



Clinical School Newsletter

March Issue

Never Stand Still

Medicine

St George and Sutherland Clinical School

Update from the Clinical Associate Dean

Welcome to the March newsletter of the St George and Sutherland Clinical School.

Many of you have now taken the opportunity to welcome Professor Emad El-Omar, our new Professor of Medicine, to St George and Sutherland. He spent February acclimatising to the move from Aberdeen to Sydney and commenced his position at the beginning of March. I'm sure he'll quickly come to grips with his new environment and make important contributions to our clinical, research and teaching ethos.

Many of you have been spending your January and February putting together NHMRC project grant applications. This has always been a challenging and difficult process, made worse in recent years by the ever-lower success rates. I wish you all well in your applications and look forward to seeing success when outcomes are announced in November.

Part of our improvement as a research-active campus, at St George, revolves around our sharing of research in as wide a variety of environments as possible. The Clinical School, hospital Academic Council and Symposium Organising Committee are exploring ways to expand the Symposium, and the Clinical School is also examining reintroduction of formal research presentations, in addition to the translational research presentations presented 6 times through the year at Medical Grand Rounds.

Our students are all back on deck, from year 1 students through to year 6, and their enthusiastic chatter, tutorial attendance and ward participation reminds us all of our role as teaching hospitals. Thanks to all of you from the Clinical School, and from me personally, for your contributions in their education and professional growth.

I hope that 2016 is a happy and successful year for all our readers, and that you enjoy the newsletter. As always, any of the members of the Clinical School staff welcome feedback and comments, on anything of academic relevance to our institutions.

Michael Grimm

Update from Professor of Medicine Emad El-Omar

Dear Colleagues

We have finally made the relocation from Scotland to Sydney and are settling down quite nicely into our new life. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you already and look forward to getting to know and work with all of you.

My immediate plans are threefold: first to develop a deep understanding of the research work being carried out at the School and who is doing it. Second, to upgrade and set up my own lab. Third, to scout for local talent and to recruit, train and inspire the next generation of academics (clinical and basic science). I will need your support and advice on all fronts.

The longer term ambition is to make our School and our University amongst the best in the world. In the **UNSW 2025 Strategy plan**, our Vice Chancellor has stated that our aspiration is to "establish UNSW as Australia's global university". Our aspiration is to place St George and Sutherland Clinical School at the heart of this revolution. It is a worthy and achievable aspiration and one that will deliver real impact in reducing disease burden on a global scale. I am very excited about this challenge and look forward to achieving these objectives with you.

Emad El-Omar, Professor of Medicine

Update on Teaching, Clinical Teaching Unit

2016 will be a busy and exciting year for the Clinical Teaching Units at both St George and Sutherland hospitals. We are already in full swing scheduling timetables for lectures and tutorials for the year ahead.

We have had a staff change in the St George Clinical Teaching Unit. At the end of last year we said farewell to Buddhi Gunaratne, Student Administrative Assistant who left to take up a new position at Sydney University. We welcome Wendy Baird as the new Student Administrative Assistant. Wendy will be working alongside Joanna so feel free to drop in and say hello.

The supplementary Phase 2 medical Student Integrated Clinical Examinations were successfully held in February at St George. To all the staff and patients who contributed their time to the exam process, a very big "Thank you".

The annual Phase 1 Tutor wrap-up session was held in February. The tutors meet with academic staff to discuss any issues from the previous year and plan teaching for future. The school also uses this as an opportunity to obtain feedback and ideas that will improve teaching.



Photo from the phase 1 wrap up session

For dedication towards many years of consistent teaching, Dr Roslyn Ridgway was presented with flowers in appreciation for her outstanding contribution.

Phase 2 students underwent orientation in early March before commencing tutorials and lectures. The first group of year 5 students started back in January and are attached to various medical and surgical teams. The year 6 students also started in early March in either emergency or selective terms at both St George and Sutherland hospital.

Throughout this year both Clinical Teaching Units will be introducing a number of new clinical skills sessions and activities. These include skills sessions such as Venous Blood Sampling. This will utilise the medical equipment recently purchased by the Clinical School.

Examinations will be held later in the year in September, November and December. More information will follow in the future.

Should you wish to provide any comment or feedback please contact the relevant Student Administrative Officer at:

St George Clinical Teaching Unit
Joanna Tjojoatmodjo
djuniah@unsw.edu.au
9113 2709

Sutherland Clinical Teaching Unit
Justin Joynes
j.joynes@unsw.edu.au
9540 7946

Joanna and Justin, Student Administrative Officers

Postgraduate Update

The St George & Sutherland Clinical School Postgraduate Student Program has 25 enrolled students, with a further 3 student applications for semester 1, 2016 being assessed. Of our 25 students 15 are enrolled PhD and 10 are enrolled Masters. The 3 students being assessed are all Masters.

Five of our students have been awarded their PhD since our last newsletter. Congratulations to them all – Afshin Amini, Lei (Nancy) Chang, Annie Luo, Jie (Kevin) Ni and Lubna Noorani. Well Done!

Have you ever wondered what other researchers are working on at St George & Sutherland Clinical School? You are invited to come along and see presentations of current research from 4 of our

students who are proceeding to confirmation of their early PhD work. This will be held on **Friday 18th March at 3pm** in the Clinical Teaching Unit.

If you wish to mix and mingle afterwards with other researchers and enjoy pizza and drinks please email v.reid@unsw.edu.au by 16th March so we can make sure we cater for you.

The first round of Postgraduate Annual Progress reviews this year will be in April, followed by another round in September or October. Students in the first round will be notified after 11th March.

Remember students are responsible for ensuring that their supervisor is available to attend their review.

In case you missed the latest Graduate Research School newsletter here is the link <https://research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research-student-news> and some of the Upcoming Events at GRS:

Induction for Postgraduate Researchers
[12 April 2016, 4pm to 6:30pm](#)

Annual Progress Review Seminar
[27 April 2016, 10am to 12pm](#)

Thesis Submission Seminar
[4 May 2016, 10:30am to 12:30pm](#)

3 Minute Thesis Competition
[8 September 2016, 4:30pm to 7:30pm](#)

Ashish Diwan, Postgraduate Co-ordinator

New Conjoint Appointments

Senior Lecturer- Greta Lee

Lecturer- Tomas Jensen, Gary Yee

Associate Lecturer – Seo Lung Ling, Koon Hiang Lee, Steven Lazar, Christopher Long, Justyn Huang, Amjid Riaz, Christopher Sadler, Nadia Clifton, Rohan McLachlan, Sanjay Hettige, Lauren Daneel, Alex Wang, Bianca Lan

Summary of Key Dates for 2016

18th March 2016 Postgraduate Event Pizza and Research
24th April 2016 HERDC acceptance

MREII Grant

In our Intensive Care Unit at St George, we have developed a clinical research program to specifically examine the role of thermoregulation in neurocritical care, particularly as emerging evidence would suggest that temperature dysregulation is increasingly associated with adverse outcomes in acutely brain-injured patients following traumatic brain injury and haemorrhagic stroke syndromes.

The UNSW MREII grant has greatly assisted to augment our research capacity at St George by allowing us to acquire new and novel devices for monitoring brain function and metabolism in such patients.

These devices (Licox/Camino monitoring system and MDialysis microdialysis analyser) measure brain tissue oxygenation, brain temperature and various biomarkers of cerebral metabolism, in addition to intracranial pressure, and this will enhance our understanding of the neurobiological effects of specific treatment interventions or modifications thereof.

We are now in the position to commence an important feasibility study of targeted temperature management in TBI that forms the next phase of our Thermoregulation in Acute Brain Injury research program lead by Prof John Myburgh.

The neuromonitoring studies will also be central to building new research capacity in the Department of Intensive Care Medicine through new higher degree opportunities and to facilitate collaborative research across the St. George and Sutherland Clinical School and other UNSW campuses.



Dr Andrew Cheng & Dr Manoj Saxena

HERDC Return

The HERDC return for 2015 is currently being finalised. Data entry and HOS acceptance deadline is currently 24th April 2016. There has been a significant increase in publication nominations for STGCL with increase of 25% accepted publications.

STGCL Publications 2015

Category	Count	Fractions	Points
Book	3	3	3
Book chapter	38	14.3095	2.826
Conference	2	0.2338	0.2338
Journal article	216	67.6325	67.6325
Category	Count	Fractions	Points

HERDC Top Tip – Add your Scopus ID to your ROS Profile

Did you know you can add your Scopus Author ID to your ROS profile to improve the accuracy of your automated searches? Once your Scopus Author ID is added in My Search Settings, save time by Verifying your ID. With a verified Scopus Author ID, any publication records harvested through Scopus will be added to your publications list automatically without the need to log in and manually claim them.

For more information please contact l.golland@unsw.edu.au

St George & Sutherland Medical Research Foundation

SSMRF \$300,000 Capacity Building Grant

SSMRF is excited to support Professor John Myburgh AO with a \$300,000 Capacity Building Grant in 2016 for St. George and Sutherland Critical Care Research Program: thermoregulation in acute brain injury (ABI) program.”

Professor Myburgh thanked the Foundation for supporting local research. "Capacity building is key to maintaining research outcomes – to make research enticing to our students, trainees and registrars, to our young consultants and in the office. The program here at St George is targeted primarily to encourage and sustain capacity building in our department and also to attract young doctors while at the same time integrating high quality, internationally focused collaboration.

One of the most topical areas of neurology currently is the measurement of temperature in acute brain injury, stroke and brain injury – with this grant we could really put St George on the map. Central to this program, which is to be based here at the hospital, is a series of studies and clinical trials in determining the best temperature for measurement in brain injury.

We were also fortunate enough to receive last year two major grants from the university on holistic health, to set up a high-level, multi modal monitoring program, which will be unique to the hospital, and the only ICU in the country that is doing this. We will then enter into collaborations with all the leading centres in neurology and neurosurgery in Cambridge, Edinburgh and the USA. So, hopefully by the end of this program in three years-time, our unit in the hospital through collaboration with our neurosurgical colleagues and friends and neurologists, will be able to put a high-quality neuro-monitoring program in place that will lead the way for international and hospital controlled trials, while defining the temperature in a range of patients.

I'm sure this will build capacity at the lower end, in our department, our hospitals and across the board – backed by the hospital and the university.

SSMRF and their grants are a wonderful initiative and will continue to grow in the hospital, and become a leading light in the future.”

Foundation chief executive Peter Christopher said the benefits of encouraging medical research locally could not be underestimated. "We have a vision to support research that will have implications locally and around the world."

Our next Foundation event: On Thursday the 7th of April 2016, we will be hosting an exclusive SSMRF Medical Research Golf Day at The Australian. Places are limited. Enquiries and bookings can be made to event@ssmrf.com.au

Virginia Venckus, Executive Director

Health & Safety

The STGCL WHS Committee is currently holding an election. This Committee has been dramatically effective in stimulating a culture of safety within our research and office areas, especially on level 3 of the R&E building. These efforts have been recognised very positively when the School has undergone audits in recent years, but they need to extend to all areas where UNSW staff are employed, hence this email to all of you.

All of you who employ UNSW staff or who have specific interests in Clinical School WHS issues, are required to nominate a member or members of your team for this Committee for the coming three year period. A committee member is required from each work area. Current committee members are able to remain on the Committee if this is agreed within your team.

Please send any nominations to l.golland@unsw.edu.au

Javed Akhter, H&S Chairperson

Contact us
School Administration | admin-stgcl@unsw.edu.au

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