Welcome to the mid-year St George and Sutherland Clinical School newsletter. I hope there is information within that is useful and instructive. Many of you are now in the throes of responding to reviewers of NHMRC project grants: I wish you well in this round; it's a difficult grind and I hope local researchers are rewarded for their efforts with a slew of funded grants later in the year.

Congratulations to Ying Zhu on funding of a Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Fellowship, and to Sylvia Zheng and Paris Tavakoli for NSW Health and GENCA PhD scholarships respectively. Larger project grants are one thing, but we should celebrate all of our junior colleagues who manage to compete with peers to obtain their own personal funding, well done.

You'll read more below, but development of the Microbiome Research Centre proceeds apace: Level 2 of the Research and Education building is being redesigned for development into state of the art laboratory and support space; MRC research grants are currently opened up for applicants; new staff are being recruited to do the work that multiple collaborations will bring. Exciting times, greatly assisted by the St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation.

Our students are charging through the year, with final year students coming up to their exams in September. We'll be in touch with you to help with clinical exams as we get closer to those dates – your support for these is greatly appreciated and invaluable every year and I’d like to thank you in anticipation for your assistance.

In our last newsletter, I indicated that a review of the conjoint appointments system was underway. For better or worse that's on hold for now, so I have nothing to report about any potential changes. However as soon as anything looks like changing, I'll be in touch to get feedback.

Finally, as many of you already know, the Dean of UNSW Medicine, Prof Rodney Phillips, has returned to the UK temporarily for medical reasons. I’m sure I speak for all of us when I say that we wish him a speedy and full recovery.

As always, if there are questions or needed clarifications raised by items in the newsletter, please contact me or the School directly.

Prof Michael Grimm
Clinical Associate Dean
Postgraduate Update

The St George & Sutherland Clinical School Postgraduate Student Program currently has 22 enrolled students (14 enrolled in a PhD and 8 in Masters).

We welcome the following new PhD students 2017:

- Lisa Maree Hackett (Supervisor: George Murrell)
  Research topic: How ultrasound is used in the identification of tendinopathy in the supraspinatus tendon (Commenced Semester 1)

- Samuel Macdessi (Supervisor: Ian Harris)
  Research topic: Robotic-assisted Total Knee Arthroplasty. An analysis of clinical, radiographic and health-care expenditure related outcomes (Commenced Semester 2)

Congratulations to the following students on the completion of their PhD over the last 6 months:

Awaiting conferral:

- Manoj Saxena (Supervisor: John Myburgh)
- Naomi Hammond (Supervisor: John Myburgh)

Annual progress reviews are currently being held during August, September and November.

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 here.

Students are reminded to ensure their supervisors are available to attend the reviews.

Postgraduate Students - Dates for your diary

- Animal Care and Ethics Course - 18 -19 July; Refresher Course - 21 July
- Thesis Submission Seminar - 7 August, 7-10pm
- Induction for Postgraduate Researchers - 11 September, 4.00-6.30pm
- 3 Minute Thesis Competition - 13 September, 4.30 - 7.30pm
- Research Progress Review Seminar - 27 September, 10.30 - 11.30am

See also the Graduate Research School newsletter.

Update from Clinical Teaching Unit

Since our March update, 65 Year 1 students have commenced their hospital sessions. Accompanied by their GP tutor, a group of Year 1 students visited the wards – some of them for the first time – to learn the skills of history taking and communication with patients.

All Phase 2 students are well and truly settled in their clinical activities across various departments. They will have term break from 26th June before resuming their study on 17th July.

A new group of Year 5 students commenced their medicine and surgical terms in May, whilst Year 6 students started various terms across the hospitals.

Joanna Tjojoatmodjo from St George Clinical Teaching Unit recently attended the Student Service Centre Conference at Macquarie University to learn from other Universities some of the best practices aimed at improving student experience. Improving student experience is a continuing process and we will keep working on some new initiatives.

We also welcome our new Student Admin Assistant, Michael Davidson, who will commence with the St George CTU on 17 July 2017. Michael comes from student support background in OPEN Colleges Australia and has a background in primary school education.

CONJOINTS NEEDED TO ASSIST IN PHASE 3 (YEAR 6) MEDICAL EXAMS:

St George Hospital
  - September 13th, 14th, 19th and 26th
  - contact Joanna Tjojoatmodjo djuniah@unsw.edu.au

Sutherland Hospital
  - September 14th, 19th and 26th
  - contact Justin Joynes j.joynes@unsw.edu.au

Joanna Tjojoatmodjo/ Michael Davidson
St George CTU
Justin Joynes
Sutherland CTU
Research in Progress Meetings 2017

It has been a very exciting first half of the year with our program filled to the brim with basic science and clinical research from a wide range of areas. To kick off the year we had Dr Valery Combes from the 3i institute brief us on parasitic infections, followed by Dr David Simar and his student Nadia Amorim who presented their findings on late complications in cancer survivors followed by A/Prof Paul Witting and his post-doc Dr Belal Chami who presented on myocardial infarcts and colitis.

We were delighted to have Prof Kate Moore, Dr Christos Venetis, Dr David Ziegler and Dr Han Shen share their work on childrens cancer, fertility and womens health. In May, we had visiting international speakers Prof Sam Shulman, Prof Philipe Langella and Dr. Jean-Marc Chatel who gave fascinating talks on new anticoagulants and microbiome research.

When we slowly moved into bitey cold winter, we had Prof Margaret Morris and Dr Neil Youngson talk on their work on the microbiome in gut-brain axis and liver diseases. Our visiting Harvard scholar Prof Richard Stevens shared his latest findings on the mast cell in inflammatory diseases followed by Prof Nicholas Shackel who presented his novel bioinformatic approach to studying liver diseases and cancer. As usual, refreshments were catered by local Kogarah café Kaimaki.

Be sure to look out for our invited guests Dr Sheila Donnelly from University of Technology Sydney, Dr Tony Cesare and Dr Noa Lamm-Shalem from Children’s Medicare Research Institute, Dr Ben Roediger, Dr Patrick Bertolino and Dr Geoff McCaughan from the Centenary Institute, Prof Roland Stocker from the Victor Chang Institute and Prof Chris Goodnow from the Garvan Institute in the next few months.

If you would like to keep receiving email notification please subscribe here Otherwise, be sure to look out for the posters. We hope to see you there!

Fatima El-Assaad, Meera Esvaran, Freda Passam & Howard Yim

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Welcome new CEO and farewell Peter Christopher

In late June we farewelled Peter Christopher and welcomed our new CEO, Jacquie Stratford.

Grants

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR NEW RESEARCH GRANTS FROM ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Closing 20 July 2017

This round of 2017 grants will be specifically to establish outstanding research collaborations with and within the new Microbiome Research Centre (MRC).

The MRC will be a multidisciplinary research centre of excellence of national and international significance embedded in St George & Sutherland Clinical School, with newly refurbished physical laboratories located in St George Hospital.

The MRC will target FIVE broad priority initiatives aligned with core MRC divisions. These divisions align with existing strengths within our hospitals, as well as with priority research themes identified by both the Australian Government and UNSW:

1. Maternal/foetal health
2. Cancer
3. Critical Care
4. The Three I’s: Infection, Immunity and Inflammation
5. Mental Health/Neuroscience

A copy of the SSMRF MRC Grant Guidelines for Applicants can be found on the Foundation website http://www.stgeorgemrf.com.au/apply-for-a-research-grant/

Virginia Venckus, Executive Director
St George & Sutherland Medical Research Foundation

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.

The Committee held its 2 year re-election in March - new representatives are shown in the table below.

Minutes of the last committee meeting held in May 2017 are on the School’s website WHS page.

Lan Gong, WH&S Chairperson

Area

Representative

Chairperson

Lan Gong

Secretary

Marina Margarian

Laboratory and research areas

Biological Research Centre

Marcelle Dugo/Ben Tuckfield

Cancer Care

Julia Beretov/Kevin Ni

Gastroenterology

Michal Szczeniak

Haematology

Feng Yan

Immunology

Jian Cheng Qi

Laboratory L2 REC

Lan Gong

Laboratory L3 REC

Sinead O’Reilly

Medicine

Howard Yim/Meera Esvaran

Orthopaedic Research Institute

Uphar Chamoli

O&G L1 Pitney

Ying Cheng

Surgery L3 Pitney

Javed Akhtar

Teaching areas / Student matters

CTU St George

Michael Davidson

CTU Sutherland

Justin Joynes

External

Sinead O’Reilly/

UNSW Medicine

Gregory Maxwell

St George Hosp WHS & Injury Mgr

Chris Carrett

Radiation Safety Officer

Erin McKay

Researchers & HDR students: New ‘ORCID ID’

An ORCiD ID is a unique, persistent identifier for researchers that helps to distinguish your research activities and outputs from those of other researchers will similar names to ensure you get credit for your work.

This identifier would act like a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for researchers. It aims to connect researchers with all their research outputs, including publications, grants and datasets. All researchers will be required to set up an ORCID. The ORCID can be linked to your publications, grants, databases and author identifiers (e.g. by adding your ORCID to your Scopus Author ID and Researcher ID (Web of Sciences).

For instructions please email admin-stgcl@unsw.edu.au. See also UNSW Library - ORCID.