



# DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH NEWS



Sir Charles

Gairdner Hospital

Dept. of Health

September 2009

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Researchers

As most will know, I have been the Director of the Office of Research Development (ORD) since its establishment in 2000. Our mission has been to facilitate SCGH Research at the QEIIIMC and to oversee the SCGH input into the new WAIMR building.



The development and implementation of the Research Governance Unit (RGU), commenced in 2005 and was made independent in 2006. In the past year, in order to better streamline SCGH Research and make it simpler for researchers to negotiate their way through the research approvals process, it was decided that ORD would reintegrate Research Governance, as well as take on the responsibility of the Sir Charles Gardiner Group Human Ethics Research Committee (HREC) office so that the major offices involved in research were under the one office. We have also arranged funding for a hospital biostatistician to assist hospital researchers.

As of August 2009, the Office of Research Development has become the Department of Research and incorporates RGU (the Research Governance Unit), HREC (the Human Research Ethics Committee office), the Biostatistics Consulting Service (to commence when a suitable biostatistician has been identified), the training programmes for Good Clinical Practice (GCP) in Research and the Research Management System Database. I will continue in the role as Director and will oversee the management of all these research related activities.

Our offices, currently housed in separate areas in C and E blocks, will all be co-located pending a final refurbishment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of A block at the end of September 2009. If all goes to plan, notice of our relocation will be circulated in our next newsletter due in October. In the interim all staff, offices and mail addresses will remain as is. As a Department we are looking forward to the relocation and in advance, appreciate your understanding and patience during the pending physical move.

Like most Departments, we have also been hit with the current staffing freeze. I value the support and consideration that all researchers and investigators are presently giving us during our current FTE/Staffing difficulties. We are endeavouring to sort out the staffing shortages, back fill positions and manage workloads of all offices as best as possible.

Kind regards

Prof Peter Thompson  
Director  
SCGH Department of Research

## **RGU/HREC**

### **Annual Reports**

The HREC office recently sent letters to 369 investigators whose trial statuses were unknown. There has been about a 60% return rate on these reports, so thank you to all who promptly replied. The reasoning behind the mail out was to identify those trials that had been closed so that the file could be archived (103 so far) and also to identify all ongoing trials so that the investigators will receive their annual report forms. This will assist the office in having complete and accurate records of all trials approved by the SCGG HREC - there are currently 800 open trials.

Annual report forms are sent the month prior to their due date and effective from November 2009 these forms will include a trial approval expiry date. If approval is required beyond the expiry date shown investigators should request an extension of approval - this should be in the form of a letter to the HREC and include reasons why an extension is needed.

We would remind investigators that a brief progress report should be included with the completed annual report form submitted to the HREC. It is also essential that a final report is submitted once the trial is completed.

### **Approval Documentation**

The letter of institutional approval for trials now comes with an accompanying page outlining the conditions of approval. Starting a trial or research project following the issue of approval will be deemed to be an acceptance of these conditions by the investigator.

### **Application Documentation**

Could all investigators/study coordinators ensure that the application forms (Sections 1 and 2A/2B, site authorisation form) used for submissions to the HREC/RGU are the latest versions from the website:

<http://www.scgh.health.wa.gov.au/Research/Forms.html>

### **Name of HREC**

Please note that the correct name of the HREC to be used in all trial documentation is "Sir Charles Gairdner Group Human Research Ethics Committee".

### **HREC/RGU Staff**

At present the HREC and RGU offices are understaffed, with Diana Forster (full time) in HREC and Nola Mammatt & Jenny Westgarth-Taylor (both part-time) in RGU. Jenny is also currently acting as the Delegate of the Chair until this position is filled. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

## **EDUCATION**

The Department of Research continues to offer researchers who are new to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital or new to research, the opportunity to attend some interactive study days on site. In the past these days have been well attended and the feedback has been positive.

The following three study days are available for research staff in the coming months:

### **1. Submitting a Clinical Drug Trial Ethics Application - Where Do I Start?**

Thursday 17th September, 2009 8:30am to 3:00pm

### **2. Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for Beginners-Local Investigator Initiated Studies**

Thursday 12th November, 2009 8:30am to 3:00pm

### **3. Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for Beginners-Clinical Drug Trials**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 8.30am to 3.00pm

To register for these study days and obtain any pre-reading, please contact:

**Nola Mammatt- Research Governance Unit - Ext: 4889 or [nola.mammatt@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:nola.mammatt@health.wa.gov.au).**

## RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Chairperson Update:

In 2008 SCGH Research was fortunate enough to have \$1m dedicated specifically to Research on the SCGH/QEIIMC. These funds were provided by the SCGH Private Patient, managed through the Research Advisory Committee and dispersed through the RAC to SCGH/QEIIMC Researchers in the form of Research Grants.



The funding was divided into \$400,000 for Medical and Science, \$200,000 for Allied Health and \$200,000 for Nursing, with the remaining \$200,000 dedicated as support for the CCRE in Pulmonary and Environmental Medicine, and hospital ward clerk training.

In 2008/09, thirty-nine applications totalling over \$2m were received. The outcome was 19 Research applications being funded as follows:

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Project Title</b>
Annette Barton	Identifying factors that can reduce the number of wait-listed patients with carpal tunnel syndrome at SCGH.
Kim Brookes	Does Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) produce a contraction in the submental muscles involved in swallowing: investigating the potential for intervention in dysphagia.
Eva Cooper	Establishing factors that affect the retention of nursing staff in the first 5 years of employment at SCGH.
Diane Dennis	Does prolonged ICU length of stay result in a significant reduction in normal patient functioning?
A/Prof Martin Ebert	Advanced treatment for upper-abdominal cancer using combined CT-SPECT Imaging
Prof Judith Finn	Reducing time to analgesia in the emergency department using a nurse-initiated pain protocol.
A/Prof Alan James	The use of bronchial biopsies to assess remodelling of airway smooth muscle.
Dr Sue Jenkins	Improving quality of life and exercise tolerance in individuals with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis.
Claire Langdon	Voicing safety concerns: Is a change vocal quality post oral intake indicative of aspiration on Videofluoroscopy.
Karen Lennon	The effect of cholecalciferol and an exercise program on exercise capacity and quality of life in dialysis patients.
Prof Michael Millward	SCGH Research Funding: Molecular profiling of therapeutic targets for patients with otherwise untreatable metastatic cancer.
Antonio Petta	The effect of Whole Body Vibration on balance, muscle strength and falls in older persons living in residential care?
A/Prof Nigel Swanson	In vivo study of antifibrogenic therapeutic candidates - SAHA & ncRNA.
Prof Peter Thompson	Vascular reactivity and the inflammatory cascade in patients with stable coronary disease treated with low dose colchicine (LoDoCo-VRIC).
A/Prof Christine Toye	Discharging Older Adults from an Acute Assessment Unit: Evaluating a Discharge Planning Pathway.
A/Prof Anne Williams	Further Psychometric Testing of an Instrument to Measure Emotional Care in Hospital.
A/Prof Scott Wilson	The role of genomic copy number variations in osteoporosis.
Prof Ming Hao Zheng	Furin impairs V-ATPase activity by processing V-ATPase accessory subunit Ac45.
Dr Kathy Zhu	Insulin-like growth factor I and bone loss, fracture risk and mortality in older women.

In 2009, another 39 applications were received with 16 being ranked as fundable projects. However the \$1m which was originally intended to be allocated, was reduced to only \$500,000 in June 2009 with the potential of an additional \$500,000 to be awarded toward the end of the year. Therefore the projects were divided into 2 groups, the first group being funded in line with funds available and the second Group awaiting funding to be released. The funded allocations are noted below.

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Project Title</b>
A/Prof Richard Prince	An investigation into the determinants of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality: an analysis of the 10 year data from the Calcium Intervention Fracture Outcome Study
Prof Jiake Xu	Molecular structure and function of RANKL mutants in osteoclastic bone resorption
A/Prof Alan James	The AMAZES Study: Asthma and Macrolides: the AZithromycin Efficacy and Safety study
Prof Phillip Thompson	The Receptor For Advanced Glycation End-products (RAGE) is a Major Contributor to Chronic Inflammation in Severe Asthma
Mr Neville Knuckey	Neuroprotective action of peroxiredoxin 2 (PRDX2) in stroke models
Kim Brookes	Dysphagia in Inflammatory Muscle Diseases: Answering the Questions Who, Where, Why and What to Do?
Dr Sue Jenkins	Do wheeled walkers increase physical activity in people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease?
Annette Barton	Epidemiology, outcomes and Allied Health intervention in patients presenting to an Emergency Department with a fall

#### **Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Research Fund (SCGHRF) (Private Practice)**

##### **SCGHRF 2009/10:**

*This round is currently undergoing the review process.*

All Applicants will be notified of the outcome the end of June 2009.

All going well, i.e. no financial restrictions or impacts, General Operating Accounts will be set up and funds available to successful Applicants as of July 1st 2009.

##### **SCGHRF 2010/11:**

Funding for this round is not guaranteed. Researchers will be notified toward the end of 2009 on information pertaining to this round.

#### **Research Advisory Committee Research Grants (RACRG)**

##### **RACRG 2009/2010:**

All processes for this round of Grants have been completed and funding has been awarded to successful Applicants.

##### **RACRG 2010/2011:**

This round is currently under review. More information will be available in October 2009.

**Research Week:**

This year the SCGH Research Advisory Committee Research Week will be held between Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in the WAIMR Seminar Room, Ground Floor B Block.

There is a slight change to the program. In past years, we've had a weekly poster display along with a Presentation day on the Wednesday of the week. The poster display will be at the G Block end of Watling Street from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to 12:00pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. The outline of Research Week is noted below but is subject to change, a more detailed schedule will be circulated once finalised.

***Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 9:00am to 11:00am***

Dr Nik Zeps will be talking on 'Translational cancer research as part of routine care'.  
Medical and Science Young Investigator Applicants will be presenting their papers

***Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 12:00pm to 2:00pm***

Dr Richard Parsons will talk on Research Statistical Methods  
Allied Health and Nursing Young Investigator Applicants will be presenting their papers

***Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 12:00pm to 3:00pm***

Introduction to the Chairperson of key Research Committees.  
Guest Speaker Prof Lyn Beazley, (WA Chief Scientist)  
Presentation by Prof Beazley of the Young Investigator Awards from Medical, Science, Allied Health and Nursing;  
Presentation of Nursing Research by Prof Judith Finn, Prof Di Twigg and A/Prof Anne Williams;

***Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 5:30pm to 7:30pm***

Consultants Session (This session is by invitation only)  
Don Black will talk on Legal issues pertaining to Contracts;  
Graeme Metcalf will talk on the issues with Insurance  
Dr Neil Lynch will talk on IP and Medical Research Commercialisation Fund initiative;

***Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October***

No event is planned for this day. All researchers who have provided posters for the week are requested to retrieve those posters by 12:00pm.

*Kind Regards*



*Dr John Beilby  
Chairperson  
Research Advisory Committee*

**This newsletter is produced by the Department of Research.  
All enquiries pertaining to the contents of this Newsletter should be directed to  
the Manager Department of Research.**