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This year saw a significant enhancement in the role research plays across the Health Service with the establishment of the Peninsula Health Research Program. The Research Program draws together a number of research functions that were previously administered separately and the portfolio is overseen by Dr Sara Watson, Executive Director Community and Continuing Care. The Research Program is responsible for the Human Research and Ethics Committee, the Research Development Committee and the Clinical Ethics Committee. It is also responsible for administering NHMRC grants and/or awards as Peninsula Health is now an NHMRC administering institution. The Research Program also works in conjunction with the Public Relations Department coordinating Research Week and with the production of the Research Report.

This year has also seen a change of leadership in the Research Development Committee due to Professor Jonathan Serpell’s appointment as Professor/Director of General Surgery at The Alfred Hospital.

Professor Serpell joined Peninsula Health in 2001 as Director of Surgical Research and Education and has made a vast contribution through his work in establishing Peninsula Health’s Research Week, Registrar Research Prize, Research Report, Research Development Committee, Research Development Grants, and the annual Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration.

Professor Serpell’s appointment to The Alfred will allow him to continue his clinical surgery role at Peninsula Health, however the role of Chair of the Research Development Committee will now be carried out by Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan.

Associate Professor Gilfillan is Director of Endocrinology and Academic General Medicine at Peninsula Health and has been head of the Diabetes and Endocrinology Department since 1994. His academic appointment is in conjunction with the Monash University Department of Medicine. Associate Professor Gilfillan has published internationally and he brings a wealth of experience to the role.

The 2007 Research Report provides a comprehensive overview of the research and academic accomplishments of Peninsula Health staff, across all areas of the health service, at the local, national and international level.

The Report also records the activities of the Human Research Ethics Committee and the Research Development Committee as they strive to appropriately advance the culture of research and innovation at Peninsula Health.

Research, and its outcomes, plays a critical role in the provision of best practice healthcare. It also allows Peninsula Health to extend its community of care beyond Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula. Through articles in professional journals, presentations to national and international conferences and contributions to texts, Peninsula Health researchers are contributing to and enhancing the existing body of knowledge in many areas of medicine, nursing and allied health.

By working in close collaboration with Monash University, and other partner organisations from the education, health, government and industry sectors, the Health Service is committed to guide, encourage and foster a ‘benchtop to bedside’ approach to research. Examples of how results of research are translated into improved clinical and operational outcomes throughout the Health Service are evident throughout this report, and are also documented in the Quality of Care Report and the Annual Report.

Dr Sherene Devanesen
Chief Executive
I am delighted to have been appointed Chair of Peninsula Health’s Research Development Committee. I have been a member of the Committee since its inception in 2004, working closely with foundation Chair, Professor Jonathan Serpell, to foster, promote and encourage the culture of research which has now become firmly established at Peninsula Health.

The Research Development Committee works in partnership with the Human Research and Ethics Committee, the Board and Executive, and external educational institutes and other organisations to guide and develop the research interests and activities of Peninsula Health staff. The Committee is particularly committed to encouraging young staff members to embrace research early in their careers.

Research continues to parallel the progressive expansion of specialisation across the health service and much of the research is therefore clinically based. Clinical and database research complements other important hospital activities such as audit, continuing medical education, quality assurance, improvement programs and clinical risk management and therefore often results in changes in clinical practice with improved outcomes and efficiency.

The role of clinical research in providing evidence-based guidelines for the management of patients is critical and is dependent upon the recognition of alignments within these areas. 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.

A new initiative in 2007 has been the introduction of a Research Interest Group, a forum designed specifically for staff working in or interested in research. A preliminary program has been developed from the inaugural meeting in April 2007 which will be used as a basis for discussions and education during 2007.

In addition the Research Development Committee has launched the Peninsula Health Research Update Bulletin. This is a monthly newsletter for all staff and provides a broad range of research related information about internal and external Research Grant opportunities, Research Week activities, research-based professional development opportunities and general advice about the Research Program at Peninsula Health.

‘Research Week’ continues to grow in terms of the number of events, participants and the quality of research undertaken, and has become a significant item on the Peninsula Health calendar.

Assoc Prof Christopher Gilfillan
Chair, Research Development Committee
Research Grant Recipients 2004-2007

Research takes time, patience, dedication and, of course, money. In 2004, The Research Development Committee (RDC) set up the Research Development Fund in a bid to increase the volume and quality of research being undertaken at Peninsula Health.

The Research Development Fund is able to provide financial support for ‘home-grown’ research by awarding a limited number of small grants of up to $5,000. Since 2005, the Fund has awarded almost $50,000 to 11 staff members across Peninsula Health. These grants pay for research-related expenses including equipment purchase and the printing costs of questionnaires and forms.

The RDC strongly encourages new researchers to take advantage of these funds as it helps them to develop their research profiles.

In 2005, the following staff members were awarded Small Grants in Medical Research:

- **Mr Eric Torey**, Surgeon, $2,500 for his ‘Colorectal Cancer Database’. This is an on-going project looking at the epidemiology of colorectal cancer on the Mornington Peninsula. This project is progressing well and there are now nearly 400 patients on the database. In February 2007, a full five-year’s worth of data was accumulated and there are currently at least three papers in the process of being written on the outcomes.

- **Dr Shirley Elkassaby**, Advanced Trainee Endocrinology, $4,200, for ‘Insulin Infusions in Diabetic Patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction’. This project looked at diabetic patients who were admitted to Frankston Hospital’s Coronary Care Unit over a five year period. The patients are being followed up to determine whether or not there are either acute or chronic benefits (or adverse effects) related to whether or not they received insulin infusions whilst in CCU.

- **Ms Naomi Kubina**, Dietitian, $5,000, ‘Initiating Chronic Disease Management in Hospital Diabetes Outpatient Setting’. This study involved a survey to collect information on depression, self efficacy and quality of life in diabetic clinic patients. The second phase of the project is now underway with self-management group trials in a random selection of diabetic clinic patients. The trials will study the impact of self-management training and motivation on the extent to which diabetic patients reach their treatment targets.

- **Professor Joseph Ibrahim**, Aged Care Medicine, $5,000, ‘A survey of staff view on patient safety and the reporting of adverse events at the Mt Eliza Centre, Carinya Residential Aged Care Unit and Frankston Hospital’. This study surveyed and analysed the views of a selection of Peninsula Health staff working in three different health care settings in regards to their attitudes about reporting on adverse events affecting patient safety.

In 2006, a grant of $4,974 was awarded to Psychiatric Services, for the project: ‘Community Care Unit Evaluation: Is deinstitutionalization working in our local community?’. This study is now in follow-up phase and is investigating the experiences of all patients currently in and ever discharged from Peninsula Health Psychiatric Services.

In 2007, of the 16 applications for Small Grants for Medical Research submitted, a subcommittee of the Research Development Committee approved the funding of eight Small Grants for Medical Research. The combined total of grant monies awarded for these research projects was more than $33,000.

- **Dr Murray Taverner**, (Pain Management, Department of Medicine). Two linked projects on managing complex knee pain in patients awaiting knee replacement surgery. These studies are being conducted in conjunction with the Department of Anaesthesia.
  1. ‘Double-blind, Randomised, Selective Nerve Blocks with Local Anaesthetic or Normal Saline for Complex Knee Pain in Patients Awaiting Knee Replacement’
  2. A Pilot Study of Pulse Radiofrequency Treatment for Complex Knee Pain in Patients Awaiting Knee Replacement who Obtain Relief with Selective Nerve Blocks with 1% Lignocaine of Normal Saline.
Dr Charles Willmott (Medicine)
The Incidence of Iodine Deficiency and Thyroid Function Abnormalities in Pregnant Women during their First Trimester on the Mornington Peninsula.

Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan (Medicine)
The Effect of Maternal Metabolic State on Telomere Length in Offspring.

Dr Uche Menakaya (Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health)
A Qualitative Assessment of Women's Experience with External Cephalic Version in Frankston Hospital.

Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan (Medicine)
Thyroid Tumour Database and Tissue Bank: A Proposal to Improve the Diagnosis and Prediction of Outcome in Thyroid Tumours.

Ms Ruth White (Speech Pathology)
Radiation Exposure to Speech Pathologists during Modified Barium Swallows.

Ms Deidre Burgess (Occupational Therapy)
Can You See What I Perceive? The Usefulness Of Three Adult Visual Perceptual Tests With Australian Participants.

Dr Jayantha Rupasinghe (Senior Registrar, Department of Neurology)
A Systematic Evaluation of Emergency Management of Suspected Transient Ischaemic Attacks (TIA) and Minor Strokes in Peninsula Health.

These studies have just begun and will be reported on in future editions of the Peninsula Health Research Report.

Research Week 2006

2005 Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award

Anaesthetics Registrar Dr Bradley Skinner was the winner of the 2006 Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award. Dr Skinner was one of thirteen Registrars who presented their research findings to a panel of expert assessors at the Peninsula Health 2006 Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award, held in Frankston Hospital’s Academic Centre.

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

Dr Skinner’s presentation was ‘The Addition of a Ketamine Infusion to Tramadol for Post-operative Analgesia. A Double-Blind, Placebo Controlled Randomised Trial After Abdominal Surgery’. The trial involved 120 patients who were randomised to receive a postoperative ketamine infusion or a normal saline infusion for 48 hours. All patients received additional analgesia from a tramadol infusion, as well as PCA morphine. The results of the study concluded that small-dose ketamine combined with tramadol and PCA morphine provides benefits to patients undergoing major abdominal surgery.

Dr Skinner received $1,000 and an engraved shield, and his name was included on the Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award Honour Board.

Other Registrars who presented in 2006 were:

Dr Marios Efthymiou, Gastroenterology. Eosinophilic oesophagitis as a cause of acute food impaction: A prospective observational study.

Dr Mathew Rodrigues (Presented by Dr Ali Aminazad), Respiratory Medicine. Are 1% and 2% lignocaine equally effective in providing topical anaesthesia in fibreoptic bronchoscopy? This study was also presented at an International Conference on behalf of Respiratory Medicine.

Dr Shane O’Neill, Vascular Surgery. Reflux patterns in the proximal great saphenous vein before and after endoluminal laser ablation therapy.

Dr Shirley Su, Breast and Endocrine Surgery Unit. Hypothyroidism following hemithyroidectomy.

Dr Natalie Gattuso, Anaesthetics. Accuracy of self-reported height and weight in elective surgery patients.

Dr Ray Goh, Plastic Surgery. A comparison of Tulle Gras, Atrauman, and Urgotul for full-thickness skin graft with tie-over dressing.
Dr Ashley Webb, Anaesthesia

Dr Webb’s research on post-operative pain after major abdominal surgery was one of the largest randomised trials ever conducted at Frankston Hospital. 120 patients participated in the trial which concluded that the addition of a ketamine transfusion to tramadol was beneficial to patients’ recovery. The results of this research have now been presented and published worldwide.
Dr Daniel Abell, Intensive Care Unit. The rapid infusion of cold Hartmann’s for hypothermia after cardiac arrest: A pilot pre-hospital study involving Frankston Hospital.

Dr Cyril Tsan, Breast and Endocrine Surgery Unit. Impact of synoptic cytology reporting on thyroidectomy rate.

Dr Debra Renouf, Endocrinology. Impact of a hospital-based intervention on the outcome following minimal trauma fractures.

Dr Emilio Mignanelli, Colorectal Surgery Unit. Laparoscopic right hemicolectomy provides a similar oncological resection compared to open right hemicolectomy.

Dr Ifeanyi Chiezey, Emergency Medicine. Do adults receive better analgesia for isolated upper limb fractures than children?

Dr Spencer Murray, Urology. Is Gyrus Loop TURP the new gold standard for prostatic hypertrophy? Prospective trial: TURP versus Gyrus 30 months follow up.

2006 Nursing and Allied Health Research Symposium

The Peninsula Health Allied Health and Nursing Research Symposium saw the presentation of Nursing and Allied Health research projects and strong quality improvement initiatives.

Sixteen representatives from Nursing and Allied Health presented at the symposium. They were:

Andrea Bramley, Dietitian. The implementation of a Nutrition Support Team at Peninsula Health.

Jenelle Collins, Speech Pathologist. “You only see him on a good day!” Developing a collaborative team approach to dysphagia management in a psychogeriatric residential care setting (Carinya).

Christine Taplin, Registered Nurse. Primary Health: New Beginnings. Enhancing the existing service for Injecting Drug Users safely accessing and returning needles and syringes.

Andrea Bramley, Dietitian. Glycaemic control in patients receiving all in one TPN is improved compared to patients receiving TPN using a multiple bottle system.


Joanne Crowe, Occupational Therapist. Implementation of Best Practice Falls Prevention assessment and education in residential aged care.

Angela Dean, Occupational Therapist. Accessing care in your community – A preliminary investigation of the clients’ knowledge and utilisation of ambulatory care services.

Guy Wilkes, Pharmacist. Is it possible to achieve safer use of medication by undertaking a medication safety project?

Fiona Butler, Registered Nurse, Skin Integrity. Skin tear management at Peninsula Health.

Eliza Jervis-Read, Dietitian. Feasibility of the low bacteria diet.

Karen Edis, Dietitian. Introduction of a ‘protocol for constipation management’ at Jean Turner Nursing Home and Lotus Lodge Hostel.

Lynn Murdoch, Registered Nurse. Health needs of women following heart event: What are the issues and strategies aimed at addressing these?

Melissa Sapuppo/Fiona Turnbull, Dietitian. Evaluating the effectiveness of Dietetic Outpatient Services.

Jane Tootey, Registered Nurse. Emerging attitudes to pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and parenting.

Lisa Schneider, Dietitian. Nutrition/post colorectal surgery. Examining the hypothesis that early feeding in patients after colorectal surgery would result in earlier hospital discharge and improved nutritional intake.

The Allied Health Award was won by Lisa Schneider for her project ‘Nutrition Post Colorectal Surgery’. The aim of this project was to examine the hypothesis that early feeding in patients after colorectal surgery in combination with currently used analgesia and early mobilisation will result in hospital discharge and improved nutritional intake.

Lisa received her award from Dr Sara Watson, the Executive Director of Community and Continuing Care and Allied Health.

The Nursing Award was won by Fiona Butler for her project, ‘Skin Tear Management at Peninsula Health.’ This study evaluated the dressings commonly used at Peninsula Health to improve skin tear management. The criteria was to find a dressing product that did not traumatise fragile skin or extend the skin tear on removal, required minimal intervention/dressing changes, and was comfortable and cost effective.

Fiona received her award from Ms Elizabeth Wilson, then Executive Director Nursing Services and Community Participation. Award winners were judged on originality of idea, planning and design, methodology, analysis, conclusion, presentation and abstract. They each received $1,000 and their names appear respectively on the Allied Health Research Prize Honour Board and the Nursing Research Prize Honour Board.

Research Week Poster Display and Competition

There were 16 posters entered in the 2006 Research Week Poster Display and Competition.

The ‘Best Scientific Poster’ was awarded to Dr Debra Renouf, Ms Kaye Quick and Associate Professor Chris Giffillian, for their poster ‘Impact of a Hospital-based Intervention on the Outcome following Minimal Trauma Fractures’.

Finalists in this category were Ms Patricia Terrill and Dr Ray Goh for their poster ‘The Split Skin Graft Donor Site. Have we found the Perfect Dressing?’ and Lisa Schneider, Dr Ashley Webb and Mr Eric Torey for ‘Early Feeding after Colorectal Surgery’.

The People’s Choice category was once again very popular with hundreds of votes lodged. The overall winner was Christine Taplin for her poster ‘Primary Health: A New Beginning’. This project aims to enhance the existing service for Injecting Drug Users safely accessing and returning needles and syringes.

Finalists in this category were Naomi Kubina, Fiona Turnbull, Melissa Sapuppo, Ana Hughes and Elizabeth White from Nutrition and Dietetics for their poster ‘Evaluating the Effectiveness of Dietetic Outpatient Services’, and Deidre Burgess, Occupational Therapist for her poster ‘Walking the Final Road Together … Mapping Competence in Provision of Occupational Therapy in Palliative Care’.

Other entrants in the 2006 Poster Display and Competition:


Glycaemic Control in Patients Receiving All-in-One TPN is Improved Compared to Patients Receiving TPN using a Multiple Bottle System, by A Bramley, S King, N Fowler, Dietitian, ICU.

Health Needs of Women Following Heart Event: What are the issues and strategies aimed at addressing these?, by L Murdoch, Cardiovascular Nurse.

Are 1% and 2% Lignocaine Equally Effective in Providing Topical Anaesthesia in Fibreoptic Bronchoscopy?, by M Rodrigues, G Braun, V Le Blanc, D Langton, Medicine.


Managing Skin Tears at Peninsula Health, by F Butler, Skin Integrity Nurse.

Generational Change and Dementia Care: What Do The Baby Boomers Want and How Can it be Delivered, by L Gray, Cognition Service, RAPCS.

2006 Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration

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

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

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

The Health Service was honoured to have Professor David de Kretser, AC, Governor of Victoria as the Jeremy Anderson Orator. Professor de Kretser gave an interesting and thought provoking speech on ‘Men’s Health: Challenges for the 21st Century’.

Professor de Kretser’s academic career has bridged medicine, anatomy and biotechnology, having held positions at Monash University as Professor and Chairman of Anatomy, Founding Director of the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development and Associate Dean for Biotechnology Development.

His research into reproductive biology, infertility and endocrinology has been recognised nationally and internationally. With support from the Federal Government, he initiated a highly successful program of community and professional education in male reproductive health called Andrology Australia.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

In 2007, the Jeremy Anderson Oration, will be presented by Professor Patrick McGorry, Professor of Psychiatry at Melbourne University and Executive Director of Orygen Youth Health.

The prizes for the Allied Health, Nursing and Registrar Research Prize will be presented at the dinner and the recipients in these three prizes will attend the dinner as guests of the Research Development Committee.

Sponsors

Peninsula Health and the Research Development Committee gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Peninsula Health Research Week 2006 by:

Tyco Healthcare
AstraZeneca
Merck Sharp & Dohme
Sanofi Aventis
Schering-Plough P/L
CSL Limited.
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to deliver my third annual report as Chair of the Peninsula Health Human Research Ethics Committee. This dedicated committee, comprising Board members, community members and senior clinicians, meets monthly to ensure that research on human participants, for which Peninsula Health is responsible, is reviewed and monitored in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans.

The Committee considers research involving human participants undertaken by staff of Peninsula Health or external researchers involving Peninsula Health patients, clients or residents and Peninsula Health staff members. From time to time the Committee provides advice pertaining to ethical issues in research projects conducted in other health services or by private practitioners without access to formal research ethics committees.

The Committee members carefully consider all applications and provide both recommendations and suggestions to researchers. On occasions, Committee members and other Peninsula Health clinicians have mentored novice researchers.

During 2006/07 the Committee considered 51 new projects with 20 of these being drug trials, mainly in the areas of diabetes, oncology and psychiatry. The Committee was pleased to note the increase in the number of non-drug trials that were locally initiated, or were from younger researchers. The Research Development Fund under the guidance of Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan has provided funding to encourage and support these research initiatives.

2006/07 has been a year of innovation and review for the Human Research Ethics Committee as evidenced in the following achievements:

- The establishment of the Peninsula Health Research Program and secretariat.
- The implementation of a revised Application Information Package.
- The introduction of an Expedited Review Process.
- The reintroduction of the Research Interest Group meetings.
- Development of an ongoing education program for Committee members to ensure they remain aware of current issues in research and research ethics.
- Production of a Research Newsletter.
- Availability of our Resource Manual on CD.

This year, Dr Crofton Hatsell, Dr Vinod Ganju, Mr Malcolm Taylor and Ms Jenny Chapman resigned from the Committee after many years of generous service. Mr Rod Evenden, Mr Ian Taylor and Ms Julie Grant were appointed during the year.

The Clinical Ethics Sub-Committee was established this year as a sub-committee of the Human Research Ethics Committee. The Chair is Mr Peter Brookhouse. The purpose of this Sub-Committee is to:

- To provide an advisory body to identify and examine ethical issues.
- To provide consultation and support to clinicians.
- To promote the use of an ethical framework.

The workload for all Committee members continues to increase in volume and complexity each year, as members ensure they remain informed of new developments in research, relevant legislation and guidelines and the new requirements of NHMRC. The Board is most appreciative of their generous contributions to support research at Peninsula Health.

Liza Newby
Chairperson of Human Research Ethics Committee
Professor Margaret O’Connor, Palliative Care Nursing
Professor O’Connor’s appointment as the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in Nursing, (Palliative Care) is in conjunction with Monash University. Professor O’Connor’s role is to support the Department of Nursing in relation to the delivery of palliative care services on the Mornington Peninsula.

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

Associate Professor Richard Newton, Psychiatric Services
Associate Professor Newton was appointed to the position of Consultant Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine, Monash University in 1997. Within the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists he is the Chair of the Fellowships Attainment Committee, responsible for college training, examinations and overseas specialists and Deputy Chair of the Board of Education. Associate Professor Newton has been full time Director of Clinical Services for Psychiatry since April 2005.

Associate Professor Ernie Butler, Department of Medicine
Associate Professor Ernie Butler is the director of Neurology at Peninsula Health. He joined Peninsula Health as a neurologist in 2001 and was appointed Associate Professor through the Faculty of Medicine at Monash University in 2006. Associate Professor Butler is a member of the department of medicine at Monash Medical Centre and his subspecialty interest is in Multiple Sclerosis.

Associate Professor Terry Loughnan, Anaesthetics
Associate Professor Loughnan was appointed an Associate Professor in Anaesthetics at Monash University in October 2006 and appointed Director of Anaesthetic Research and Education in March 2007. Associate Professor Loughnan joined Peninsula Health in 1986 and was Director of Anaesthesia for 14 years before taking up his current position. Associate Professor Loughnan’s academic affiliation is as a member of the Academic Board of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine at Monash University.
Associate Professor Colin Russell, Surgery
Associate Professor Russell is the Director of Surgery at Peninsula Health, a role he has held since 1992. His academic affiliations with Monash University include Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, as well as Clinical Associate Professor to the Department of Surgery.

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

Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil, Emergency Medicine
Associate Professor Wassertheil is the Director of Emergency Medicine for Peninsula Health and holds an academic appointment within the Southern Clinical School at Monash University. He is also the Health Service’s Medical Clinical Educator (International Medical Graduates). Associate Professor Wassertheil’s major interests are in first aid and paramedic care, disaster medicine, major events management, cardiac arrest and resuscitation, emergency neurology and neurotrauma, clinical service development and medical education.

Associate Professor Amarendra Trivedi, Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health
Associate Professor Amarendra Trivedi joined Peninsula Health as Associate Professor and Director of Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health Services in May 2007. This is a joint Peninsula Health and Monash University appointment. Associate Professor Trivedi has major interests in teaching, medicolegal issues, health services management and research. He is a Clinical Teacher with Monash University.
Mr Yew-Ming Kuan, Vascular Surgeon

Mr Kuan joined Peninsula Health in February 2007 and has well developed skills in all aspects of vascular surgery including open and endovascular surgery. He has presented several papers for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Australian New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgery and has been published in the ANZ Journal of Surgery and the Journal of Endovascular Surgery.
General Surgery is a major surgical specialty at Peninsula Health. It is further divided into three subspecialties: Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, and Breast, Endocrine Surgery and Surgical Oncology. Each Unit has a major subspecialty interest, but covers the full range of General Surgery both electively and for emergencies. This specialisation of Units is in line with the further development of these subspecialties within the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Associate Professor Colin Russell is the overall Director of Surgery and Professor Jonathan Serpell was Professor and Director of General Surgery since his appointment in April 2005. Professor Serpell relinquished this role in January 2007 to take up the position of Professor Director of General Surgery at The Alfred Hospital, Bayside Health.

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

The Department of General Surgery has major interests in teaching both at an undergraduate and postgraduate level. The Department of General Surgery and all its specialties has a major role in clinical teaching to Monash University undergraduates in 3rd and final year. In addition, Frankston Hospital continues with its major role and responsibility in the delivery of the new 3rd year teaching program for Monash University students. Frankston Hospital also provides rotations for final year selective students who are able to act as trainee interns and obtain invaluable practical experience in surgery at the transition phase between medical student and internship. The Units support the advanced training of four general surgery registrars (at any one time), two each on rotation from The Alfred Hospital and Monash Medical Centre. These posts are fully accredited by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

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

A culture of surgical research has developed within the Department of General Surgery and currently a number of surgical interns and surgical registrars are undertaking research projects. The teaching of this important skill of undertaking surgical research is given emphasis and is well supported by the hospital. Our new Fellow in General Surgery, Dr Arun Dhir is taking over this role and assisting with undergraduate teaching.

**Members**

**General Surgery Unit 1—Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery**
Head of Unit, Associate Professor Colin Russell MB ChB MS FRACS GradDipBus
Mr Ian Wheatley MBBS FRACS
BAppSc MComp FACS LLB (Hons)
Mr Peter Evans MBBS FRACS
Mr Geoffrey Draper MBBS FRACS

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

**General Surgery Unit 3—Breast, Endocrine Surgery and Surgical Oncology**
Head of Unit, Professor Jonathan W Serpell, MBBS(Melb) MD FRACS FACS
Ms Belinda Brown MBBS FRACS
Ms Melanie Walker MBBS FRACS
Mr Ross Ferguson MBBS FRACS
Dr Arun Dhir MS FRCS(Edinburgh), National Board Fellow (Minimal Access Surgery).

**Nurse Unit Managers**
Julie Emmanuel RN BNsg
Dip Front Mgt
Julie Stephens RN BNsg
CCCert MRCPNA
Gay Walters. RN Dip Hosp Nsg/Ward Admin FCNA.
Current Projects

Loughnan T, Dhir A, Niumsawatt V.
Comparisons of outcomes between obese and non-obese for elective hernia repair and cholecystectomy. This project is currently in progress and the researchers are hoping to publish results in a forthcoming edition of the Australian and New Zealand journal of surgery.

Torey E, Dhir A. The Mornington Peninsula colorectal cancer database.
This is an ongoing project looking at the epidemiology of colorectal cancer on the Mornington Peninsula. This project is progressing well and there are now nearly 400 patients on the database. In February 2007, a full five-year’s worth of data was accumulated and there are currently at least three papers in the process of being written on the outcomes.

Mignanelli E, Torey E, Skinner S.
Laparoscopic right hemicolectomy performed during the “learning curve phase” does not impact on oncological resection. Laparoscopic colectomy for the management of colonic neoplasia is technically feasible and increasingly popular. It is expected that the laparoscopic operation deliver similar oncological clearance to open operation. The “learning curve” for laparoscopic right hemicolectomy has been estimated to be 20 cases and is now set as a guideline by ASCRS. This study was performed to compare histopathology specimens following laparoscopic right hemicolectomy (LRH) performed during the “learning curve” phase with those following open right hemicolectomy (ORH) to evaluate oncological clearance of colonic neoplasms.

Mignanelli E, Skinner S.
Protocols for management of bowel obstruction may not improve patient outcomes. Bowel obstruction is a common surgical presentation, but has no defined management protocol. The study’s aim is to devise a series of protocols for small bowel obstruction (SBO) and large bowel obstruction (LBO) and determine if protocol implementation affects patient outcomes.

Pilgrim C, McIntyre R.
Prospective audit of parastomal hernia. The data collection phase of this project, carried out by the stomal therapy department, has now been completed. The project is now in the manuscript preparation phase and will be submitted for presentation at the Victorian Annual Scientific and General meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in November and will also be submitted for publication with the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery.

Research Interests and Future Directions

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

The Upper Gastrointestinal Unit in association with Mr Stewart Skinner is exploring the implementation of Bariatric Surgery for the treatment of the morbidly obese at Frankston. In addition, Associate Professor Colin Russell has a major interest in health management and waiting list management.

The Colorectal Unit has embraced the introduction of Minimally Invasive Colorectal Surgery to Peninsula Health.

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

Publications


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

There are 12 staff specialists and 14 visiting specialist anaesthetists. The Department is actively involved in training and currently has eight accredited registrars representing all five years of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) anaesthetic training program. Five of the anaesthetists are examiners of ANZCA.

**Members**

Director, Dr John Copland MB BS FANZCA
Director of Anaesthetic Research and Education, Associate Professor Terry Loughnan MB BS FANZCA
Deputy Director of Anaesthesia and Supervisor of Training, Dr Chris Bowden MB BS FANZCA
Dr Helen Kolawole BMedSci MB BS FANZCA MClinEd (UNSW)
Dr Gary McKenzie MB BS, BMed Sci, Dip O&G FANZCA
Dr Noel Roberts MB BS FANZCA
Dr Sam Leong MB BS FANZCA
Grad Dip Med Stats (Newcastle)
Dr Tyron Crofts MB BS FANZCA
Dr Jimmy Marxsen MB BS FANZCA
Dr Ashley Webb MB BS(Hons) FANZCA Grad Cert Quality Improvement Healthcare (Newcastle).
Dr TZung Ding MB BS FANZCA
Dr Tony Vulcan MB BS FANZCA
Dr David Henry MB BS FANZCA
Dr John Campbell MB BS FANZCA
Dr Thomas Edgley MB BS FANZCA
Dr Peter Brown MB BS FANZCA
Dr Elliott Rubinstein MB BS FANZCA
Dr Anthony Prendergast MB BS FANZCA
Dr Mae Chen MB BS FANZCA
Dr John Tang MB BS FANZCA
Dr Mihaela Diacon MB BS FANZCA
Dr Jim Shim MB BS, FANZCA
Dr Tony Stanbe MB BS FRANZCA
Dr Rebecca Dabars MB MS FANZCA
Dr Andrew McLaughlin FRCA
Dr Eric Guneseekera FRCA.

**Research Highlights**

Dr John Copland completed a six month sabbatical on aero-medical evacuation and retrieval in Alice Springs and Darwin. During this period he gained experience in the emergency management and retrieval of seriously ill patients. Time was also spent in the operating theatres and emergency departments of these major hospitals and he was involved with teaching of staff.

Dr Gary McKenzie completed a six month sabbatical on the use of ultrasound guided needle placement for regional blockade. This is a relatively new technique that is supported by major investment in roll out of this specific technology to hospitals throughout Victoria. Dr McKenzie completed much of his time at St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne and then completed the time introducing the equipment and technique to Peninsula Health.

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**Publications**


**Current Research**

Drs Taverner, Webb and Loughnan are completing a randomised blinded trial on the use of subcutaneous local anaesthetic injections to reduce knee pain in patients awaiting total knee joint replacement.

Drs Bowden and Loughnan are currently working within the Pacific Society of Anaesthetists, based in Fiji, to establish a benchmark on what anaesthetic drugs are currently in use and available within member nations of the Society.
Orthopaedics

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

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

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

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

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

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

Members

Surgeons
Chairman, Mr Peter Brydon MB BS FRACS (until July 2007)
Mr Gerard Bourke MB BS FRACS (Chair from July 2007)
Mr Nigel Broughton MB ChB (Hons) FRCS (Ed) FRCS (Eng) FRACS
Mr Peter Hamilton MB BS FRACS
Mr Peter McCombe MB BS FRACS
Mr John Rehfisch MB BS FRACS
Mr Andrew Weber MB BS FRACS
Mr Reinhart Wuttke MB BS FRACS.

Registrars 2007
Dr David Horman
Dr Ben Campbell
Dr Tim Lording.

Current Projects

• Dr Gerald Bourke is working with Dr Chris O’Donnell from Radiology, in a study of assessment of the ankle with MRI following ankle joint replacement.

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 Chee Wee Cham, MB BS, MD, FRCS, FRACS
Mr Christopher Chang MB BS(Melb) FRACS (Urolog)
Ms Karen McKertich, MB BS, FRACS (Urology)
Mr Alwin F Tan, MB BS, FRACS (Supervisory)
Mr Poh Yen Yeo MBBS.

Current Projects

Myth Buster: Catheter Revealed.
Principal Investigators: Dr Poh Yen Yeo, Mr Alwin F Tan. In progress.
The Plastic and Maxillofacial Unit comprises seven surgeons, an accredited plastic surgery registrar, and an HMO. The Unit runs a twice weekly multidisciplinary outpatient clinic with the Occupational Hand Therapists providing more than 3,000 therapy services each year.

The Unit operates at both Frankston and Rosebud campuses, carrying out procedures ranging from excision of skin cancers, hand surgery such as carpal tunnel release, dupytrens and ganglion excision, to complex microsurgical procedures such as breast and lower limb reconstruction. The Unit deals with a large volume of trauma such as hand fractures, dog bites, burns and pretibial leg lacerations.

Three of the Unit members (David Hunter-Smith, David Ross, Marie Rostek) have travelled overseas in the last year with the Interplast program to Asian Pacific Countries to operate on people who normally have no access to reconstructive plastic surgery. They operate on children and adults disfigured by congenital conditions such as cleft lip and palate, burns and hand deformities. They volunteer their services and travel with a small team including an anaesthetist and nurses and all the equipment required to operate on the patients. David Hunter-Smith has recently been appointed to the Board of Interplast Australia who now sends over 30 volunteer to developing countries every year. He also sits on the International committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit is committed to improving education within the hospital. In July a very successful plastic surgery study day was run, attended by 40 nursing staff from throughout the health service. David Ross, Patricia Terrill and the Plastic Surgery Registrar covered topics from skin cancers and hand trauma to breast reduction.

Members

Head of Unit, Ms Patricia Terrill
MB BS FRACS
Mr David Hunter-Smith MB BS(Hons) FRACS
Mr John Redman MB BS FRACS
LDS BDSc
Mr Tom Robbins MB BS FRACSFRCSI(Ed) FRCS
Mr David Ross MB BS FRACS
Ms Marie Rostek MB BS FRACS
Mr Sunia Vudiniabola MB BS, BDS, GradDip MDS, FRACDS.

Planned Projects for 2007

Management of k-wire pin sites in hand fractures.
Dupuytren’s Disease – assessment of results
Early vs Delayed mobilisation of metacarpal fractures
Needle Fasciotomy or Dupuytrens Contracture.

Presentations


Terrill P, Goh R. The split thickness skin graft donor site: Have we found the perfect dressing? Presented at ASC, Christchurch May 2007.

Poster Presentations

Terrill P, Goh R. The split thickness skin graft donor site: Have we found the perfect dressing? Runner up for Best Scientific Poster, Peninsula Health Research Week Poster Display and Competition, Frankston Vic, November 2006.

Overseas Aid/Teaching


Hunter-Smith D. Development and implementation comprehensive microsurgical training program for reconstructive plastic surgeons throughout Bangladesh and Nepal.
The main focus of the Vascular Surgery Unit’s work is patient management and surgical training. Surgical registrars learn the basics of vascular surgery as a prerequisite of their fellowship training.

The Vascular Unit performs a broad variety of routine peripheral vascular surgical procedures with the exception of dialysis access surgery and ‘open’ thoracic aneurysm repair. With the emerging trend an increasing number of endovascular interventions are performed. Endovascular aortic aneurysm repairs now outnumber the traditional surgical interventions, and patients receive balloons and stents in their blocked arteries rather than undergoing bypass surgery as a first line of treatment.

The Vascular Angiography Suite in the Radiology Department is now fully functional. The vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists work in co-operation in the new unit which provide a new array of endovascular interventions for vascular patients.

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

Mr Yew-Ming Kuan is a new member of the Vascular Surgery Unit. Yew-Ming joined Peninsula Health in February 2007 soon after his training had been completed at the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg.

During the training years, Yew-Ming developed skills in all aspects of vascular surgery including open and endovascular surgery. He presented several papers at the annual meetings of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Australian New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgery. His publications appeared in the ANZ Journal of Surgery and the Journal of Endovascular Surgery.

**Members**

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

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

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

Research topics in the past included the pathophysiology of venous insufficiency, deep venous thrombosis and evaluation of endovascular repair of aortic aneurysms.

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

Evaluation of different treatment modalities of managing varicose veins have been undertaken in the last two years.

**Current Projects**

- Nationwide clinical trial of the Cook Zenith AAA Flex Endovascular Graft.
- Patterns of early and late recurrences after varicose vein surgery.
- Evaluation of endovenous laser treatment of the great saphenous vein as an alternative to traditional varicose vein surgery.

**Presentations**

- Somjen G. The changes at the saphenofemoral junction after endovenous laser ablation 21st Scientific Meeting and Workshop of the Australian New Zealand Society of Phlebology, Cairns, 2006.
Dr Murray Bartlett, Radiologist

Dr Bartlett is pictured in the new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) suite in the Radiology Department at Frankston Hospital. Dr Bartlett belongs to a team of radiologists and radiographers who have overseen more than 70,000 imaging procedures this year. The department has research interests in all facets of MRI.
The Department of Medicine is affiliated with the Monash University Faculty of Medicine and oversees the post-graduate training of registrars in general internal medicine (basic physician training) and in specialty fields (advanced physician training), as well as the teaching of medical students from the Monash University Medical School.

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

The Department comprises five staff specialists, two with academic appointments at Monash University and a large number of affiliated Visiting Medical Officers.

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

**Members**

**Director of Medicine**
Associate Professor D Langton
MB BS (Hons) FCCP FRACP.

**Medical Staff Cardiology**
Dr P Carrillo MB BCh FRACP (Head of Unit)
Dr P Arunothayaraj MB BS FRACP
Dr R Lew MB BS FRACP
Dr G Sztó MBBS FRACP
Dr R Teperman MB BS FRACP
Dr G Toogood MB BS FRACP
Dr B Wood MB BS FRACP.

**Medical Staff Endocrinology**
Associate Professor C Gilfillan MB BS PhD FRACP (Head of Unit)
Dr D Dutta MB BS PhD FRACP
Dr S Morris MBChB (Auk) FRACP
Dr S Varadarajan MBBS FRACP.

**Medical Staff Infectious Diseases**
Dr P Vinton MB BS PhD FRACP (Head of Unit)
Dr S Broughton MB ChB MRCP(UK) FRACPath
Dr C Harangoza MB BS FRACP
Dr C Marshall MB BS FRACP
Dr M Ananada-Rajah MB BS FRACP.

**Medical Staff Gastroenterology**
Dr D Badov MB BS FRACP (Head of Unit)
Dr M Merrett MB BS (Hons) FRACP
Dr A Thornton MB BS FRACP
Dr R Herrmann MB BS FRACP.

**Medical Staff General Medicine/Pain/Renal**
Dr P Fiddes MB BS FRACP (Head of Unit)
Dr R Hoole MBBS FRACP
Dr P Nayagam MB BS (Hons) MRCP (UK) FRACP
Dr G Perry MB BS FRACP
Dr M Taverner MB BS FRCA
FANZCA FFANZEC Dip PainMgt.

**Medical Staff General Practice Medicine Frankston**
Dr A Gunsekera MB BS DipObst DipRACOG (Head of Unit)
Dr Z Barr MB BS FRACGP
Dr M Cross MB BS FRACGP
Dr R Cuthbertson MB BS DipObst BSc BMedSci FRACGP
Dr R Lewis BSc MB BS DCH DRCOG FRACGP
Dr M Porter MB BS.

**Medical Staff Neurology**
Associate Professor E Butler MB BS FRACP (Head of Unit)
Dr S Raghav MB BS FRACP.

**Medical Staff Oncology, Haematology & Palliative Care**
Dr J Catalano MB BS FRACP FRCPA
Dr V Ganju MB BS FRACP
Dr B McDonald MB ChB FChPM MSc (Acting Director of Cancer Services)
Dr N Potasz MB BS FRACP
Dr R Srivastava MB BS FRACP
Dr J Thomson MB BS FRACP.

**Medical Staff Respiratory Medicine**
Associate Professor D Langton MB BS (Hons) FCCP FRACP (Head of Unit)
Dr G Braun MB BS FRACP
Dr N Manolis MB BS (Hons) FRACP.
Research

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

Cardiology

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

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

Members

Head of Unit, Dr Phillip Carillo MB BCh FRACP
Dr Palanand Arunothayaraj MB BS MRCP FRACP
Dr Dr Gregory Szto MB BS (Hons) FRACP FCSANZ FSCAI
Dr Rodney Teperman MB BS FRACP DDU
Dr Geoff Toogood MB BS FRACP
Dr Brian Wood MB BS FRACP.

Nurse Unit Managers

Coronary Care Unit, Ms Gill Dixon RN Div1 CCRN
Angiography, Mr Robert Templin RN Div1 Cardiac Technologist
Cardiology, Mr Damian Flenley RN Div1.

Current Projects

Szto G. The Australian Acute Coronary Syndromes (ACACIA) Prospective Audit.
Szto G. VYTUL Study (A multi-centre, randomised, open-label parallel groups study comparing the effectiveness and safety of treatment with VYTORIN® 10/40 (Ezetimibe 10 mg and Simvastatin 40 mg) versus Lipitor (Atorvastatin) 80 mg daily in subjects with a history of coronary heart disease and/or diabetes mellitus with uncontrolled lipids on statin therapy).
Szto G. CORAL Study (Cardiovascular Outcomes in Renal Atherosclerotic Lesions).

Publications


Presentations

Szto G, O’Shea V. Initial experience with cardiologist office-based point-of-care BNP measurement in managing patients with suspected or established cardiac dysfunction. Abstract accepted and presented at CSANZ annual scientific conference, August 2006.

Dr Jonathan Cohen, Advanced Trainee in Endocrinology

Dr Cohen joined Peninsula Health this year and has been involved in clinical research including an audit of nodular thyroid disease and its management which involves the collection of tissue from surgically removed nodules for future analysis. Dr Cohen is also involved in the gestational diabetes clinic – a clinic devoted to the intensive management of women with all types of diabetes in pregnancy.
hospitals. Abstract accepted and presented at CSANZ annual scientific conference, August 2006.


Diabetes and Endocrinology

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

Services include:

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

In 2007, the Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology welcomed Dr Jonathan Cohen as an advanced trainee in Endocrinology. Dr Cohen will be involved in clinical research during his year at Frankston, commencing an audit of nodular thyroid disease and its management and beginning to collect tissue from surgically removed nodules for future analysis. Research activity continues to increase with commencement of new sponsored trials and investigator
initiated research projects. The Department is currently running eight international clinical drug trials in diabetes testing the efficacy of two new orally active drugs for the management of Type 2 diabetes. The Department also has four investigator initiated research projects currently underway including three projects undertaken by our basic physician trainees.

We have been successful in achieving funding for these studies from the pharmaceutical industry for drug trials, the Regional Diabetes Support Scheme and through grants from the Peninsula Health Research Development Fund. A NH&MRC project grant application has been submitted that will fund a five year project investigating the molecular pathology of thyroid tumours.

Members

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

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

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

Research Nurses
Kaye Quick RN Cert Perioperative Nursing
Lisa McCormack, RN BNsg (Hons).
Fadwa Hassan RN CCRN
Credentialled Diabetes Educator CRC
Rita Coffey RN Grad Cert Asthma Ed.

Current Projects

Investigator initiated
- Diabetes self management groups trial – surveying the incidence of poor self esteem, poor quality of life and depression in outpatient diabetic population.
- Telomere project - Studying the relationship of glycaemic and oxidative stress exposure of the foetus and telomere length in the newborn.
- Thyroid tumour bank - Searching for genetic alterations that will help with determining the diagnosis and prognosis of thyroid tumours.
- Osteoporosis intervention trial - studying the impact of a hospital-based intervention on the extent to which fracture patients are on fracture-preventing therapy at one year.
- Research database epidemiology study - studying the characteristics of the diabetic population on the Peninsula to enable better planning of services.
- Iodine nutrition in women in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- Relationship between fasting glycaemia and neonatal outcome in gestational diabetics and non-diabetics.

International multi-centre trials
Takeda studies
- SYR 332 sulph - studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes in sulphonylurea treated patients.
- SYR 332 naive - studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes in treatment naive patients.
- SYR 332 insulin - in patients using insulin.
- SYR 332 extension - a 12 month extension of the above three studies.
- SYR 332 002 - studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes in treatment naive patients.
- SYR 332 004 studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes in metformin treated patients.

Merck studies
- MK 431 036 - studying the safety and efficacy of a new oral agent for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes in patients using metformin.
- MK 431 036 Extension.
Presentations

Grants
1. Regional diabetes support scheme. The effect of maternal metabolic state on telomere length in offspring, $10000.
2. Peninsula Health Small Grants Scheme. The effect of maternal metabolic state on telomere length in offspring, $5000.
3. Peninsula Health Small Grants Scheme. Iodine nutrition in the first trimester of pregnancy, $5000.
4. Peninsula Health Small Grants Scheme. The molecular pathology of thyroid tumours, $5000.

Publications

Gastroenterology
The Gastroenterology Unit provides inpatient and day-stay gastroenterological services at Frankston Hospital. The Unit provides inpatient management of Digestive Diseases including Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Liver Disease. The Gastroenterology Unit also provides endoscopic services including diagnostic and interventional gastroscopy, colonoscopy and ERCP. The Unit currently performs over 3000 endoscopic procedures per year.
The Head of Unit, Dr David Badov, and his team have a keen interest in research. Dr Badov is the principal co-investigator in a current Hepatitis C management trial (CHARIOT), and has been involved in more than a dozen clinical trials on various gastrointestinal conditions including chronic liver disease, irritable bowel syndrome, dyspepsia and cancer.

Members
Head of Unit, Dr David Badov MB BS FRACP
Dr Rob Herrmann MB BS FRACP
Dr Michael Merrett MB BS FRACP
Dr Aaron Thornton MB BS FRACP
Registrar (Advanced Trainee), Dr Richard La Nauze MB BS.

Current trials
Badov D. CHARIOT Hepatitis C trial examining the effect of induction dosing with the combination Interferon and Ribavirin therapy in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C infected with Hepatitis C Genotype 1.
Badov D. ChemoCentryx double-blind Placebo-Controlled, Parallel Group, Dose-Ranging Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of CCX282-B in Subjects with Moderate to Severe Crohn’s Disease.

Infectious Diseases
The Infectious Diseases Unit is headed by Dr Paul Vinton and works closely with the Microbiology Unit headed by Dr Sheena Broughton and the Infection Control Unit, managed by Maureen Canning.
The three units participate and assist with each others’ projects, many of which are joint projects.
The main priority of the Infectious Diseases Unit has so far been to establish and improve the Clinical Infectious Diseases Services at the Hospital. The Unit is also committed to developing a research focus by being involved in the projects listed below and by initiating new research projects in the future, both at Peninsula Health and also in collaboration with other centres.
Dr Sheena Broughton and Sue Thorpe, Infectious Diseases

Dr Broughton, microbiologist and Sue Thorpe, infection control consultant are working in partnership, along with Dr Paul Vinton who heads the Infectious Diseases Unit, to improve the Clinical Infectious Diseases Services at Peninsula Health. They are also looking at ways to reduce health care associated infections.
Members

Head of Unit, Dr Paul Vinton MBBS FRACP
Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MBBS FRACP
Dr Chanad Harangozo MBBS FRACP
Dr Catherine Marshall MBBS FRACP.

Current Projects

The hand hygiene project is managed by the Infection Control Unit and the Antibiotic Stewardship Rounds were developed under the direction of the Peninsula Health Antibiotic Review Team, (which is a Multidisciplinary Team consisting of Physicians, Surgeons, Microbiologist and Pharmacy staff) which has been formed to review the ongoing use of antibiotics and have been conducted by Dr Sheena Broughton and Pharmacy.

The Unit is also looking at implementing projects to reduce health care associated infections within the health service.

Dr Vinton has a research interest in Tuberculosis (TB) and is currently involved in research studies with Southern Health, with whom he has ongoing research links.

Dr Ananda-Rajah is presently involved in 2 studies:

• The development of a surveillance database of invasive fungal infections among immunocompromised haematology and oncology patients in the major bone marrow transplant centres (RMH, Peter Mac and The Alfred). A core aspect of this study will involve the usage and evaluation of antifungal drugs for the treatment of documented IFIs, as empiric therapy and as prophylaxis. The researchers intend to link multiple existing datasets in order to achieve this goal. Once prospective data is collected in an efficient manner studies examining the changing epidemiology of IFIs, and the economic impact of IFIs and their treatment can be performed (no such Australian data presently exists).

• Evaluating the cost effectiveness of infection control interventions in reducing MRSA acquisition and infection rates among ICU patients. This is only one aspect of a much larger study being conducted over a 2 year period at RMH; and

Presentations

Vinton P. Role of New Diagnostic Tests in Screening Health Care Workers for Latent TB. ‘Re-thinking the Epidemiology of Tuberculosis - the 1st global symposium on gamma interferon assays’. Vancouver, Canada, Feb 2007


Medical Oncology

Cancer services include a team of four oncologists; one specialist haematologist and registrars for both oncology and haematology. The Chemotherapy nursing team consists of 10 Clinical Nurse consultants, 2 Division 1 nurses who are studying Oncology and a Division 2 nurse. The Unit currently treats patients five days per week at the Frankston Hospital site in a 10 chair unit. Since the beginning of this year, the Rosebud Hospital service has expanded from two treatment days per week to a full time service in four chairs.

An important focus for cancer services at Peninsula Health is clinical research which has become an integral part of the service with more than 85 trials being conducted over the last eight years. Participation in clinical trials has contributed to a vast improvement in the quality of care within the Unit and has allowed patients to access some of the latest treatment developments in oncology and haematology. All new trials and developments are discussed at fortnightly, multi-disciplinary research meetings and monthly journal clubs.

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

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

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

**Members**

- Director of Cancer Services, Dr Brian McDonald MB ChB MSc FAcHPM (acting from October 2006)
- Dr Vinod Ganju MB BS FRACP (Head of Unit to October 2006)
- Dr John Catalano MB BS FRACP
- Dr Nicole Potasz MB BS FRACP
- Dr Jacqui Thomson MB BS FRACP
- Dr Ranjana Srivastava MB BS FRACP.

**Registrars:**

- Dr Sally Greenberg
- B Med Sci (Hons) MB BS
- Dr Vethavalli Aravindan MD(HAEM).

**Nurse Unit Manager:**

- Carmel O’Kane RN (until February 2007 Frankston Hospital, February onwards Rosebud Hospital)
- Lisa Taylor-Lovett RN (February 2007 Acting).

**Research staff:**

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

**Research Focus – bevacizumab (Avastin)**

One of the new and exciting therapies to be used in a number of trials is bevacizumab which is a new targeted therapy used to treat a number of diseases. Bevacizumab is a humanised monoclonal antibody that works by targeting cancer cells. It works by blocking the endothelial growth factor (VEGF) which is involved in providing blood vessels (and hence nourishment) to cancer cells. This stops tumour growth and the tumour spreading to other parts of the body. Generally bevacizumab is well tolerated with some of the main side effects being protein in the urine, high blood pressure, increased risk of bleeding and fatigue.

Bevacizumab is approved for use in colon cancer and is currently being tested in many other settings. At Peninsula Health we have used bevacizumab in clinical trials for breast cancer, renal cell cancer, colon cancer and shortly will have a study in non-hodgkin’s lymphoma.

**Current recruiting trials**

**Breast**

A randomised, multi-centre Phase 3b, open-label, study of letrozole vs anastrozole in the adjuvant treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor and node positive breast cancer (FEM3 45Study#CFEM345D2411). In this study patients with early breast cancer receive hormone treatment with either letrozole or anastrozole.


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

Chemotherapy in hormone non-responsive breast cancer: Low-dose cytotoxics as “anti angiogenesis treatment” following adjuvant induction chemotherapy for patients with ER-negative and PgR-negative breast cancer (IBCSG – 22-00). In this study patients with early breast cancer who are not suitable for hormone therapy are offered a low-dose chemotherapy treatment.
Open-label Study of Bevacizumab (Avastin®) plus Taxane Monotherapy or in combination for the first-line treatment of patients with locally recurrent or metastatic breast cancer. In this study, all patients received the study drug bevacizumab in combination with standard taxane treatment.

Chemotherapy adjuvant study for women at advanced age: Phase 3 trial evaluating the role of Adjuvant Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin (PLD, Caelyx®, Doxil®) for women (age 66 years or older) with endocrine non-responsive breast cancer who are NOT suitable for being offered a “standard chemotherapy regimen”. (IBCSG TRIAL 32-05 / BIG 1-05 (CASA). This study is for older women not suited to standard therapy and treats with one of two less toxic chemotherapies.

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

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

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

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

A randomised, open-label, multi-centre, phase 2 study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Lumiliximab in combination with Fludarabine, Cyclophosphamide, and Rituximab versus Fludarabine, Cyclophosphamide, and Rituximab alone in subjects with relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Patients received standard chemotherapy or standard plus a new drug called lumiliximab.

Lung cancer
A phase 3, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of maintenance Pemetrexed plus best supportive care versus best supportive care immediately following induction treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer. Patients who have completed treatment are offered maintenance treatment with a new compound (Pemetrexed).

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

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

A multi-centre, single-arm, open-label study of Lenalidomide plus Dexamethasone in previously treated subjects with multiple myeloma. All patients who are eligible receive Dexamethasone and the study drug Lenalidomide to treat their multiple myeloma.

A phase 3, multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to determine the efficacy and safety of Lenalidomide (Revlimid) in combination with Melphalan and Prednisone versus placebo plus Melphalan and Prednisone in subjects with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma who are 65 years of age or older (Celgene: CC-5013-MM-015). This study is for older people not suited to more toxic treatments, where treatment is with two oral drugs study drug or placebo.

An Australian multi-centre phase 2 study of Bortezomib (VELCADE™) and Dexamethasone as treatment and maintenance for patients with multiple myeloma who have relapsed after Autologous BMT or following
re-induction with Thalidomide and/or Dexamethasone. This treatment is for patients who have relapsed after a maximum of two treatments. All patients receive the study drug bortezomib.

**Pancreatic**
Phase 3 adjuvant trials in pancreatic cancer comparing (1) 5FU and D-L folinic acid versus (2) gemcitabine versus (3) no adjuvant treatment. In patients with operable pancreatic cancer, the effectiveness and side effects of chemotherapy and/or no treatment is evaluated. Patients received one of two therapies post successful Whipples operation.

**Ovarian**
A multi-national, randomised, phase 3, GCIG intergroup study comparing Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin (CAELYX®) and Carboplatin versus Paclitaxel and Carboplatin in patients with epithelial ovarian cancer in late relapse (>6 months): GCIG Calypso study. In this study patients are given standard treatment or a new modified form of an established chemotherapy drug.

**SCOTROC 4:** A prospective, multi-centre, randomised trial of Carboplatin flat dosing versus intrapatient dose escalation in first line chemotherapy of ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancers.

The EORTC Tarceva Study: A randomised, multi-centre, phase 3 study of Tarceva(TM) versus observation in patients with no evidence of disease progression after first line, platinum-based chemotherapy for high-risk Stage I and Stage II-IV ovarian epithelial, primary peritoneal, or fallopian tube cancer. In this study, patients who have already completed their chemotherapy are either treated with the study drug Tarceva or have standard follow up reviews only.

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

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

A Phase 3, randomised, double-blind study of Galiximab in combination with Rituximab compared with Rituximab in combination with placebo for the treatment of subjects with relapsed or refractory, follicular non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma Protocol No. 114-NH-301. In this study, all patients receive standard chemotherapy plus Galiximab or placebo.

**Bone metastases**
A randomised, double-blind, multi-centre study of Denosumab compared with Zoledronic Acid (Zometa®) in the treatment of bone metastases in subjects with solid tumours (excluding breast and prostate cancer) or multiple myeloma (20050244). All patients receive treatment with either standard Zometa or the study drug Denosumab.

The LOTESS Trial: A clinical study investigating the long term efficacy and safety of Zometa® treatment. Protocol - CZOL446EAU22. This is a safety study for patients who have received 12 months of Zometa and will continue to receive treatment.

**Other**
A multi-centre, single arm, open label study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of 1000mg fixed dose of rituximab on day one and fifteen among patients with refractory, relapsing or chronic idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (Protocol ML 20948 – The R-ITP 1000 Study).

ASPIRE: A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial examining the efficacy and safety of low-dose aspirin after initial oral anticoagulation to prevent recurrent venous thromboembolism.
Studies in follow-up phase

Although there are over 15 trials actively open for patient recruitment, there are over 40 trials still in the follow up phase. These trials continue to monitor the progress of patients after their treatment is finished and often for up to 10 years. There are about 200 patients who are regularly contacted which includes trials for all diseases.

Pain Management

The Pain Management Unit of Peninsula Health provides a specialist supervised acute pain service in conjunction with the Anaesthetic Department and interventional pain relief treatments for chronic pain. Inpatient services include specialised treatment for chronic non-cancer pain and severe cancer pain.

The Unit has established a pain management program, weekly pain clinic and team meeting.

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

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

Members

Head of Unit
Dr Murray Taverner MB BS FRCA
FANZCA DipPainMgt FFPMANZCA
GradDipMed (Pain Management)
Dr Tony Prendergast MB BS
FANZCA.

Research Interest/ Future Directions

• Ankle and knee pain.
• Radiofrequency treatment. Double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled follow-on studies are planned. Transcutaneous pulse radiofrequency treatment and double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled percutaneous pulse radiofrequency treatments to patients awaiting knee replacement surgery.

Current Projects

Intradiscal electrothermal annuloplasty. Little progress over last 12 months as probes unavailable.

Double blind, randomised, selective nerve blocks with local anaesthetic or normal saline for complex knee pain in patients awaiting knee replacement. Patient recruitment for this study is now complete. 30/30 patients have now been treated with promising results.

A pilot study of pulse radiofrequency treatment for complex knee pain in patients awaiting knee replacement who obtained relief with selective nerve blocks with 1% lignocaine or N-saline. This trial has commenced with 11 patients having been treated. These two knee studies are being undertaken with Drs Terry Loughnan, Ashley Webb and Sam Leong from the Department of Anaesthesia.

Publications


Presentations

Chronic pain mini symposium at UKSM Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 2007.

Financial support and Research Grants

The two projects currently underway on Nerve Block for Knee Replacement received $5000 from the Research Development Committee Small Grants for Medical Research.
Respiratory Medicine

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

The Sleep Laboratory is situated in the Frankston Integrated Health Centre. It is a 3-bed, fully computerised laboratory which performs more than 700 sleep studies each year. The Sleep Lab aids in the diagnosis and treatment of people with sleep disordered breathing, such as obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA). Patients suffering with suggestive symptoms (such as loud snoring, choking, gasping or stopping breathing overnight, unrefreshing sleep, daytime somnolence) are referred to the Sleep Lab for overnight monitoring. By day the Lab remains a vibrant place, as it is used as a clinic to deliver the machines and masks to those requiring treatment for Obstructive Sleep Apnoea as well as to help overcome any problems patients may have with the equipment. In addition, part of the laboratory is used to conduct special neurological studies (EEG) which is helpful in the diagnosis and treatment of Epilepsy.

The Lung Function Laboratory offers measurement of lung volumes and capacities, flow-rates, bronchial hyperreactivity (as occurs in asthma), allergy testing, hypoxia-altitude simulation test, exercise walking tests (for evaluation of home oxygen) and cardiopulmonary exercise testing. More than 3,000 tests are performed each year at Frankston and Rosebud.

Dr Braun and Van Le blanc are members of the Research Methods Assessment Panel.

Members

Head of Unit, Associate Professor
David Langton MB BS(Hons), FCCP, FRACP
Dr Gary Braun MB BS FRACP
Dr Nicholas Manolitsas MB BS (Hons), FRACP
Dr Mathew Rodrigues MB BS, MD
Julie Sharp, RN, BN, CCRN, Respiratory Nurse Consultant and Research Nurse
Rita Coffee, RN, BN, Asthma Educator and Research Nurse
Van Le Blanc, Senior Respiratory Scientist.

Current projects

- Aridol in Bronchiectasis
  This study assesses the potential benefit of a newly developed inhaled chemical in helping patients with Bronchiectasis (ie abnormally enlarged airways) to expectorate sputum.

- Subcutaneous Icatabant in Hereditary Angioedema
  This study assesses a new chemical in relieving symptoms of this rare but debilitating disease, and if benefit may improve patients’ quality of life significantly.

- Are 1% and 2% lignocaine equally effective and safe in providing topical anaesthesia in fibreoptic bronchoscopy?

This study investigates whether a lower concentration of local anaesthetic is just as effective in providing a comfortable and safe procedure. If this were to be the case then bronchoscopy would become an even safer procedure than it currently is. Worldwide, this will have a major impact.

- Reliability and spousal agreement in the Berlin questionnaire
  The Berlin Questionnaire is a simple, quick list of questions that is proposed to select out patients who are likely to have Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA). In this study we assessed its reliability over time and also examined whether a patient’s spouse would be able to better predict the presence of OSA.

  We found that this tool is reliable over time and that it works equally well regardless as to who completes it (ie either the patient or spouse).

- Subcutaneous gammaglobulin treatment
  Patients with low gammaglobulin levels are prone to recurrent and frequent infections. Current treatment is that of repeated intravenous therapy that is given in the hospital. This study tries to answer the question as to whether a subcutaneous treatment administered in the home is as effective.
Aged Care Medicine is a major clinical specialty at Peninsula Health. Together with other units within Community and Continuing Care, it provides the complex clinical care required to assist the patient recovering from acute and chronic diseases and promotes a return to their own home.

Community and Continuing Care has a major interest in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and has further increased its involvement with the development of teaching programs for medical, nursing and allied health students. The Unit also supports advanced training of registrars in aged care medicine, rehabilitation medicine and palliative care medicine. These posts are accredited by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Community and Continuing Care contributes to the teaching of these registrars and to the interns and medical officers rotated into the service from Frankston.

Staff Members

**Aged Care Medicine**

Clinical Director, Head of Unit (from April 2007)
Dr Craig Clarke MB BS FRACP Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Joseph E Ibrahim MB BS Grad Cert HE PhD MRACMA FAFPHM FRACP

Dr Stephen Denton MB BS DGM Dip Pall Med
Dr Stephen Gong MB BS FRACP MRCP (UK) MRCP (I) Hon Sen Lecturer Fac Med Monash Uni (retired during 2006-07)
Dr Sampath Kumar MB BS FRACGP DGM Grad Dip Hlth Ad Dip Pall Med
Dr Sanmugam Sabanayagam MB BS FRACP FRCP (retired during 2006-07)
Dr Choy Chan MB BS FRACP (joined service February 2007)
Senior Research Fellow, Dr Christopher King BA (Hons) MPhil (Japan) PhD (resigned May 2007).

**Rehabilitation**

Director of Rehabilitation, Dr Selva Mudaliar DS+M (Fiji) FAFRM (RACP) Hon Lecturer Fac Med Monash Uni Member Court of Examiners Fac Rehab Med RACP
Dr Marylou Leach MB BS(Hons) Dip RACOG FRACGP FAFRM (RACP)
Dr Juris Rubenis MB BS FAFRM (RACP) DGM
Dr Ramanan Thavarajah, MBBS, FAFRM (RACP).

Research Activities and Interests

In 2006/07 Dr King led formation of the Peninsula Health Dementia Research Group (PhDRG) to prepare an application to the NHMRC Dementia Research Grants scheme. The application for $1,034,250 titled ‘Translating primary carers’ strategies for managing behaviours of concern in persons with dementia into person centred guidelines’ was successfully submitted in early 2007. In order to qualify to submit a large proposal to the NHMRC, the PhDRG requested application by Peninsula Health to the NHMRC for registration as a NHMRC research fund administering organisation. Registration was finally achieved in early 2007.

**Supervision of Postgraduate Student Research**

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

**Presentations**

Abstracts and Posters


Publications


Research Grants

Windermere Foundation Special Grants 2007-8. C. King. “Social dimensions of adherence to an Agestrong exercise program for the over 70s.”


Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Dementia Community support grant 2006-7: King C, Gray L, Morse C and Leake S. Meeting the dementia information and service needs of the baby-boom generation in Mornington Peninsula.

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

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

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

The Department of Emergency Medicine has a formal Quality Improvement program that includes morbidity and mortality review, dedicated clinical and management information systems, and formal disaster mitigation plans. Several staff members represent the Department of Emergency Medicine on principal health and municipal emergency management planning committees.

There is a formal training program in Emergency Medicine and Emergency Nursing as well as in-service education opportunities for all staff. There is an undergraduate education program. A research program continues to evolve.

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

Frankston Emergency Department

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

Frankston Hospital is designated as a Metropolitan Trauma Service. As such it expects to receive all major trauma victims from Peninsula Health’s catchment area and either manage injuries on-site or stabilise and transfer patients to one of the three Victorian Major Trauma Services.

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

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

Rosebud Emergency Department

The Emergency Medicine service at Rosebud Hospital continues to evolve as a free standing emergency department. The Department is equipped and staffed to provide assessment and treatment of acutely unwell patients. It is also equipped for the resuscitation and stabilisation of critically ill patients whilst awaiting transfer to either Frankston Hospital or a tertiary referral service beyond Peninsula Health. The Department continues to be staffed with more senior doctors and has a specialist emergency physician present everyday.
Within the Victorian state-wide trauma system, Rosebud remains designated as a Primary Injury Service and as such is focused on the management of minor injury with basic stabilisation, early consultation and transfer of any major or minor injury requiring specialist consultation.

Hospital in the Home (HITH)

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

This year, it is anticipated that 800 patients will be managed by HITH. Patients referred from the emergency departments and general practitioners comprise 53 per cent of HITH’s workload.

Members

**Director of Emergency Medicine – Clinical Director**

Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil CSTJ MB MS (Monash) MClinEd (USNW), FACEM MRACMA MACLM, Cert IV Train&Assess.

**Operations Director/Principal Nurse Emergency and Ambulatory Services**

Ms Shamala Jones (Senior Lecturer) RN RM BNsg MNurs (Monash), CertMgmt CertAdvNurEmerg. (to March 2007).

**Clinical Director Frankston Emergency Department**

Dr Leong Goh (Lecturer) MB BS (Melb.) FACEM.

**Clinical Director Rosebud**

Dr Barry Chan MB BS (Melb) FACEM.

**Director of Emergency Medicine Training**

Dr Mark Smith (Senior Lecturer) MB MS (Monash) BMedSci Hons (Monash) FACEM.

**Head Clinician, Hospital in the Home and Residential Outreach Support**

Dr Martin Jackson MB BS (Melb) BMedSci (Melb) DipObs RACOG FRACGP.

**Emergency Physicians**

Dr Varna Amarasinghe MB BS (Colombo) FACEM
Dr Tim Baker MB BS Hons (Monash) BMedSci Hons (Monash) FACEM
Dr Kate Bristow MB ChB (Otago) FACEM
Dr Darsim Haji MB ChB (Mosul) FACEM
Dr. Andrew Tay MB BS (Melb) FACEM (Casual from February 2007)
Dr. Helen Hewitt MB BS (Monash) FACEM (Casual from February 2007).

**Emergency Paediatrician**

Dr Peter Francis (Senior Lecturer) MB BS FRACGP.

**General Practitioners**

Dr Richard Ward MB BS Hons (Melb) FISMS
Dr Geoff Macaulay MB BS (Melb) DipObs RCOG ACCAM.

**Nurse Unit Managers**

Frankston Emergency Department
Mr Antony Browne BA Hons, RN (Div1) CertICU (RPH Sydney) CertPaed (Lond)
Rosebud Emergency Department
Mr Gerard Matthews BSc (Newcastle) BNurs (Newcastle)
MNur (Sydney) DipAppSciNur (Newcastle) ICU Certif RN.

**Hospital in the Home**

Ms Susan Knight RN (Div1)CertSmlBusMgmt.

**Research Interests**

- Demand Management
- Casemix evaluation
- Clinical service development
- Clinical Education
- Disaster Medicine
- Interhospital patient transport
- Decision support
- Resuscitation.
Current Projects & Trials

Chiezey I, Baker T, Wassertheil J. Do children receive analgesia as efficiently and effectively as adults with isolated long bone fractures?

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

Khan J, Wassertheil J, Goh L. A review of emergency department patients who did not wait to see a doctor. Paper for publication is now in draft form.


Chan B, Wassertheil J, LeBlanc V, McFarlane S. Development of research protocol Comparison of Zyprexa and haloperidol as chemical restraint agents in acute behaviour disorders. A randomised controlled single blinded clinical trial.

Chan B, Goh L, Wassertheil J, Browne A. A review of the impact of Streaming within the Emergency Department.

Chan B, Goh L, Wassertheil J, LeBlanc V. Inpatient mortality as related to triage category.

Chan B, Goh, L, Browne A, Wassertheil J. Application of screening rules to determine the safe identification of general practice presentations to the Emergency Department.


Collaborative Research

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

- Development of knowledge based and driven decision support system for Disaster Medicine.
- The efficacy of a computer assisted decision support program for emergency department and triage.
- Towards integrated information and knowledge infrastructure for efficient and effective medical emergency management.
- Mass gathering management.
- Development of decision support system to predict impending ambulance by-pass.

Publications

Referred Journal Publications


Presentations


Teaching on External Courses


Fellowship Examinations

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

Principal Registrars Dr Sean Arendse and Dr Andrew Tay passed the Fellowship Examination. Dr Helen Hewitt, a career medical officer, also passed her Fellowship Examination. All completed their specialist training at Peninsula Health.

Drs. Lilly Shi, Franco Schreve, Sayed Zafar, Jacob Matera, successfully completed all the Primary Fellowship Examination requirements and commenced advanced vocational training in Emergency Medicine. Another six doctors have partial completion of the Primary Fellowship Examination. Two of these are PGY 3 HMOs.

Peninsula Health now has nine advanced vocational trainees in Emergency Medicine.

Current Financial Support and Research Grants

National Health & Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Centre, Australia “Aspire Trial. Aspirin to prevent recurrent venous thromboembolism” Researchers (Peninsula Health): Associate Professor J Wassertheil, Dr M Jackson, Dr V Ganju.

Monash University Faculty of Information Technology Small Grant Development of a computer assisted decision support program for Disaster Medicine Triage. Administering Institution: School of Information Management & Systems, Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University. Researchers Associate Professors F Burstein, J Wassertheil and L Churilov.
The intensive care unit has firmly established itself in the intensive care community as a centre that is able to undertake and complete multi-centre trials. In 2007, five multi-centre trials are underway. It is envisaged that participation in these trials will ultimately lead to improved patient care and maintain staff awareness of current trends in management of the critically ill.

The extent of this research encompasses renal replacement therapy, thrombo-prophylaxis, nutrition in the critically ill and cooling as a strategy in hypoxic brain injury. Quality assurance remains an integral part of the Unit’s activities and regular submission to the Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) database has confirmed mortality figures that reflect very favourably on patient care when benchmarked against other metropolitan intensive care units. Data from this database will be used to conduct ongoing research into patient outcomes. Three of the staff intensivists have successfully completed the Diploma in Peri operative and Critical Care Echocardiography. This has improved the access to immediate echocardiography in the critically ill, a process which has been facilitated by the provision of an on site echocardiography machine.

Consultants contribute to intensive care, both state-wide and nationally. Dr Carney has a sessional appointment at the Alfred Hospital as a senior staff intensivist and has been on the advisory board to DHS on transportation of the critically ill. Dr Arora has a sessional appointment at Dandenong Hospital and has been an ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Critical Care and Resuscitation. Dr Gangopadhyay maintains a sessional appointment at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Continuous employment of Frankston consultant staff in tertiary hospitals has facilitated the maintenance of professional standards by consultant staff. Dr Botha is a member of the Sedation and Agitation Advisory Board in Intensive Care (SAAB.IC), Victorian Intensive Care Advisory Committee (ICAC) to DHS and is a Liaison Intensivist for the Victorian Organ Donation Initiative. Dr Botha is a frequent ad hoc reviewer for Critical Care and Resuscitation and the Journal of Clinical Anaesthesiology and was an invited speaker at the ANZICS Box Hill ICU refresher course.

With the departure of Dr Nina Fowler to a research post in Canada, substantial new appointments have been made to strengthen the database and research expertise in the unit. Ms Laurel Walker has been appointed as data manager of the ANZICS data base and in short while has delivered robust data. Naomi Pratt and Jodi McInnes have been appointed as research coordinators and their combined expertise and years of clinical experience will impact positively on unit based research activities.

A strong focus on undergraduate and post graduate education continues. As Clinical Dean, Dr Botha continues to facilitate teaching of Monash medical students at Peninsula Health. Final year medical students continue 6 weekly rotations through the intensive care. As an accredited unit for 12 months of core training in intensive care through the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care, the unit has continued to in deliver core training to intensive care trainees. Dr Narcelita Lim successfully completed 18 months of training in the intensive care unit and is currently employed for her final year of training at St Vincent’s Hospital. After initial training in the Frankston Hospital ICU Dr Ajith Kumar passed the European Diploma in Intensive Care and is now a consultant intensivist with the Apollo Group in India. Dr Sanjiv Vij sat the Fellowship in Intensive Care in 2007 after further training at the Alfred Hospital.

The unit was most fortunate in appointing Dr Ravi Tiruvoipati as senior registrar in 2007. Having started training as a registrar in Cardio Thoracic Surgery, Dr Tiruvoipati embarked on a career in intensive care at Glenfields Hospital in the United Kingdom. It is here that he developed expertise in Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO). He is currently on of the investigators of the CESAR trial, which is a multi-centre trial comparing ECMO treatment to conventional ventilatory treatment in patients with acute respiratory failure. The data on this trial will be released in 2007. With postgraduate qualifications in Health Services Research, it is envisaged that Ravi will make a substantial contribution to the research profile of the intensive care unit.
Ventilators purchased in 2006 have proven to be user friendly and well accepted by the nursing staff. Acquisition of non invasive ventilators, MRI compatible ventilators and transport ventilators has further extended the capacity of the unit to provide critically ill patients with state of the art care.

An exciting development has been the approval of a new 13 bedded intensive care unit. Extensive time and energy has been invested in the planning phase and it is hoped that building will commence in 2008.

**Staff Members**

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

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

**Nurse Unit Manager:**
Mr Peter Taylor Dip. RN Dip HE(UK) Cert ICU Cert HDU CertMgt.
(to August 2007)
Kim Heriot RN (from August 2007).

**Research Interests**

**Current Projects**

- **RENAL STUDY**
  Multi-centre, unblinded, randomised, controlled trial to assess the effect of augmented vs. normal continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) on 90 day all cause mortality of Intensive Care Unit patients with Acute Renal Failure. (ARF).

- **ENTERIC STUDY**
  The Early Nasojejunal Tube to Meet Energy Requirements in Intensive Care Study.

- **PROTECT**
  Prophylaxis of Thromboembolism in Critical Care Trial.

- **RICH**
  Rapid Infusion of Cold Hartman’s Solution.

- **Early Parenteral Nutrition Study.**

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

- **End of life management in the Intensive Care Unit: A single centre study.**

- **EPIC**
  The Extended study of Infection prevalence in ICU (an international study to determine infection prevalence in the ICU).

- **Intensive Care Nurses’ knowledge of arterial pressure monitoring.**

**Publications**


In press


Articles under consideration for publications


Submitted for Publication


Abstracts published:


Presentations

Submitted for Presentation


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. Since June of last year, Dorevitch Pathology has also part-funded a new haematology-oncology registrar training position at Frankston Hospital.

The Frankston Hospital Dorevitch Pathology Laboratory provides pathology services for Peninsula Health, including Frankston and Rosebud Hospitals, Mt Eliza Centre, and related aged care facilities and for General Practitioners and specialists in the area.

The Laboratory offers services in all pathology disciplines including biochemistry, microbiology, virology, serology, histopathology, haematology, cytology and immunology.

The Laboratory continues to meet the requirements for laboratory accreditation by the National Association of Testing Authorities Australia (NATA). This ensures quality compliance across all functions of the Laboratory and strives for continual improvement.

Dorevitch Pathology is involved in education and training, being accredited for training of anatomical pathologists and medical students, and providing in-service training for hospital staff, and work placements for TAFE and secondary school students.

Members

Director, Dr Phillip Kostos, MM BS, FRCPA, MIAC
Dr Jill Pollard, MM BS, FRCPA, MIAC, PhC
Dr John Catalano, MB BS, FRAC, FRCPA
Dr Sheena Broughton, MB ChB, MRCP (UK), FRCPath
Dr Christine McTigue, MB BS, FRCPA
Laboratory Manager - Ms Jenny Couper, BSc (Hons), MBA.
Registrar – Dr Steuart Rorke.

Current Projects

- Commencement of thyroid tissue bank.
- Dr John Catalano is continuing his role as principal investigator in three international randomised clinical studies in multiple myeloma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia as well as co-investigator on several other national and international studies.

Financial Support and Research Grants

Victorian Quality Council – Hand Hygiene project.

Research Interests and Future Directions

- Cytology, particularly fine needle aspiration cytology
- Oncological pathology
- Respiratory pathology
- Thyroid Pathology
- Haematologic Oncology
- Antimicrobial prescribing
- Haematologic morphology.
The Psychiatric Services’ research activity has been led by Associate Professor Richard Newton, Director of Psychiatry and the Chief Nursing Officer, who leads the Nursing, Education and Quality Improvement Program. This program continues to be active in identifying and evaluating training and educational needs in clinical areas.

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

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

**Members**

Director of Psychiatry, Associate Professor Richard Newton
MRCPsych MB ChB (Edin) FRANZCP
Director of Aged Psychiatry, Dr Steve Macfarlane MBBS
FRANZCP Senior Lecturer Chief Nursing Officer, Barbara Keeble-Devlin RPN BAppSc DipAppSciPsychNurse MEd.
Research Coordinator, Xenia Jung Executive Project Officer – Quality, Rosie Cantley-Smith RN RPN MANZCMHN.

**Current Projects**

- **Community Care Units; are they working?**
  A follow up study of all patients currently in and ever discharged from PHPS CCU. Principal Investigators: A Hamden; R Newton.

- **Seclusion – An investigation of environmental contributors to its use.**
  Observational study on the acute adult ward. Principal Investigator: C Hoppner.

- **Quetiapine SR**
  A multi-centre, double-blind, randomised, parallel-group, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study of the efficacy and safety of quetiapine fumarate sustained release (Seroquel SR TM ) in combination with an antidepressant in the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder with inadequate response to an antidepressant treatment (ONYX STUDY). Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Richard Newton Co-investigator: Dr. Lucinda Smith. This study has recently been given Human Research & Ethics Committee approval and is currently in the recruitment stage.

- **Risperdal**
  Pragmatic randomised trial of Risperdal Consta versus oral atypical antipsychotics in poorly adherent subjects with schizophrenia in a routine care setting. Phase 4. Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Richard Newton. Co-investigator: Dr Jenny Grunfeld. This study has recently been given Human Research Ethics Committee approval and is currently in the recruitment stage.

- **Snoezelen Room**
  Study into behavioural change associated with the establishment of a multi-sensory environment or Snoezelen Room in Aged Psychiatry. Principal Investigators: Jakqui Barnfield, Psychiatric Nurse Educator and Anna Ciotta, Neuropsychologist. This study is currently in the recruitment stage.

- **Elderly Suicide**
  A collaborative project with Professor Carol Morse from Monash Peninsula Campus. A qualitative study evaluating the factors associated with suicidal ideation in elderly individuals residing on the Mornington Peninsula. Principal Investigator: Professor Carol Morse. Associate Investigator: Dr Steve Macfarlane. This study has been approved by HREC and is currently recruiting.
Dr John Catalano, Pathology

Dr Catalano is the principal investigator in three international randomised clinical studies in multiple myeloma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia. He is also co-investigator on several other national and international studies.
• PBT2 Treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. An international, multi-site, double-blind and placebo controlled study of the safety and efficacy of PBT2 in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. PBT2 differs from current Alzheimer’s treatments in that its mode of action targets the cause of cell damage in Alzheimer’s (the amyloid plaque) rather than just providing symptomatic treatment. The study is in the process of approval by HREC. Peninsula will be aiming to recruit 10 patients. In collaboration with Prana Biotechnology. Peninsula Investigator: Dr Steve Macfarlane.

• ECT and memory in older patients. An ongoing project in collaboration with Professor Daniel O’Connor, aiming to identify correlates of memory impairment in older individuals receiving ECT treatment. Principal Investigator: Professor Daniel O’Connor. Associate Investigator: Dr Steve Macfarlane.

Presentations

Multi-media DVD/CD-ROM Publications:
In post-production.
“Psychiatry- a fascinating career.” Produced on behalf of the RANZCP Strategy and Policy division.

Released:
“About Psychosis – Essential facts for clients and carers.” Since the launch of this DVD in 2007 at the RANZCP annual congress, 30,000 copies have been distributed nationally.

Publications


Jakqui Barnfield, Rosie Cantley-Smith, Psychiatric Services

Nurse Educator, Jakqui Barnfield and Aged Psychiatry Assessment & Treatment Service Manager, Rosie Cantley-Smith are conducting research in the area of aged psychology, particularly the assessment and treatment of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. They are involved in study into behavioural change associated with the establishment of a multi-sensory environment or "Snoezelen Room".
The Frankston Hospital Radiology Department provides a comprehensive service including Radiography, Ultrasound with Doppler, Digital Fluoroscopy, Multi-slice Computed Tomography (MSCT), Nuclear Medicine, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Interventional Radiology. This year has seen the development of a new Interventional Angiography Suite which enables patients to have diagnostic angiography as well as vascular interventional procedures.

In 2006/07, 72,220 imaging procedures were performed. A significant amount of the Department’s workload is in supporting the Emergency Department, surgical imaging, and musculoskeletal, oncological and neurological services but it covers all facets of modern medical practice.

The $3.4 million redevelopment to the Frankston Hospital Radiology Department was completed in September 2006. The new facilities provide the Department with an additional ultrasound, general X-ray and interventional suite which will add the services of Digital Subtraction Angiography. Redevelopment of the adjacent ‘old Paediatrics Ward’ has been completed and features a conference facility for Radiology/Clinical interdisciplinary meetings.

In June 2006, Peninsula Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DHS to provide a cost effective PACS solution for nine participating health agencies. The DHS/PACS project involves the digitisation of all radiology images and reports. These will be available online to all clinical sites throughout Peninsula Health. This facility greatly assists clinical education within and outside the Department as well as providing a research tool in all aspects of clinical medicine.

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

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

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

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

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

Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health is a collection of services at Frankston Hospital provided from an integrated unit which was purpose built and opened in October 2002. In 2003, Peninsula Health appointed Professor Robert Burrows as Professor Director of Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health, which was a joint appointment with Monash University. Professor Burrows retired in September 2005, his successor is Associate Professor Amar Trivedi, who commenced in May 2007.

Women Services oversees more than 2200 deliveries a year and conducts gynaecological surgery daily. Frankston Hospital is a level two referral centre offering comprehensive pregnancy care except for neonatal intensive care. The Inpatient Unit comprises a 28 bed integrated unit. Women’s Services comprises multiple outpatient clinics. In March 2007 the Rosebud Hospital Hillview Birthing Unit was collocated to Frankston Hospital. Peninsula Health restructured its birthing services to offer the Rosebud low risk Midwife Led Model of Care and both the Frankston Hospital Midwife and Medical Model of Care, which includes higher risk cases, at Frankston Hospital.

A $3 million expansion to Frankston Hospital’s maternity facilities is planned for 2008 and this will result in additional maternity and birthing facilities.

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

In addition, the teaching of evidence-based medicine has become a regular event within this Unit involving health care providers at all levels.

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

Members

Director of Women’s Children’s and Adolescent Health, Associate Professor Amar Trivedi. MBBS (Hon) Dip Obs FRANZCOG DDU Dr Clive Wellington, MB BS FRACMA (Acting Director until May 2007)
Mr Ramesh Vasant MB BS FRANZCOG FRCOG(UK)
Mr Geoffrey Baker MB BS FRANZCOG FRCOG FRCS (Edin)
Mr Keith How MB BS FRANZCOG MRCOG

Associate Professor Thomas Jobling FRCOG FRANZCOG CGO MD
Mr Douglas Johnson MB BS FRANZCOG FRCOG
Mr David Luiz MB BCh FCOG(SA) MRCOG FRANZCOG
Dr Petra Porter FRANZCOG MBBS
Dr Refaat Guirgas FRANZCOG MBBS
Nurse Manager Inpatient Services, Kate Brown RN RM GradDip CMP MN
Nurse Manager Womens Services, Della Attwood RN RM Project officer (Acting), Kate Brown RN RM Grad Cert CNP MNsg.

Current Projects

- Autobiographical memory and emotions in women during pregnancy and after childbirth. Principal Investigator: Dr Janet Dickson.
- A model of sustainable staffing reflective of the post natal care needs of new mothers. Principal Investigator: Meredith McIntyre.
- A qualitative assessment of women’s experience of external cephalic version in Frankston Hospital (2005-06). $4000 funding grant and has been approved for commencement in April 2007. Principal Investigator: Dr Uche Menakaya.
Carmel O’Kane, Medical Oncology

Oncology Nurse, Carmel O’Kane led a research-based quality initiative to identify and implement a new model for nursing care in the Chemotherapy Day Unit that optimised continuity of care for patients. The primary nurse model now sees patients paired with a nurse from the Unit at the beginning of treatment who remains the primary contact throughout the chemotherapy treatment.
There continues to be an increased focus on research and academic pursuits amongst nursing staff in both acute and sub-acute settings.

At the 2nd Peninsula Health Allied Health and Nursing Research Symposium in November, Christine Taplin, Fiona Butler, Lyn Murdoch, Jane Toohey and Kaye Bellis presented their research projects. Fiona Butler’s project “Skin Tear Management at Peninsula Health” was announced the winner of the Nursing Research Prize and in the Poster Display Competition, Christine Taplin’s poster ‘SHARPS. Primary Health: A New Beginning’ was announced winner of the People’s Choice Award.

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

Members


Current Projects

• Factors contributing to the decision to seclude a patient in the acute adult psychiatric setting. Principal Investigator: Cayte Hoppner, Psychiatric Services. Peninsula Health Small Grant for Medical Research Recipient.

• Snoezelen Room. Study into behavioural change associated with the establishment of a multi-sensory environment or Snoezelen Room in Aged Psychiatry. Principal Investigator: Jakqui Barnfield, Psychiatric Services.

• The nursing staff from the Oncology Day Unit at Frankston Hospital has embarked on a project to investigate and implement a model of primary nursing to the unit with the aim of the project to address the four Department of Human Services’ priority areas for cancer service improvement – Reducing unwanted variations in care by providing an opportunity to enhance person centred care by providing support to patients to better empower them in their decision making and during the treatment pathway.
Multidisciplinary care. The Primary Nurse will be a part of several multidisciplinary meetings (GI; lung; lymphoma; breast) each week, and will have opportunity to bring up patients for discussion at these meetings. An Oncology Team meeting also takes place each week where other tumour stream issues can be discussed, thus meeting the priority area of providing multidisciplinary care.

Care coordination, it is envisaged, will improve with one person coordinating each patient’s care. This will allow better continuity, improve communication and decrease variations in care (missed appointments etc).

Psychosocial care and support will be improved by each patient having one Primary Nurse as the patient will more easily develop a relationship. This will lead to improved communication between all care providers.

The Unit proposed to identify consumer perceptions of the current care journey. It is important to note that consumers include not only patients, but medical and nursing staff.

The project commenced by developing a questionnaire for the focus groups. This was followed by education sessions for the Nurse Consultants carrying out the Primary Nursing, and the development of paperwork to streamline the process was also developed.

The plan is that each patient referred to the Oncology Day Unit will be allocated a Primary Nurse who will be responsible for assisting the patient as they proceed through the Cancer treatment pathway.

It is expected that this Primary Nurse will assist in coordinating care between the Medical Consultant, home care providers (RDNS; palliative care) and treatment providers (e.g. PMCI Radiotherapy). Principal Investigator: Carmel O’Kane.
Kaye Quick, Osteoporosis Research Nurse

Kaye’s current project is the Osteoporosis Intervention Trial which looks at the impact of a hospital-based intervention on the extent to which fracture patients are on fracture-preventing therapy at one year. Previously Kaye was involved in the Frankston Bone Protection Project, a retrospective audit of comprehensive data from more than 2000 patients, determining the patients’ susceptibility to osteoporosis.
Community Health Services at Peninsula Health provide quality health services which promote wellness and encourage people to share in the responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

Community Health is divided into seven service streams:

- Drug Treatment Services (PenDAP), Koori and Youth Services.
- Community Dental Services.
- Stay Healthy (Chronic Disease Early Intervention).
- Children’s, Family and Community Services.
- Peninsula Complex Care Program.
- Access & Support (including Volunteer Program).
- Frankston/Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership.

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

Members

General Manager Community Health, Rob Macindoe BA GDRec GDBis MApplSc AFCHSE CHE.
Peninsula Complex Care Program Senior Staff:
Program Manager, David Field BSocSc CertTrauma GCertGroupFacilitation
Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) Care Coordinator and CHF Stream Leader RN
Griet Hofer RN.
CHF Care Coordinator and Generic Stream Leader, Judith Grant RN
D&A Liaison and D&A Stream Leader, Billy Bentley RN
Care Coordinator and Respiratory Stream Leader, Bill Faulkner RN
Care Coordinator and Generic Stream Leader, Jill Gurney
Project Worker & Intake Coordinator, Lynn McLauchlan PT.

Current Projects

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

These include:

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

Presentations


Taplin C. Peninsula Health Research Conference ‘Peoples Choice Award’ November 2006.

Taplin C. ‘Primary Health a new beginning’ VAADA Conference Melbourne.

Pang R. ‘The Role and impact of the Complex Care Pharmacist in Managing Heart Failure’, The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Conference, Melbourne.

Information Management

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

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

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

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

Members

Director, Brendon Gardner BAppSc MRA MHA UNSW AFCHSE
Manager, Health Information Services Emelia Pezzi BAppSc HIM
Manager, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Eric Aspinall HND (Business Studies) MACS
Manager, Management Information Services, Dean Athan BSc BEc DipBA
Manager, Clinical Informatics, Bob Ribbons RN ICCert BAppSc (Nur) MEd (Computing) FACHI
Applications Specialists
Kate Allan RN BNurs GradDipEd & Career Devlpmt
Cathy Ridgway RN, Dip App Sc (Nur), BHlthSc(Nur), GradCert Crit Care (ICU), GradCert (Health Informatics).
Project Managers Patient/ClientManagement Systems
Anne Roman BAppSc HIM.
Helen Roper RN BAppSc (Nur).

Current Projects

- Following consultation with the Senior Emergency Department staff to define the requirements, the Management Information Services (MIS) team are developing an information delivery system which provides information using the latest business intelligence technology offered by Microsoft’s SQL Server 2005, Reporting Services.

- Currently implementing the new Patient Management System (iPM) as part of the Victorian Department of Human Services, HealthSmart program.

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

- Implementing an integrated electronic prescribing and discharge summary system to optimise the medication management pathway. This collaborative project between Peninsula Health Pharmacy department and Clinical Information Services, aimed to increase the number of drug orders prescribed electronically; improve the quality of prescribing and reduce the opportunities for medication errors through the use of e-Prescribing and to improve the continuum of care between hospital and community by providing a legible and accurate medication list via EDS emailed or faxed to GPs.

Presentations


All Dietitians working at Peninsula Health have a minimum of an undergraduate degree and postgraduate qualifications as Accredited Practising Dietitians.

Dietitians are essential members of the health team who create strategies to enable clients to achieve their food and nutrition related goals using evidence-based practice. They assess the nutritional needs of patients, plan appropriate nutrition interventions and provide nutrition education for patients and their families. Nutrition and Dietetics actively works with Food Services to ensure the provision of a high quality food and nutrition service for patients.

The scope of dietetic practice is varied. Dietitians work with inpatients to identify nutrition problems, assess nutritional status, develop care plans and monitor the effectiveness of interventions. They specialise in diabetes, heart disease, cancer, children and infants, aged care, gastrointestinal disorders, artificial feeding, eating disorders, weight management, rehabilitation, psychiatry, residential care, other special medical needs and medical nutrition therapy.

They are involved with practice-based research and develop innovative approaches to patient care. Dietitians act as a resource and support other members of the multidisciplinary team in addition to developing patient education materials.

Dietitians provide outpatient counselling, both in acute and sub-acute settings, and are an integral part of the Community Rehabilitation Program. They work with individuals, groups and communities to improve nutritional well being, prevent disease, increase access to healthy food and enhance personal control of health. Dietitians also work with adult and paediatric patients who require home enteral nutrition support.

Members
Director Nutrition and Dietetics, Helen Nikolas BSc MPHC AFCHSE APD
Senior Dietitians, Helen Stratmann MNut APD, Raisa Shaikh BND Grad Cert Palliative Care APD Dietitians, Karen Edis BSc (Hons) Grad Dip Dietetics. APD, Melissa Sapuppo BSc BND APD, Fiona Turnbull BAAppSci MNut/Diet APD, Kathy Wheatland BND Grad Cert Dietetic Practice APD, Stephen Ratcliffe BND APD, Elizabeth White BSc Grad Dip Dietetics APD, Ana Hughes BSc MND APD.

Research Interests and Future Directions
- Implementation of a Nutrition Screening Tool across all subacute inpatient areas, conducted by Dietitians to prioritise patients and to identify areas of highest need for nutrition intervention.
- Early Parenteral Nutrition versus standard care in the critically ill patient: An ANZICS CTG endorsed level 1 randomised trial - multi-centre trial in ICU for 18 months.
- Development and trial of a computerised Peninsula Health Diabetes database (multidisciplinary) to have easily accessible up-to-date information on all clients with diabetes seen in Peninsula Health, with a long-term objective to link the database with GP records.
- Well for Life project to increase resident hydration and physical activity.
- Trial of electronic nutritional assessments utilising PDA.
Projects completed 2006/07

- Literature review of nutrition management of wounds resulted in evidence based to develop S.M.A.R.T guidelines for standardising dietetic assessment of patients with wounds and pressure ulcers.

- Review of Peninsula Health menu based on evidence based practice (multi-disciplinary) to improve patients' nutritional intake and acceptability.

- Development of education manual for Patient Services Assistant outlining nutritional information and foodservice responsibilities, to improve patient care and promote continuity of meal service across Peninsula Health network (multidisciplinary).

- Review and evaluation of commercially available, nutritionally appropriate thickened fluids, to improve patients safety and acceptability (multi-disciplinary).

Presentations


Awards and Innovations


PH Research Week 2006. Honourable mention for seven other poster and oral presentations.
Occupational Therapy

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

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

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

Monash University School of Occupational Therapy has become a partner in establishing research capacity building within the occupational therapy service. Dr Ted Brown, Senior Lecturer Occupational Therapy, provides onsite mentoring on a fortnightly basis. Emphasis on developing critical analysis skills and enhancing capacity to apply research to practice within evidence based practice framework underpins this support. In addition, a joint research project has commenced.

An EQuIP committee, with representatives from across the health service, meet monthly to evaluate and monitor all quality activities within the department. The committee also aims to increase staff knowledge and understanding of the Quality Cycle in preparation for ACHS accreditation and is currently working to upskill staff regarding requirements of EQuIP4.

OT Research Committee Members

Director, Occupational Therapy, Alison Closter BAppSc OT Sheila Baker BSc PsyHons BAppSc OT MSc OT Deidre Burgess BAppSci MA OT Grad Cert Palliative Care & Allied Health Grad Dip Pastoral Counselling Josephine Chow Dip Occ Therapy (NZ) Grad Dip Business Admin (SIM) Susan Davies BAppSc OT Grad Dip Counselling Rebekah Beard, BA Occupational Therapy. Tony Van den Blink, Dipl Ag Sc., BAppSc OT, Grad Dip health Admin. Alison Lunt, BAppSc OT(Hons), M Clinical Science (Hand and Upper Limb rehabilitation).

Research Interests and Future Directions

The range of Quality Improvement Teams (QIT) within the Department has been expanded to address areas of specific clinical practice, to ensure evidence-based practice principles are applied.

Clinical areas now addressed through this formal structure are:

- Cognition
- Pressure care
- Upper limb
- Neurology
- Cardio pulmonary.

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

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

- Conducting PADL Assessments
- Ramp Installation
- Hip precautions and long-handled Aids Prescription
- Rail Installation.

Further competencies are in development with respect to prescription of pressure care equipment and use of ultrasound in hand therapy.

Current Departmental Projects

- Burgess D, Dalling G. Can you see what I perceive? The reliability and validity of three adult visual perceptual tests. A joint research project with Monash University, Department
of Occupational Therapy, School of Primary Health Care and the St Vincent’s Health OT department.

- Beard R, Leong A. The effectiveness of hand therapy interventions for scar management: A systematic review.

- Brown S, Baarsma I. Evaluation of the new graduate Occupational Therapy rotation program at Peninsula Health at the point of inclusion of psychiatry.

- Chow J, Baker S, Beard R. Evaluation of a hands teaching clinic in sub-acute ambulatory care. This project was commenced following identification of a gap in upper limb service needs for the community.

- Maruggappan T, Chow J. “Count Us In” – a joint social inclusion project with Brotherhood of St Laurence working to develop a resource guide for families of residents of high and low care facilities to support them to access the local community.

- Lunt A, Irvin J, King C. Occupation and functional maintenance project at Rosebud Hospital (“One Step Ahead”) – a pilot project investigating whether targeted intervention to at risk general medical patients minimises deconditioning and development of delirium.

- Cognition - Quality Improvement Team Research question “Which models of practice are most appropriate to guide assessment selection and treatment approach with specific regard to cognitive deficits in the elderly?”

- Upper limb Quality Improvement Team Establishment and review of all upper limb guidelines to reflect current best practise and to aid with teaching and upskilling.

- Equipment and Home Modifications Team Reviewing the evidence with respect to prescription and placement of grabrails.

- Pressure care Quality Improvement Team Benchmarking and literature review regarding the role of Occupational Therapy in Pressure care, aligned with the new EQuIP4 criterion 1.5.3.

- Neurology Quality Improvement Team Research question “What is the effect on clinical practice of an education program on Multiple Sclerosis for Occupational Therapists?”

- Cardio/ Pulmonary Quality Improvement Team Research question “How effective are relaxation techniques for elderly patients with chronic obstructive airways disease?”

**Presentations**


Dean A. Ambulatory Care usage in CDU patients – Allied Health and Nursing Research Week, Peninsula Health, November 2006.


Burgess D. I’m dying, my decision. (Oral presentation).

Multiple presentations as part of the Monash OT undergraduate program, on falls, clinical management of acute and sub-acute stroke patients, and assessment and treatment of cardiopulmonary conditions.
Clinical Neuropsychology is a specialised area of psychology that focuses upon the interaction between brain function, cognition and behaviour. Neuropsychologists have special expertise in the assessment of people who have experienced some form of insult to the brain, for example: stroke, dementia, schizophrenia or traumatic brain injury.

The neuropsychological assessment involves the integration of historical information from interview with patients and family/friends, medical and social background, behavioural observation, evaluation of mood state and performance on formal tests of thinking abilities. Areas of thinking abilities that are typically examined include: attention and concentration, memory, language, spatial abilities, reasoning, problem solving and planning. The patient’s insight or self-awareness regarding their medical condition or social circumstances is also assessed. The assessments are often very detailed and can take between one to four hours to complete.

As part of the Neuropsychology Service’s commitment to professional development the Unit is actively involved in supervising Masters and Doctoral students on clinical placement from The University of Melbourne, Monash University and Victoria University neuropsychology programs. A total of eight students were supervised in the 2006-2007 financial year.

The Peninsula Health Neuropsychology Service commenced a new education and information sharing seminar series in 2007. The series is titled “Neuropsychology Grand Rounds” and is based upon the traditional Medical Grand Rounds model with an integration of neuropsychological case presentations with theoretical knowledge. In addition neuropsychologists regularly conduct staff inservices.

**Members**

Anna Ciotta, BSc(Hons), MSc (Clin NPsych) MAPS
Luke Delaney BSc(Hons) MClinNPsysch MAPS
Faye Simpson BBSc(Hons) MA (ClinNPsysch) MAPS.

Anna is employed by the Mental Health Service and provides both inpatient and community assessments to clients of that service. Faye and Luke are employed by the Community & Continuing Care and Allied Health Service and primarily provide inpatient services across the acute, subacute, rehabilitation and residential care programs. In addition, Faye also assesses outpatients who are referred through the Cognition, Dementia & Memory Service (CDAMS).

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

- Intranet and Internet Websites for the Peninsula Health Neuropsychology Service: a resource for staff and the public.
- Profiling Rehabilitation: Identifying plateau points and strengthening outcomes.
- Head injury management at Peninsula Health: Kit development and community education.
- Management of time, space and opportunity: a clinician’s dilemma.
Current Projects

• Guidelines for the Preparation of Neuropsychological Reports for the Guardianship List (VCAT).

Neuropsychologists are frequently required to write reports for the Guardianship List of the Victorian Civil & Administration Tribunal providing an expert opinion regarding a person’s ability to make decisions. Luke Delaney is currently chair of a working party of neuropsychologists and representatives from the Office of the Public Advocate that is compiling guidelines for neuropsychologists to use when writing reports for the Guardianship List. Progress has to date been well received at national and state based conferences/seminars. The working party plans to publish the guidelines in 2007.

Presentations and Published Abstracts


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

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

The service provides professional expertise on committees such as the Drug and Therapeutics Committee and the Human Research and Ethics Committee. Director of Pharmacy, Skip Lam, is a member of the Pharmacy Advisory Group (Health Purchasing Victoria). He also participated in the expert panel review set up by Monash University to develop the competency standards, assessments and educational program for pharmacists to perform supplementary prescribing in Australia.

Three post graduate trainee pharmacists (Ly Sith, Jenny Hiew and Dayang Zhang) successfully passed the exams in 2006 to become registered pharmacists. They have elected to stay with us as clinical pharmacists.

Sarah Chao has completed a Postgraduate diploma in Clinical Pharmacy at Monash University.

Sue Collins has completed a Certificate III in Hospital Pharmacy Technician at the Victoria University of Technology.

In 2006, the Pharmacy Department’s research and quality activities were recognised when it received two awards;

1. Victorian Public Healthcare Award in the category EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY OF CARE
   Improving the treatment of patients at risk of bleeding from warfarin over-anticoagulation

2. ACHS Quality Improvement Awards in Quality category Implementing an integrated electronic prescribing and discharge summary system to optimise the medication management pathway.

Members

Director of Pharmacy, Frankston Hospital Pharmacy Manager, Skip Lam BPharm FSHP Accredited Consultant Pharmacist Ben Leung BPharm MBA Alastair Walker BPharm FSHP Rosebud Hospital Pharmacy Manager Ron Hookway MPS Phc.

Current Projects

- The PETS Project (Pharmacist-initiated E-script Transcribing Service)
  This project involves Jan deClifford, an experienced clinical pharmacist generating electronic discharge prescriptions with the objectives of speeding up patient discharge and improving prescribing quality.

- Academic Detailing
  Denis Chang will be using the principles of academic detailing in a hospital setting to influence prescribing practices and safer use of medicines. The Group Training Manager from Pfizer Global has conducted training workshops for staff.

- Surgical DVT Prophylaxis
  Jan deClifford with Associate Professor Colin Russell, Director of Surgery is aiming to improve post-surgical thromboprophylaxis by implementing a protocol involving a flow chart and score sheet to ensure that all surgical patients are assessed and written up for appropriate thromboprophylaxis post surgery.
Frances Caplygin, Pharmacist pictured with Dr Leong Goh and Dr Claudia Koh, Emergency Department. 

Pharmacist Frances Caplygin is currently working on a research study ‘Clinical pharmacist in the emergency department’ which aims to determine if an emergency department pharmacist reduces prescribing errors on medication charts at approximately 24 hours after admission.
• Acute Post Operative Pain Project (APOP)
  Stella Koo is leading the efforts to improve the management of acute postoperative pain by targeting the selected key areas of standardised pain assessment and safe and effective prescribing of simple analgesia.

• Patient Education
  This project looks at improving the provision of information about medication and their side-effects.

• Audit of Warfarin Use
  Joanne Smith will develop guidelines for adjustment of warfarin dosage for patients on warfarin maintenance. The project involves: a literature review to identify existing guidelines, pre-audit of current status at Peninsula Health, writing up and approval of guidelines, implementation of guidelines and a post audit.

• Safer Systems Saving Lives (SSSL)
  Karen Hart is introducing the new medication reconciliation form, a structured tool recommended by the SSSL project.

• Clinical pharmacist in the emergency department
  Francis Caplygin will be determining if an emergency department pharmacist reduces prescribing errors on medication charts at approximately 24 hours after admission.

• Clinical workstations in Oncology
  Teresa Hennig is expanding and researching the use of a computer software package that she wrote to (1) allow nurses to enter appointments, (2) printout of nursing allocation, (3) information on patients’ treatment protocol and (4) prescriptions and treatment sheets.

Presentations


Lam S. Improving the discharge medication information for patients and GPs. 4th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care August 2006. Poster presentation.


Wilkes G. Improving the quality of DVT thromboprophylaxis in medical patients at Frankston Hospital. 4th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care August 2006. Poster presentation.
Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy is involved with assisting people to gain or regain movements and skills. Physiotherapists are trained to assess the underlying causes of joint, muscle and nerve injuries and provide effective treatment. They use a wide range of drug-free techniques to relieve pain, restore movement and prevent further problems.

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

The physiotherapy department is committed to excellence in service delivery. It actively promotes ongoing professional development and ensures all staff participate in both internal and external development opportunities. The physiotherapy department consists of more than 60 qualified physiotherapists. Approximately 10 per cent have a postgraduate or master level degree. Another 15 per cent are currently completing their postgraduate study.

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

**Physiotherapy Research Committee Members**

Director of Physiotherapy, Natasha Toohey, BPhysio (Hnrs) MPH MAPA AFACHSE, Michael Davis, B App Sci (Physio) Peter Hough, B App Sci (Physio) GradDip Health Admin GradDip Rehab Studies
Evelyn Kwan, BPhysio Scott McGill, B App Sci (Physio) Diploma in Business
David McKenzie, BAppSci (Physio) B Science
Caroline Stapleton, BAppSci (Physio)

**Research Interests and Future Directions**

- Standing balance in the frail elderly: Comparison of different modes of group strengthening in the frail elderly and their effectiveness in improving standing balance. Sloane J, Francis-Cracknell A.
- Effect of different upper limb positioning programs: Outcomes measured during postacute stroke care. Kent F, McKenzie D.
- Home-based Physiotherapy post total knee joint replacement: Affiliated project with St. Vincent's Hospital which aims to investigate whether additional home-based physiotherapy post total knee joint replacement improves outcomes in a sub-group of patients who are at risk of a poor outcome. Roberts J, Gillett N, D Souza E.
- Effect of early mobilisation in acute stroke: A multi-centre randomised trial which aims to investigate the effect of commencing early frequent mobilisation in acute stroke. Davis M.

**Current Projects**

- Dynamometer Reliability Study: A test of the inter- and intra-rater reliability of the hand held dynamometer to measure biceps brachii and quadriceps femoris muscle strength. An investigation has been undertaken to investigate the reliability of clinicians applying a commonly utilised instrument to objectively measure muscle strength following a brief standardised training programme. This study will have implications for future training of Physiotherapy clinicians at Peninsula Health and confidence in the collection of objective strength measures from patients. Researchers: Peter Hough and Alison Hunt.

- Hip Protector Compliance: An investigation of the compliance rates for hip protector use following the introduction of a trial period prior to prescription for a cohort of Evaluation & Management patients. Data capture is currently underway to evaluate the impact upon six month follow up compliance rates of the wearing of hip protectors prescribed during an inpatient stay. Researchers: Peter Hough and Alison Hunt.
• Gait Analysis: A paucity of data currently exists with respect to the significance of the initial contact point of gait. As a consequence, a research project was developed aimed at determining whether an invariant relationship exists between the timing of the onset of knee flexion in late swing phase and the point of initial contact. This research is the basis of a Masters by Research at the University of Melbourne and is currently in the data collection phase. Information gained from this research will assist with structuring gait retraining in all settings and with particular application to neurological rehabilitation. Researcher: David McKenzie.

• Primary Care Physiotherapy: It was proposed that the introduction of an experienced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist into the Frankston Emergency Department to function as a primary care practitioner would result in a reduction in waiting times for patients, a reduction in inappropriate admissions for specific patient groups, improved management for specific patient groups, increased availability of medical staff for time-critical interventions and a reduction in Emergency Department congestion. Commencing in September 2005, this initiative has been effective in achieving its aims. Comparing data from the initial 12 months of the initiative with the 12 months prior to its introduction revealed a significant reduction in the waiting times for Category 4 and 5 patients following introduction of the initiative, despite a significant increase in the total number of patient presentations. Researcher: Narelle Watson.

• Orthopaedic Clinic Physiotherapy: A Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist was introduced into the Orthopaedic Outpatient Clinic to assist with triaging, assessing and treating patients awaiting surgery. A review of the initial 12 months of the initiative revealed that a total of 220 patients were assessed by the Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist with a course of physiotherapy treatment being deemed as appropriate for 168 of those assessed. A total of 58 patients who completed their course of physiotherapy were successfully removed from the orthopaedic outpatient clinic waiting list. Researcher: Wayne MacCombie.

• PENPAC (Peninsula Health Post Acute Care) Physiotherapy Service: In January 2005, a Physiotherapist role was created to provide “gap-fill” care for patients discharged from acute care and awaiting the commencement of ambulatory care. Reviewing the initial 12 months of the initiative revealed that 322 clients were referred to the service with an average response time of 1.68 days. A further review of this initiative was completed in January 2007 indicating its success with a 64% increase in staffing costs resulting in a 433% increase in occasions of service. Researchers: Jacqui Ridgeway and Alison Hurwood.

• Outcome Measures for Agestrong Evaluation: Development and implementation of a suite of outcome measures used to evaluate the introduction of the Agestrong Program into both the inpatient and outpatient setting. Researcher: Scott McGill.

• Circuit strengthening program for stroke rehabilitation: Evaluation of the implementation of a circuit strengthening program to assist in the inpatient rehabilitation for patients with a neurological condition. Researchers: Fiona Kent.

• Outcome measures: The utilisation of standardised outcome measures was implemented in February 2005 to assist in the management of outpatients with musculoskeletal conditions. Such a strategy aimed to assist with the evaluation of the demonstrable benefits of physiotherapy in relation to treatment goals, evaluate the need for continued physiotherapy to maintain or improve patient status and to identify any factors that may compromise treatment outcomes or predict poor outcomes. In November 2006, a review performed on a random sample of patients pre and post introduction of the outcome measures revealed that significantly fewer treatment sessions were required post introduction of the outcome measures. Researchers: Narelle Watson, Scott McGill and Wayne MacCombie.
David McKenzie, Physiotherapy

David’s research and clinical expertise has contributed to enhancing the quality of care for patients with neurological conditions. David’s current research interest is in gait retraining and subsequently seeks to broaden the current understanding of the motor control of walking.
Services within the integrating care area include:

- **SOCIAL WORK** includes more than 40 social workers who facilitate discharge planning across the health service in both inpatient and ambulatory care services.

- **RAD**, the interdisciplinary team in the emergency department.

- **ROSS**, the residential outreach and support service.

- **ACCESS**, the single point of referral for all Peninsula Health’s sub-acute services which also incorporates post acute care.

- **HITH**- Medical and Nursing services provided in the patient’s home.

- **MEACAS**- Aged Care Assessment and management.

- **TRANSITION CARE** providing care in either a bed-based or home-based setting for people with residential level of care needs.

**Members**

Director, Integrating Care, Ms Sue Goonan BSW DipMgt AdvCertMgt Manager, ACCESS, Judith Whitfort B.Helath Sci(Nursing)Grad Cert Case Management and Client Services.  
Acting Manager Aged Care Assessment Service, Paul Colosimo BSW  
Manager Hospital in the Home, Sue Knight, BSW  
Senior Social Worker, Acute services, Julie Grant, BSW  
Senior Social Worker Sub-Acute services, Charlotte Blencowe BA BSW  
Team Leader, RAD, Belinda Berry, BSW  
Team Leader, ROSS, Jenny Chapman BA(Hons) BSW  
Manager Transition Care Program, Sally Church, RN BA BSW.

**Current Projects**

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

Implementation of the ROSS Best Practice Falls Education Program has resulted in 40 per cent of Residential Care Facilities on the Peninsula participating in the six month program. This has led to significant improvement in the care of residents in Residential Care Facilities in the area of Falls Prevention. 100% of all participating RCFs have introduced a “Falls Alert System” for residents at high risk of falling and 100% of RCFs are now using hip protectors as a harm minimisation strategy for these residents.

In September last year ROSS was awarded a $150,000 Dementia Service Grant from the Federal Government’s Department of Health and Ageing. The funds will assist ROSS in providing Best Practice Dementia care education in local residential care facilities, using a portfolio model of education. ROSS is working in partnership with Peninsula Health’s Cognitive Dementia and Memory Service (CDAMS), the Aged Psychiatry Service, Carer Respite and the Alzheimer’s Association to deliver best practice in dementia care to our residential care facilities and the community.

**Presentations**


Speech Pathology

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

Speech pathologists work with individuals across all age ranges in a variety of ways from acute inpatient, rehabilitation, centre-based and home-based programs. Speech Pathologists also work with carers and other professionals to ensure the best outcomes for clients.

The Speech Pathology Department at Peninsula Health provides:

- assistance for babies having difficulty feeding; services for pre-school age children with communication difficulties; assessment and management of patients in acute inpatient, inpatient rehabilitation, and in the community who have swallowing or communication problems, often resulting from stroke or other neurological problems; support and referral for people with hearing disorders; and support for people receiving palliative care who experience difficulties with communication or swallowing.

The department has a strong commitment to clinical education, and has recently formed a Student Unit agreement with Charles Sturt University.

Members

Director of Speech Pathology, Ms Jenelle Collins – BSpPath
MSPAA CPSP

Senior Speech Pathologist, Paediatrics Ms Danielle Surwald
BSpPath

Senior Speech Pathologist, Rehabilitation & Aged Care Ms Noni Bourke
BAppSci(SpPath)MSPAA CPSP GradCert Gerontology.

Research interests and future directions

- Plan to review radiation exposure received by Peninsula Health speech pathologists when performing Modified Barium Swallow Studies (MBS).
- Review of the delegation of traditional speech pathology roles by exploring use of Dysphagia Screening Tool nationally.
- Supporting clients with aphasia in the community.
- Continue to explore opportunities to build research capacity within allied health.
- Review of interdisciplinary processes to ensure patients requiring modified diet / fluid are provided with safe and adequate oral intake when participating in off-ward activities.

Current projects

- Accreditation (credentialing) programs have been developed for speech pathologists working in specialist or ‘high risk’ patient areas. Dysphagia management, paediatric feeding and tracheostomy management accreditation programs have been developed and implemented.
- Interdisciplinary education for patients post stroke.
- Collaborative interdisciplinary approach to dysphagia management in residential care settings.
- Continuation of evidence based practice and research portfolio within Speech Pathology operational quality and risk management plan.

Presentations


Finamore L, Halloran H. Rethinking Referrals: Utilizing parents’ knowledge of their child’s communication development. Queen Elizabeth Centre Biennial International Early Intervention Conference – Evidence into Practice, November 2006.
Human Research and Ethics Committee Members 2007

Board Directors Representatives:
Chair, Ms Liza Newby, Ms Diana Ward.

Peninsula Health staff members with knowledge and experience in professional care, counselling or treatment, and/or with knowledge of and current experience in areas of research that are regularly considered by the HREC:
Dr Sara Watson, Executive Sponsor, (since March 07),
Dr Peter Bradford, Executive Sponsor, (to March 07),
Ms Gwen Austin,
Ms Maureen Habner,
Mr Simon Ruth,
Ms Julie Grant,
Ms Jan de Clifford,
Dr Steve Macfarlane,
Ms Jenny Chapman,
Dr Stephen Denton,
Dr Vinod Ganju (until December 2006),
Ms Lee-Anne Clavarino (Project Officer),
Ms Kerryn Kaio (secretary).

Community Representatives who comprise lay people, a minister of religion and a lawyer are:
Mr Peter Brookhouse,
Ms Marion Brown,
Mr Malcolm Taylor (until December 2006),
Mr Rod Evenden (from January 07),
Rev Alan Collins,
Dr Crofton Hatsell (until December 2006),
Mr Ian Taylor (from June 07).

Trials considered by the committee during the period July 2006 until end of June 2007:

• A comparison of 0.2% And 0.5% Ropivacaine in post operative outpatient infusion for pain relief following foot and ankle surgery. Principal Investigator: Mr Gerard Bourke. Duration: November 2006 – April 2007.

• A randomised, double-blind, multi-centre study of Denosumab compared with Zoledronic Acid (Zometa®) in the treatment of bone metastases in subjects with solid tumors (excluding breast and prostate cancer) or multiple myeloma (20050244). Principal Investigator: Dr Vinod Ganju. Duration: July 2006 – December 2008. Sponsored.

• Evaluation of Tegaderm Absorbent versus Kaltostat dressings in management of split skin graft donor site. Principal Investigator: Miss Patricia Terrill.

• What value do weekend clinical placements have for nursing practice readiness? Principal Investigator: Dr Lisa McKenna.

• Exploring the potential of undergraduate night duty clinical placement for nursing readiness. Principal Investigator: Dr Lisa McKenna.
• Thyroid tumour database and tissue bank: A proposal to improve the diagnosis and prediction of outcome in thyroid tumours.  
  Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Christopher Gilfillan.  

• The information and service needs of the “Baby-Boom” generation as carers of persons with dementia, and as future receivers of care.”  
  Principal Investigator: Dr Christopher King. Duration: August 2006 – August 2007.

• A multi-centre, randomised, open-label parallel groups study comparing the effectiveness and safety of treatment with Vytorin® 10/40 (Ezetimibe 10mg and Simvastatin 40mg) versus Lipitor (Atorvastatin) 80mg daily in subjects with a history of coronary heart disease and/or diabetes mellitus with uncontrolled lipids on statin therapy. (VYTUL).  

• Change readiness – factors predicting the adoption of computerised clinical information systems.  

• ATHENA (Avastin THErapy for advaNced breAst cancer) open-label study of Bevacizumab (AVASTIN®) plus Taxane monotherapy or in combination for the first-line treatment of patients with locally recurrent or metastatic breast cancer.  

• QASAR 2: multi-centre international study of Capecitabine +/- Bevacizumab as adjuvant treatment of colon cancer.  
  Principal Investigator: Dr Nicole Potasz. Duration: September 2006 – December 2015.

• A phase III, randomised, double-blind study of Galiximab in combination with Rituximab compared with Rituximab in combination with placebo for the treatment of subjects with relapsed or refractory, follicular non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.  

• Xolair® (Omalizumab) responder program - a protocol to assess individual response to a trial of up to 16 weeks of Xolair (Omalizumab) in patients with uncontrolled severe allergic asthma. Duration: September 2006 – April 2009.  
  Principal Investigator: Associate Professor David Langton. Sponsored.
• A multi-centre, randomised, open-label parallel groups study comparing the effectiveness and safety of treatment with Vytarin® 10/40 (Ezetimibe 10mg and Simvastatin 40mg) versus Lipitor (Atorvastatin) 80mg daily in subjects with a history of coronary heart disease and/or diabetes mellitus with uncontrolled lipids on statin therapy. (VYTUL).

• Prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection and related sexual behaviour among injecting drug users who attend selected needle and syringe programs throughout Australia.
  Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Lisa Maher. Duration: October 2006 – Ongoing Annual Survey.

• The LOTESS trial: A clinical study investigating the long term efficacy and safety of Zometa® treatment. Protocol number: CZOL446EAU22.
  Principal Investigators: Dr Jacquelyn Thomson/ Dr Ranjana Srivastava.

• Autobiographical memory and emotions in women during pregnancy and after childbirth.

• Cardiovascular outcomes in renal atherosclerotic lesions (CORAL): Stenting with anti-hypertensive medical therapy, compared to medical therapy alone.
  Principal Investigator: Dr Greg Szto. Duration: January 2007 – December 2011
  Sponsored: Funded by National Institute of Health (USA).

• A multi-centre, open-label study to assess the efficacy, tolerability, safety and pharmacokinetics of subcutaneous infusions of Ig Nextgen 16% in patients with primary immunodeficiency (PID).
  Principal Investigator: Associate Professor David Langton.

• A phase III, multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to determine the efficacy and safety of Lenalidomide (Revlimid) in combination with Melphalan and Prednisone versus placebo plus Melphalan and Prednisone in subjects with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma who are 65 years of age or older. (Celgene: CC-5013-MM-015).
  Sponsored.

• A multi-national double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of CCX282-B in subjects with moderate to severe Crohn’s disease. Principal Investigator: Dr David Badov.
Dr John Botha

Dr Botha is the Director of Intensive Care and is also the Health Service’s Clinical Dean. Dr Botha is responsible for facilitating the teaching of Monash medical students at Peninsula Health and he is a member of the Sedation and Agitation Advisory Board in Intensive Care, the Victorian Intensive Care Advisory Committee to DHS, and he is a Liaison Intensivist for the Victorian Organ Donation Initiative.
Human Research Ethics Committee Report

- Understanding the social and personal influences around self harm by community dwelling older people.
  Principal Investigator: Professor Carol Morse. Duration: November 2006 – May 2006.

- Interpreting palliative care philosophy.

- A phase II study of withdrawal of Imanitib therapy in adult patients with chronic phase chronic myeloid leukaemia in stable complete molecular remission (CML8).
  Principal Investigator: Dr John Catalano. Collaborative study with the ALLG.

- Early parenteral versus standard care in the critically ill patient ‘ANZCS CTG endorsed level 1 randomised control trial.

- Victorian component of the national evaluation of the transition care program.

- Couples living with heart disease: The psychological impact of a cardiac event on patients and their partners.

- A multi-centre, double-blind, study to determine the efficacy and safety of SYR-322 plus Pioglitazone HCl (Actos®, SYR-322 alone or Pioglitazone HCl alone in subjects with type 2 diabetes.

- A qualitative assessment of women’s experience with external cephalic version in Frankston Hospital (2005-06).

- A multi-centre, single arm, open-label study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of 1000mg fixed dose of Rituximab on day one and fifteen among patients with refractory, relapsing or chronic idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura.

- A multi-centre, single-arm, open-label safety study of Lenalidomide plus Dexamethasone in previously treated subjects with multiple myeloma.

- Social dimensions of adherence to an Agestrong exercise program.
• A randomised, open-label, multi-center, phase II study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Lumiliximab in combination with Fludarabine, Cyclophosphamide, and Rituximab versus Fludarabine, Cyclophosphamide, and Rituximab alone in subjects with relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

• AVERT- A phase III multi-centre randomised controlled trial of very early rehabilitation after stroke.

• Can you see what I perceive?: The usefulness of three adult visual perceptual tests with Australian participants.

• A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III trial comparing the efficacy of Bevacizumab in combination with Rituximab and CHOP (RA-CHOP) Versus Rituximab And CHOP (R-CHOP) in previously untreated patients with CD20-positive diffuse large B-Cell lymphoma (DLBCL).

• A model of sustainable staffing reflective of the post natal care needs of new mothers.

• Understanding delusions in Alzheimer’s disease.

• A 12 month prospective observational study to establish the all-cause treatment discontinuation in outpatients with Schizophrenia at risk of medication non-adherence.

• PSYCOL: The assessment of mental health related quality of life (Psycol) instrument. centre for health economics.
• A systematic evaluation of emergency management of suspected transient ischaemic attacks (TIA) and minor strokes. Principal Investigator: Dr Jayantha Rupasinghe. Duration: February 2007 – February 2008.


• Treatment review and feedback program to determine risk of poor medication adherence in outpatients diagnosed with schizophrenia in Australia. Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Richard Newton. Duration: June 2007 – April 2009. Sponsored.


• Factors contributing to the decision to seclude a patient in the acute adult psychiatric setting. Principal Investigator: Cathryn Hopner. Duration: July 2007 – January 2008.

Registrar Research Prize and Tyco Award
Saturday 17th November (morning)
Presentations of research projects conducted by Peninsula Health Registrars
Prize of $1,000 to be awarded

Research Week Poster Display & Competition
Posters on display from various Peninsula Health clinical areas
3 Prizes to be awarded for Best Scientific Poster, and
3 Prizes to be awarded for “People’s Choice”

Allied Health Research Prize & Nursing Research Prize
Wednesday 21st November (afternoon)
Presentations of research projects conducted by Peninsula Health
Allied Health and Nursing Staff
Prize of $1,000 to be awarded for each

Poster Display & Competition - Awarding of Prizes
Friday 23rd November (1230hrs)
Best Scientific Posters x 3 and “People’s Choice” x 3

Peninsula Health Research Dinner & Jeremy Anderson Oration
Friday 23rd November (evening)
The Peninsula Country Golf Club
2007 Jeremy Anderson Orator - Professor Patrick McGorry,
Professor of Youth Mental Health, University of Melbourne

Winners of the Allied Health, Nursing and Registrar Research Prizes
are expected to attend the Research Dinner and Jeremy Anderson Oration,
where the prizes for each of these events will be presented.

For further information please contact the:
Research Program Secretariat
Telephone: 9788 1474 or email: ResearchWeek@phcn.vic.gov.au
or view the Research Development Committee page on the intranet.
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MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
15-17 Davey Street Frankston Vic 3199
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PENINSULA DRUG
& ALCOHOL PROGRAM
Rosebud Office
c/o Southern Peninsula Support &
Information Centre
878 Nepean Road Rosebud Vic 3939
Tel: (03) 5986 0709  Fax: (03) 5982 2601

Hastings Office
c/o Peninsula Community Health Services
Cnr Cool Stores Road and Victoria Street
Hastings 3915
Tel: (03) 5979 2894  Fax: (03) 5979 4735

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PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE
Hastings Road (PO Box 52)
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Inpatient Unit
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