Update from Clinical Associate Dean

Welcome to our delayed first Clinical School newsletter for 2018. I had hoped that 2017 would allow us to wrap up our difficult administrative changes, but unfortunately adjustments continue. We have able, experienced and talented new staff members: Jamie Mills and Carolyn Green commenced earlier this year and are settling in well. Come up to level 2 of the Pitney building and introduce yourself – it’s always good to have a face to put to a name and email address.

Major changes to staffing of our Clinical Teaching Units are still to play out. For many of you, the CTUs are the major point of contact with the Clinical School, so I’d ask you to be patient while we get things back on the straight and narrow.

Last month we farewelled Dr Freda Passam, who has been a valued member of the academic staff and haematology research. We thank her for her contribution to the School and wish her well as she embarks on the next stage of her career at Sydney University.

The NHMRC grant application changes that I pointed to in our last newsletter (and which can be found here https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/restructure/changes) are better understood now and it will be critical for applicants to have their heads around the different schemes in order not to invalidate their future funding plans. Just recently, the heavily modified peer review process has been detailed and the changes https://aamri.org.au/news-events/peer-review-arrangements-for-the-new-nhmrc-grant-program/ particularly for Ideas grants are substantial. I urge those of you considering applications from 2019 onwards to become acquainted with these pieces of information.

With funding from UNSW, SSMRF, Federal and State governments and the Local Health District, the Microbiome Research Centre development proceeds apace. By year’s end, considerable renovations will have been completed on level 2 of the Research and Education building. The multiple collaborative ventures initiated by the MRC, both within and outside St George, are now exercising many imaginations including internationally – exciting times indeed for all of us.

I have been asked by the Dean of Medicine, Rodney Phillips, to lead the academic aspects of the review of conjoint appointments at UNSW. There is very significant ignorance outside Clinical Schools of the role of conjoints and the first part of my work will be an educative one.

Update from Professor of Medicine

I am delighted to report that our Microbiome Research Centre (MRC) has continued to develop at an amazing pace. New funding has been granted from the NSW Government and the South East Sydney Local Health District. The MRC refurbishment project, supported fully by UNSW, is in full swing and will hopefully deliver by the end of the year.

We were delighted to welcome two new PhD students: Dr Jason Behary working on the microbiome of liver cancer and Dr Daniella Susic (student of School of Women’s & Children’s Health), working on the role of the microbiome in pregnancy. We are also delighted to welcome our first bioinformatician, Dr Xiao-Tao Jiang, who joined us in early May from the University of Hong Kong. Xiao-Tao will spearhead the development of our fully embedded bioinformatics unit here at the MRC and this will support all microbiome research within our campus and beyond. The second position is about to be recruited and will be followed by others in the near future. Finally, we are very pleased to welcome A/Prof Maija Kohonen-Corish, who has just joined us from the Garvan Institute. Her superb expertise in cancer research, including colorectal and lung cancers, will give added strength to our research programmes.

We are just about to acquire sophisticated murine endoscopy equipment, which includes white light and confocal laser endomicroscopy systems. This will transform the quality of research within the MRC and St George. All the MRC-funded research projects have been initiated and several more are about to start with collaborators locally, nationally and internationally.

Overall, there is great excitement in our School for what lies ahead, and we are determined to push the frontiers of research for the benefit of our patients.

Prof Emad El-Omar
Professor of Medicine
**Postgraduate Update**

The St George & Sutherland Clinical School Postgraduate Student Program currently has 22 enrolled students (17 PhD and 5 Masters).

We welcome the following new students in Semester 1:

- **Jason BEHARY** (Supervisor: Amany Zekry)
  Research topic: *Liver disease, hepatocellular carcinoma and the gut microbiome (PhD)*

- **Shima NOZARI** (Supervisor: Steven Krillis)
  Research topic: *Harnessing the diagnostic and therapeutic potential of β2-glycoprotein I in sepsis (PhD)*

- **Bairen PANG** (Supervisor: Yong Li)
  Research topic: *Rapid isolation and analysis of circulating exosomes using label-free nanoplasmonic sensors for non-invasive breast cancer diagnostics (PhD)*

- **Kyle SHELDRICK** (Supervisor: Ashish Diwan)
  Research topic: *Iliolumbar ligament in Spondylolisthesis (Masters)*

- **Geoffrey SMITH** (Supervisor: Ashish Diwan)
  Research topic: *Studies on the Critical Shoulder Angle (PhD)*

**Upcoming Conferral:**

- **Brandi COLE - PhD** (Supervisor: George Murrell)

Annual progress reviews will be held on various dates from July to November. Students are reminded to ensure their supervisors are available to attend the reviews.

We are always looking for panel members to sit on each review. If you are a conjoint or academic staff member with a PhD who could spare 2 hours to sit on a panel, please keep an eye out for the email seeking panel members. You can also express your interest online here.

**Postgraduate Students - Dates for your diary**

**Thesis Writing Boot Camp**
16-17 June 2018, 9.00am

**3 Minute Thesis Competition**
17 September 2018, 4.30pm

**Research Progress Review Seminar**
Thursday 20 September 2018, 10.00am

**HDR Welcome and Orientation**
24 September 2018, 4.00pm

**Thesis Submission Seminar**
25 September 2018, 10.00am

See GRS website for event details.

See also the Graduate Research School Newsletter

**Update from Clinical Teaching Unit**

As always it has been a busy time in the Clinical Teaching Units, and the year is just about in full swing with a lot of students around and focused on their course work.

Firstly, we welcome Melinda Camporeale (nee Bresolin) to our team as the Education Support Administrator at the Sutherland CTU. We recently farewelled Joanna Tjoaatmodjo, Education Support Officer who leaves after four years with us and we wish her the best. We congratulate Michael Davidson, Education Support Administrator as he embarks on a new role at Kensington campus in Student Services. We thank both Joanna and Michael for their contributions to the School.

Over the coming period there will be some adjustments to the administrative operations in the Teaching Units both at St George and at Sutherland Hospital. During the interim period St George will be temporarily staffed by Kevin Tunney and Sophie Kane and recruitment is currently underway for the two positions. We welcome Kevin, Sophie and Melinda.

We thank all students and tutors for their patience while we work through some delays and hitches to teaching whilst we work through the administrative operations in the CTU. We ask all undergraduate students for cooperation, patience and understanding during this time and will endeavour to do our best to address tutorials and other teaching requirements that need to be rescheduled.

On a more brighter note, semester 1 has brought plenty of enthusiasm and positivity from our students towards their study, and furthermore, the continued help and support from our academic staff when it comes to teaching and support.

Below is a little bit of what has been happening recently:

**Phase 1** - the Year 1 medical students have commenced their hospital sessions and have visited both hospital sites and the wards - some of them for the first time - to learn the skills of history taking and communication with patients.

**Phase 2** - students are well and truly settled in their clinical activities across various departments. Our Adult Health groups have been extremely engaged this term. We have received good reports from the respective tutors about their attendance and focus and they are keen to learn and want to know more. They will have term break from 25th June before resuming their study on 16th July.

**Phase 3** - we have a very energetic and focused group of year 5’s this year, who are great at wanting extra Biomed and Med/Surg tutorials, and we have been video conferencing a lot of these with between STG and TSH, so all are benefiting from the extra teaching. A lot of help from our tutors and doctors here (and student representatives) who have been great at emailing, organising and wanting to take on the extra teaching to help and prepare our students in the best way possible. We have our ED/Selective group that have been doing really well and have also been great at wanting extra tutorials and class time. The rest of our Year 6 students are on selective and at various hospitals.

**ALL ENQUIRIES TO BE DIRECTED TO:**

St George Teaching Unit – Kevin Tunney –x32709 / 32022
(9113 2709 / 9113 2022) | E: stgtu@unsw.edu.au

Sutherland Teaching Unit – Melinda Camporeale x37946
(9540 7946 / 9113 7597) | E: tshtu@unsw.edu.au
Research in Progress Meetings 2018

The St George and Sutherland Clinical School Research in Progress Meetings are celebrating three years! We would like to thank Dr Freda Passam who stepped down from her role as committee member last year. She has contributed tremendously to the running of these meetings over the past two years and she certainly will be missed.

We have lined up an impressive program for 2018!

Our first meeting kicked off with Professor Geoffrey McCaughan, Head of the Liver Injury and Cancer Program at the Centenary Institute delivering his latest findings on the pathogenesis of liver disease and cancer. Later in the year we will be joined by Professor Stephen Simpson, Academic Director of the Charles Perkins Centre as well as Professor Christopher Semsarian, Cardiologist and Head of the Molecular Cardiology Program at the Centenary Institute. We will also hear from our St George and Sutherland Clinical School research teams behind the six new microbiome-related projects, who through the SSMRF received close to $1M seed grant funding last year.

Be sure to subscribe to the mailing list to keep up to date with the program. These meetings are open to members of the public as well as staff and students of UNSW Sydney and St George Hospital. More information can be found on the St George and Sutherland Clinical School website: https://stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm. Hope to see you there!

Fatima El-Assaad/Howard Yim/Andrew Gia/Halina Leung
Research in Progress Meeting Committee

Upcoming Meetings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 24th May</td>
<td>Professor Katherine SAMARAS</td>
<td>Lab Head Clinical Obesity, Nutrition and Adipose Biology, Garvan Institute</td>
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<td>Professor of Medicine, St Vincent’s Clinical School, School of Medicine, UNSW Sydney</td>
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<td>Associate Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine, University Notre Dame University</td>
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<td>Wed 13th June</td>
<td>Associate Professor Scott BYRNE</td>
<td>Head Cellular Photoimmunology Group, The University of Sydney, The Westmead Institute</td>
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<td>for Medical Research and The Charles Perkins Centre</td>
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<td>Wed 20th June</td>
<td>Associate Professor Nadine KASPARIAN</td>
<td>Associate Professor in Medical Psychology, UNSW Sydney</td>
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<td>Head of Psychology at the Heart Centre for Children</td>
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<td>Wed 27th June</td>
<td>Professor Xu-Feng HUANG</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor, School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Deputy Executive Director, Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director, Centre for Translational Neuroscience, School of Medicine, Medicine and Health, University of Wollongong</td>
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<td>Wed 4th July</td>
<td>Doctor Katie DIXON</td>
<td>Lecturer and Research Fellow Anatomy &amp; Histology, School of Medical Sciences</td>
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<td>The University of Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th July</td>
<td>Associate Professor Maurizio LABBATE</td>
<td>Associate Professor, School of Life Sciences</td>
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<td>Associate Member, iThrive - Institute of Infection, Immunity and Innovation</td>
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<td>The University of Technology Sydney</td>
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The following staff have been appointed as new conjoints with the School since November 2017:

**Conjoint Senior Lecturers:** Victar Hsieh

**Conjoint Lecturers:** William Siu, Sarah Kinghorn

**Conjoint Associate Lecturers:** Titus Auyeung, Daniel Dotta, Milan Edinger-Reeve, Jane Guan, Imal Hemachandra, Anne Hoey, Shejil Kumar, Michael Le, Chengxuan Lu, Shrya Mahatme, Thomas Mears, Roneil Parikh, Liam Quinn, Georgia Rigas, Richard Sadig, Charles Shuttleworth, Muthusamy Kaneson

**Promotions**
- David Lubowski, Conjoint Professor
- Hussein Soudy Hussein, Conjoint Senior Lecturer

**Recent Changes to conjoint process**
Due to the workplace change process, conjoint applications will be processed by a central HR team, once they have been approved at School and Faculty level. The Salaries Department will issue all letters directly to new conjoints. All letters issued will now align with that detail provided to all Visitors who are conferred an Academic Title. These letters are different—they are more informative and provide information on our policies, which was missing from the previous letters issued.

Other changes include a modified application form which needs to be typed—handwritten forms will no longer be accepted.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Who recommends the Conjoint Level of Appointment?**
A: It is the Head of School who is required to recommend the academic level and this request will be reviewed and/or endorsed by the Senior Vice Dean, Clinical Affairs or the Dean

**Q: Do I need to complete a new application form if a Conjoint is transferring between Schools?**
A: Yes – we require updated details to confirm the duties required at the new location and it is required

**Q: Are Conjoint no longer able to hold ongoing appointments?**
A: Correct – all requests to confer a Conjoint appointment must have an end date - the maximum is 3 years to align with the UNSW Conferral of an Academic Title policy, as well as managing the vast numbers we currently have in our system. The Medicine Conjoint policy will be updated in due course.

**Q: If a Conjoint’s Appointment ceases, when will their UNSW access terminate?**
A: Access to UNSW systems will cease 24hrs from their end date. There is no longer a 28 day grace period. This change is due to IT policy – this is not a HR decision.

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**Publications Update**

The Annual Research Outputs Collection (AROC) is UNSW’s internal process for collecting detailed, high-quality information on research outputs produced by UNSW researchers. It was established in 2016 to replace the annual HERDC publications collection.

The information collected as a part of AROC will be used as the basis for UNSW’s ERA submission, to populate a range of university systems and profiles, and for a range of internal reporting activities.

The School has recently completed the 2017 annual AROC collection. This process involves detailed checking of all publications that they meet the AROC criteria and are affiliated correctly to UNSW. All authors (researchers, staff, conjoints and students) can assist by regularly doing the following:

**Researchers need to claim publications in ROS**
All UNSW authors/co-authors should log into ROS and accept or reject any publications in their list. This needs to be done on a regular basis.

**Researchers need to list UNSW in their affiliation**
There have been many instances where authors are not affiliating correctly to the school—and UNSW then misses out on the publication being counted in AROC. It is important to affiliate correctly using one of the following descriptions:

- **Good:** UNSW Sydney
- **Better:** UNSW Medicine, UNSW Sydney
- **Best:** St George & Sutherland Clinical School, UNSW Medicine

*Any publications attributed to St George Hospital are unfortunately unable to be accepted.*

For further information please contact:
- Clinical School Administrative Office staff
- Outreach Librarian, Medicine

**Researcher Events**

- **Publishing & Profile Building: Planning to Publish… first steps** - 22 May
- **Thesis Writing Bootcamp** - 16 June
- **Animal care and ethics** - 11 & 12 July

Further information: [https://research.unsw.edu.au/events](https://research.unsw.edu.au/events)
Stats Central

Stats Central is a statistical consulting unit established at UNSW in 2016 to provide university-wide support for staff and students during study design and analysis. Stats Central offers researchers a complimentary grant review service for anyone submitting a grant to ARC, NHMRC or other grant funding scheme. If you have questions regarding:

- Research design
- Sample size calculation
- Proposed analyses
- Inclusion of a budget item for a statistical support

You can contact Stats Central for assistance.

Submit a grant review request here: [Google Form](#).

Study design advice is free for all UNSW researchers and all consulting services are free for UNSW higher degree research students.

Stats Central also offers intensive short courses on introductory statistics, study design, and regression analysis, at heavily reduced rates for UNSW staff and students.

Website: [www.StatsCentral.unsw.edu.au](http://www.StatsCentral.unsw.edu.au)

Email: Stats.Central@unsw.edu.au

Upcoming courses held at Kensington campus

[Experimental Design: Short Course](#) (21 June, 2018)

Creative Design Service

The UNSW Global Profile & Reputation Unit is responsible for graphic and digital design - the creation, development, oversight and implementation of UNSW’s primary marketing, advertising and promotional materials.

Request types - banners (digital and print), brochures, visual elements, social images, booklets, brand requests for merchandise logos, social media icons etc, brand approvals, advice and requests, including for research centres and institutes.

Requests can be submitted directly via the web portal: [DEx Requests](#) (until 30 May 2018). A new portal called Wrike will commence on 1 June - further details TBA.

UNSW Branding

UNSW has released a new [branding guide](#) which is available for download under myUNSW—Branding Guidelines. A bound copy of this comprehensive 61 page document is also available to view at the Clinical School Office. You can also download UNSW [templates](#), the UNSW official [heading font Sommet](#) and other resources from here.

If you are using the UNSW logo in any documentation (eg letterheads), you can also submit a copy to our Admin Office, who will check with Branding that it complies with the guidelines. Alternatively, upload it to the Brand Assistant in myUNSW.

UNSW Brand Assistant

Use the Brand Assistant in myUNSW for the following:

- a template
- artwork approval
- a UNSW Logo
- brand advice

Statistical Seminars @ St George Hospital

Stats Central will be coming out to St George hospital to give a series of seminars to staff and HDR students. Currently scheduled dates are below:

- **2nd August** 4 to 5pm: Introduction, Research Design, Descriptive Statistics
- **9th August** 4 to 5pm: Inference, Confidence Intervals, T-tests
- **16 August** 4 to 5pm: Categorical Data Analysis
- **23rd August** 4 to 5pm: ANOVA
- **30th August** 4 to 5pm: ANOVA, continued
- **6th September** 4.30pm to 5.30pm: Correlation and Regression
- **13th September** 4 to 5pm: Logistic Regression
- **20th September** 4 to 5pm: Cox Model
- **27th September** 4 to 5pm: Sample Size and Power
Another big win for St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation!

Anti-cancer therapy on the gut microbiome in gastrointestinal cancer

SSMRF has received a significant boost with the NSW Government committing $1.5 million towards the completion of the Microbiome Research Centre (MRC). In addition, Gerry Marr, Chief Executive SESLHD has also committed $1 million to the MRC.

The MRC, based at St George Hospital, will lead international research collaborations into how microbiota play a unique role in both sickness and health, and how it can be harnessed to treat, prevent and cure complex diseases.

The Microbiome Research Centre is a collaboration between the St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation (SSMRF), the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD).

Professor Emad El-Omar, Professor of Medicine, UNSW, St George Hospital and the Director of the MRC, said the facility will improve research capacity by attracting more expert researchers not only from around the country but also from around the world. “There will be unrivalled opportunities for the next generation of researchers in medicine and allied health specialties on offer at the Centre. Their job is to diagnose what has previously been impossible to detect, and then to treat the conditions,” Professor El-Omar said.

While the refurbished Centre will officially open for business in February next year, microbiome research is already underway in the existing laboratories, with several teams investigating some of the Australian Government’s health care priorities.

The trillions of bacteria making up communities in our body, referred to as the microbiota, are now unlocking mysteries at an incredible pace.

In his letter to the Foundation Minister Hazzard wrote “The Centre will be a world leader in microbiome research and will showcase NSW research excellence. Its location will facilitate the translation of research into the NSW health system to improve the health outcomes for the people of NSW.”

Jacquie Stratford, CEO, St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation said the MRC is the most significant breakthrough for medical research in the St George and Sutherland catchment area and will be the nucleus for sustained growth in the field.

“Microbiome research truly is the new frontier of medicine and this investment from the NSW Government, along with the $1 million pledged by the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and last year’s Commonwealth grant will progress our work immeasurably,” Ms Stratford said. “Our challenge now is to raise significant funds to support the research.”

Jacquie Stratford, Chief Executive Officer
St George & Sutherland Medical Research Foundation

How you can help SSMRF raise $250,000 for Medical Research

Several doctors in the St George & Sutherland Hospitals support the research efforts of SSMRF by either contributing from their special purpose trust accounts (Medical Trusts) or making a personal monthly or annual donation and we are most grateful for this support.

SSMRF is now looking to all hospital staff, doctors, nurses, allied health workers and researchers to sign up as a regular donor and help grow the research profile of St George & Sutherland Hospitals. Remember the old adage “a little goes a long way”.

If 417 people donated $50 a month that would bring in $250,200 each year or if 1,042 people donated $20 a month that would also bring in $250,080 each year.

If you are interested in becoming a regular donor, please contact Jacquie Stratford by email at ceo@ssmrf.com.au And all gifts are fully tax deductible.
Operational Excellence Update

The implementation of Workplace Change commenced in September 2017. Late last year we farewelled long standing staff members Javed Akhter, Technical Officer, Sinead O’Reilly, Senior Technical Officer and Justin Joynes from the Sutherland Clinical Teaching Unit. We are pleased to announce the appointments of the following new positions in the new structure:

**Laboratory Research**, Level 2 & 3 Research & Education Centre - two new positions reporting to the Research Infrastructure Manager at the Faculty:

- Ms Shinoo Swapnil, Laboratory Manager
- Mr Saarin Pearson, Technical Assistant

**Clinical Teaching Unit—Sutherland**

- Ms Melinda Camporeal (nee Bresolin), new role of Education Support Administrator

**Clinical School Administrative Office:**

- Administrative Officer - Marina Margarian
- Administrator - Carolyn Green
- Administrative Assistant - Jamie Mills

*Hemaxi Ghelani*

**School Manager**

Administrative Office Shared Inbox

The Clinical School have a shared email inbox that all staff and conjoints can email about general queries and this can be actioned by any of the Clinical School administrative staff. This inbox is checked regularly by several staff members and ensures each query can be answered by the relevant staff member who is able to respond quickly.

**Email:** admin-stgcl@unsw.edu.au

Please email this shared inbox for any of the below queries:

- Level 2 and Level 3 REC security swipe card access
- Jenny Short room bookings
- Finance queries (for those with UNSW Research Accounts/Projects) – purchasing, invoice payment, reimbursement
- Conjoint queries
- Higher degree research
- ILP/Honours
- Marketing/branding templates
- School newsletter contributions
- Publications and ROS
- Research in progress meeting (memberships)
- Any general queries

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**Work Health & Safety**

The Clinical School L3 WHS committee is involved in stimulating a culture of safety within all areas of the school and ensures that any health and safety issues and concerns are raised and addressed.

**Minutes** of the last committee meeting held in February 2018 are on the School’s [website](http://www.stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au).

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<th>Representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Dr Lan Gong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ms Marina Margarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management Representative:</td>
<td>Professor Michael Grimm, Clinical Associate Dean</td>
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**Worker Representatives:**

**Laboratory & research areas:**

- Biological Resource Centre Ms Marcelle Dugo/Mr Ben Tuckfield
- Cancer Care Dr Julia Beretov/Dr Kevin Ni
- Gastroenterology Mr Michal Szczesniak
- Haematology Mr Feng Yan
- Immunology Dr Jian Cheng Qi
- Laboratory Facility L2 Dr Lan Gong
- Laboratory Facility L2/L3 Ms Shinoo Swapnil
- Medicine Dr Howard Yim
- Orthopaedic Research Institute Dr Uphar Chamoli
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research Vacant
- Laboratory Infrastructure Management Dr Shinoo Swapnil
- Surgery Vacant

**Teaching areas/Student matters:**

- Clinical Teaching Unit/Student rep - St George Vacant
- Clinical Teaching Unit/Student rep - Sutherland Ms Melinda Camporeal

**External:**

- UNSW Medicine H&S Co-ordinator Mr Gregory Maxwell
- St George Hospital WH&S & Injury Manager Ms Chris Carret
- Radiation Safety Officer Dr Erin Mckay

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St George & Sutherland Clinical School

Level 2, Clinical Sciences (WR Pitney) Building, St George Hospital
Short Street, Kogarah, NSW 2217
T+61(2) 9113 2292/2036 | Fax +61(2) 9113 3998 | E | admin-stgcl@unsw.edu.au

www.stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au

admin-stgcl@unsw.edu.au