Keeble-Devlin B.
An investigation of the efficacy of practice development and clinical supervision for mental health nurses.

Moore, C – Women’s Services
Duration of Breastfeeding in women birthing at Frankston Hospital - an evaluation of the effect of the Infant Feeding Service.

Orrell M, Frost C – Operating Theatre
Evaluating the preoperative preparation of patients admitted for day of admission surgery with planned discharge same day or next day.

Paterson E, Gilmour C. Information Access For Parents Of Hospitalised Children
This research project used focus groups to explore the issues that parents of children admitted for elective surgery have in relation to being fully prepared for their child’s surgery from preadmission to discharge.

Williamson B. Effect of withholding fluids pre-procedure on the vaso-vagal episodes in the Day Case Coronary Angioplasty patient?

Collaborative Projects

Parker N. Project Nurse Emergency Department
• Towards a Safer Culture (TASC) project looks at scanning systems data from chest pain pathways and feeding this back to specialists in order to identify and improve cardiac management in ED in support to the evidence based guidelines for emergency cardiac management.
• National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) looks at also developing and improving system strategies for procedural managements ie time to analgesia, thrombolysis, early recognition and CXR ordering of pneumonia presentations, nurse initiated analgesia and currently nurse initiated x-rays.
• Informed program looks at Health Promotion projects for both staff, patients and the community originating from Emergency Department.

Ryan M. Blood Matters – a Department of Human Services funded project to improve and enhance patient understanding of risks and benefits of blood transfusion.

Helen Lack and five other staff worked with Monash University School of Nursing on a research project regarding Dysphagia screening for stroke patients in 2001-2002. They also assisted in a CSSP project which was a National Health and Medical Research Council research project about Evidence Based practice, using Stroke as the focus to explore the reasons why clinicians may not use the evidence in practice. This was a major collaborative research project involving Monash Medical Centre, Frankston Hospital, Cabrini and Warrigal hospitals. Nurses from all campuses were included.
Publications


Presentations


Aim: To improve access and enhance the health and wellbeing of clients diagnosed with a major mental illness through early intervention, pharmacological and psychological care, compliance therapy, client teaching and mental health promotion within a nursing framework in a community setting. The target population consisting; adult people of the Frankston area referred for acute presentation of psychosis.

Nursing Clinical Development Unit (NCDU)
Centre for Psychiatric Nursing Research and Practice (CPNRP), Melbourne University

Aim: To enhance active participation in a collaborative group process between nursing staff and consumers on an acute inpatient unit, to facilitate transition back into the community. Promote and empower client's of the Adult Acute Inpatient Unit to actively participate in their treatment regime, and facilitate their input and collaboration for discharge.

Financial Support and Research Grants

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Project
The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Project is a 12 month externally funded project through the Nurse Policy Branch, Department of Human Services. The aim of this project is to develop nurse practitioner practice in a mental health community setting by developing a model that supports advanced practice.


From Left: Project Officer, Gayle Reid, Nurse Practitioner Candidate, Cayte Hoppner and Chief Nursing Officer, Psychiatry, Barbara Keeble-Devlin.
Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy enables people to retain or regain function in their daily activities/occupations despite impairments, disabilities or handicaps which limit activity participation and/or pose risks to health and well-being.

The Acute Occupational Therapy service provides assessment and treatment of inpatients, with a view to safe discharge planning. In addition, a comprehensive outpatient service is provided for hand injuries and lymphoedema management.

The Rehabilitation, Aged and Palliative Care Occupational Therapy service provides assessment management and treatment services. This service can be provided within the hospital, community or home setting.

Over 40 Occupational Therapists are employed within the various areas of Acute, Sub-Acute, Domiciliary, Psychiatry and Community Health.

Members

Occupational Therapy Manager –
Mrs K MacRae, Dip OT (Edin), AFCHSE
Miss J Tozer, AccOT, BAppSc(OT)
Ms S Brown, BAppSc(OT)

Research Interests and Future Directions

Future research interests include:
- marketing occupational therapy
- pulmonary rehabilitation
- home modifications with regard to legal issues.

Presentations


Speech Pathology

Acute Speech Pathology provides assessment, diagnosis and management of disorders of communication and swallowing in adult and paediatric inpatients as well as provision of outpatient services to the City of Frankston and Mornington Peninsula. Services are also provided for children presenting with communication problems prior to school entry and adult patients requiring management of voice and fluency disorders.

In Rehabilitation, Aged and Palliative Care Service, speech pathologists also work with people who have problems with communication or swallowing. This work is carried out in both in- and out-patient settings, and involves family and close others in the rehabilitation and management.

Members

Chief Speech Pathologist (RAPCS) – Ms L Brown, BAppSc(SpPath), MEd, MSPAA, CPSP
Speech Pathologist – Mr D Meade, B SpPath, MSPAA
Acting Chief Speech Pathologist (Acute) – Ms S de Pree, B SpPath, MSPAA

Research Interests and Future Directions

- Development of ethical decision making - how speech pathologists learn about ethics
- Effectiveness of group programs for people with long term aphasia.

Current Projects

Competence of entry level speech pathologists in the workplace.

Publications


Presentations


Dietetics (Acute)

The Acute Dietetics service provides consultations to individuals and groups on nutrition related issues in health and disease by means of assessment and counselling. Areas include under weight, over weight, heart disease, diabetes, artificial nutrition support in hospital and home and gastrointestinal disorders. Dieticians also provide advice on menus and food service issues. They also provide education sessions to staff.
Members

Dietetics Acute, Acting Manager - Elizabeth Morrell, BSc, GradDipDiet, AdvCertMgt, CNSD(USA), AIMM, AFCHSE, APD.

Research Interests and Future Directions

Research interests include:
• Development of team based ethical decision making in patients being considered for gastrostomy.
• Reducing fasting times for elective surgical patients and improving outcome by giving a high carbohydrate drink and standardising practices including pre-operative diets and nutrition advice.
• Malnutrition prevalence, screening and diagnosing, and determining outcomes and revenue.
• Specialised supplementation to improve wound healing in select patients.
• Giving a high nutrient sip feed to patients as a medication to improve outcome, intake and reduce wastage compared with standard supplementation.
• Outcome based intervention.
• Benchmarking nutrition practices.

Current Projects

Morrell E. An observational study of nutritional support practice in Australasian Hospitals.

Morrell E (site co-researcher). Developing and evaluating evidence based guidelines for nutritional support in the Intensive Care Unit: A cluster randomised trial.

Higgins S, Bassett S. Group therapy intervention to minimise weight gains associated with Olanzapine for the treatment of Schizophrenia.

Publications


Presentations


DAA National Conference 2001. Poster presentations:
Use of the Stroke Clinical Pathway Facilitates Patient's Nutritional Care.
Cant R. Collaborative Benchmarking of Dietetic Services Delivery to Determine Best Practice: Referral Response Time.
Cant R. Easi-chart for Classification of Malnutrition in Hospital Patients.


DAA National Conference 1999. Poster presentation. Evidence Based Practice: Application of Casemix Codes for Malnutrition in the Clinical Setting: Friend or Foe?
The Pharmacy service provides a comprehensive range of clinical, supply and information services to all sites in 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.

Our Pharmacy services include:
- the purchase and supply of all pharmaceuticals,
- clinical/ward pharmacy services,
- outpatient and discharge prescription dispensing,
- methadone maintenance for inpatient,
- medication counselling,
- therapeutic drug monitoring,
- drug information,
- sterile and non-sterile manufacturing,
- clinical education services to undergraduate/postgraduate pharmacy students, post graduate nursing staff and medical staff,
- provides professional expertise on committees such as the Drug and Therapeutics Committee and the Research and Ethics Committee.

Director of Pharmacy Skip Lam is a member of the following advisory committees; Victorian Therapeutic Assessment Group, Victorian Hospitals Electronic Prescribing and Decision Support Group, Pharmacy Advisory Group (Health Purchasing Victoria).

Members

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 – Jan deClifford, BPharm, FSHP, MHA, CGP.

Rosebud Hospital Pharmacy Manager - Ron Hookway, MPS, PhC.

Research Interests and Future Directions

Current areas of interest are:
- Medication Safety
- Supply Chain Management
- Continuum of Care issues
- Use of information technology in health

Pharmacy Technician, Sarah Turner.
Current Projects

Piloting inpatient e-prescribing. This project, which enables doctors to create electronic prescriptions, is nationally significant in that it is the first time that electronic prescribing software has been integrated with an existing hospital pharmacy dispensing system (StoccaTM) in Australia.

A Final Year Pharmacy Student from Austria will be doing a final year research thesis on Medication Safety at Frankston Hospital for five months from September 2003.

Presentations


Lam S. SopranoTM: Hitting the high notes of e-prescribing. Society of Hospital Pharmacists (VIC) Conference Nov 2002. This paper was awarded the Best Paper.


Financial Support and Research Grants

The Pharmacy department was awarded two research grants in 2003 by the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care:

1. Safety Innovations In Practice (SIIP) Mark II Program
2. Medication Safety Innovation Safety Innovation Awards Program

In conjunction with the RDNS and the Mornington Division of GP, funded by DHS to undertake this project: Reducing medication-related emergency presentations and hospital admissions in the elderly.

Opposite: Director of Pharmacy, Skip Lam.
The inpatient e-prescribing project at Frankston Hospital is the first time in Australasia that electronic prescribing software has been integrated with an existing hospital pharmacy dispensing system.
Research Proposals that were considered by the Research and Ethics Committee in the twelve months to 30 June 2003:

The Victorian major trauma transfer study.
Principal Researcher: Dr Salomon Zalstein

A prospective clinical outcome study to evaluate the use of intradiscal electrothermal annuloplasty (IDETA) with the SprineCATH™ followed by a standardised physical therapy program for chronic discogenic low backpain.
Principal Researcher: Dr Murray Taverner

Post-operative creatinine changes in patients with pre-existing renal impairment after low-flow Isoflurane or Sevoflurane: A randomised clinical trial.
Principal Researcher: Dr Ashley Webb

A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group efficacy and safety comparison of one-year treatment of two doses (5ug (2 actuations of 2.5ug) and 10ug (2 actuations of 5ug)) of Tiotropium Inhalation Solution delivered by the Respimat Inhaler in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
Principal Researcher: Dr Gary Braun

Australian Solian (R) Observational Study (L8673).
Principal Researcher: Dr Richard Newton

Review of the cognitive dementia and memory service (CDAMS) clinics.
Principal Researcher: A/Prof Peter Foreman

A Phase III Trial of ALIMTA plus GEMZAR in patients with unresectable or metastatic cancer of the pancreas (H3E-MC-J-MES).
Principal Researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju

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.
Principal Researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju

Clinical protocol for a multiple dose randomised, double-blind multi-centre study of the analgesic effect of Parecoxib Sodium compared to placebo in patients for the treatment of post-surgical pain from gynaecological surgery.
Principal Researcher: Dr Ashley Webb

A randomised, multi-center phase III trial of Irinotecan in combination with three different methods of administration of Fluoropyrimidines: Infusional 5-FU (FOLFIRI), Bolus 5-FU (Day 1 & 8), and oral Capecitabine (Day 1-14); with Celecoxib versus placebo as a first-line treatment for patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer.
Principal Researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju

International water immersion data base project.
Principal Researcher: Loretta Whyte

Postoperative analgesia in demented vs non demented patients – a retrospective case controlled analysis.
Principal Researcher: Dr Jinny Marxsen
European study group for pancreatic cancer (ESPAC)- Trial 3
Phase III adjuvant trial in pancreatic cancer comparing (1) 5FU and D-L Folinic Acid vs (2) Gemcitabine vs (3) no additional treatment.
Principal Researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju

Is there a relationship between local concentrations of PM 2.5, PM10, SO2, O3, & NO2 and the frequency of emergency department presentations for asthma in children.
Principal Researcher: Prof Anne-Maree Kelly

Review of non-emergency patient transportation by the Metropolitan Ambulance Service.
Principal Researcher: Ms Megan Scannell

A multicentre phase II study of risk-adjusted outpatient-based salvage therapy for relapsed and refractory lymphoma.
Principal Researcher: Dr John Catalano

Patients’ perceptions of adjuvant chemotherapy in early breast cancer: What makes it worthwhile?
Principal Researcher: Vlatka Duric

Developing and evaluating evidence-based guidelines for nutritional support in the Intensive Care Unit: A cluster randomised trial.
Principal Researcher: Dr John Botha

Why do nurses not participate in education provided by their employer?
Principal Researcher: Francis Corcoran

An observational study of nutritional support practice in Australasian Hospitals.
Principal Researcher: Elizabeth Morrell

Phase II, randomised, open-label study of 2 schedules of single-agent oral Irinotecan in patients with metastatic breast cancer who have experienced failure of prior therapy with an Anthracyclin, a Taxance and Capecitabine.
Principal Researcher: Dr Jacquelyn Thomson

A multicenter, randomised, parallel-group, double-blind, placebo- controlled study of CC-5013 plus Dexamethasone versus Dexamethasone alone in previously treated subjects with multiple myeloma.
Principal Researcher: Dr John Catalano

Shamala Jones.
A multicenter, randomised, parallel-group, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of combination Thalidomide plus Dexamethasone therapy versus Dexamethasone therapy alone as induction therapy for previously untreated subjects with multiple myeloma.
Principal researcher: Dr John Catalano

The effect of group strengthening exercises on standing balance in the frail elderly.
Principal Researcher: Narelle Watson

An analysis of casemix and costing data.
Principal Researcher: Dr Liza Heslop

Reducing medication-related emergency presentations and hospital admissions in the elderly: A Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) Project.
Principal Researcher: Mr. Russell Nunn

VICTOR: Phase III, randomised, double blind, placebo controlled study of Rofecoxib (VIOXX) in colorectal cancer patients following potentially curative therapy.
Principal Researcher: Dr Vinod Ganju

Evaluation of pharmaceutical reforms in Victorian Public Hospitals.
Principal Researcher: Wayne Kinrade

Efficacy of treatment of resistant command hallucinations (TORCH).
Principal Researcher: Prof David Comm.

A best practice oral health model for Australian residential care.
Principal Researcher: Dr Jane Chalmers (Quality Project)

Does presenting to a hospital Emergency Department by ambulance compared to other means decrease hospital resource utilisation, decrease patient length of stay, and improve patient outcomes on discharge.
Principal Researcher: A/Prof Jeff Wassertheil

A comparison of common iliac venous pressure, superior vena caval pressure and peripheral venous pressure and their correlation with intra vesical pressure in critically ill patients with intra-abdominal hypertension. (Quality project)
Principal Researcher: Dr Ramesh Nagappan
Services and Locations

Carinya Residential Aged Care Unit
125 Golf Links Road
Frankston Vic 3199
Tel: (03) 9783 7277
Fax: (03) 9783 7515

Chelsea Community Rehabilitation Centre
8 Edithvale Road
Edithvale Vic 3196
Tel: (03) 9772 6099
Fax: (03) 9772 3042

Community Care Unit
4 Spray Street
Frankston Vic 3199
Tel: (03) 9781 4288
Fax: (03) 9781 4393

Frankston Community Rehabilitation Centre
125 Golf Links Road
Frankston Vic 3199
Tel: (03) 9783 7288
Fax: (03) 9770 5459

Frankston Hospital
Hastings Road
PO Box 52
Frankston Vic 3199
Tel: (03) 9784 7777

Peninsula Health Psychiatric Services
Hastings Road
PO Box 52
Frankston Vic 3199
Tel: (03) 9784 7105
Fax: (03) 9784 7192

Frankston Rehabilitation Unit
125 Golf Links Road
Frankston Vic 3199
Tel: (03) 9784 8666
Fax: (03) 9784 8662

Frankston Integrated Health Centre
Hastings Road
Frankston Vic 3199
Tel: (03) 9783 7777

Community Health Service
Tel: (03) 9784 8100
Fax: (03) 9784 8149

Rosebud Residential Aged Care Services
1497 Pt. Nepean Road
Rosebud Vic 3939

Jean Turner Community Nursing Home
Tel: (03) 5986 2222
Fax: (03) 5982 2762

Lotus Lodge Hostel
Tel: (03) 5986 1011
Fax: (03) 5982 2762

Rosewood House
Tel: (03) 5982 0147
Fax: (03) 5982 0378

Michael Court Residential Aged Care Unit
32 Michael Court
Seaford Vic 3198
Tel: (03) 9785 3744
(03) 9785 3739
Fax: (03) 9782 4434

Mount Eliza Centre
Jacksons Road
PO Box 192
Mount Eliza Vic 3930
Tel: (03) 9788 1200
Fax: (03) 9787 4435

Mount Eliza Centre
Jacksons Road
PO Box 192
Mount Eliza Vic 3930
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