Welcome to the October edition of the St George and Sutherland Clinical school newsletter.

My first task is to thank those of you who helped out with final year clinical exams, management vivas and portfolio exams. These are intensive and require significant commitment for examiners, but it’s a pleasure to see the high degree of competence of many of our students shortly embarking on internship. Our students will return in coming weeks to complete their time in the Preparation for Internship term – a great opportunity for them to function as almost-interns without any further looming exams. Thanks also to those of you who have agreed to assist with phase 2 and phase 1 clinical exams over coming weeks.

We recently had a very successful reception for conjoints (see pages 4-5), including awarding research and teaching prizes to stellar performers. This is a gratifying event because it allows us to celebrate the contributions of our indefatigable conjoints in a semi-formal setting. Those who attend from the Faculty are always impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of the conjoints who are able to participate. On behalf of all the School’s academics and conjoints, I’d like to thank all the professional staff of the School who put together the evening.

Finally, I’ve made several mentions of a review of the conjoint appointments process. While this has been slow to evolve, it continues as a major priority for the Faculty. There have long been inconsistencies in the application of principles in addition to painfully inefficient processes, in conjoint appointments. A great deal of information has been collated about past “hows” and “whys”. Many ideas about potential improvements have been canvassed. Maxi Ghelani, from the Clinical School, has now taken over the Faculty project managing the review and improvements – she and I will be bringing any proposals to conjoints for your input in coming months. I hope by the end of the year, we will have a robust, clear, articulate and rewarding method for addressing conjoints’ needs and contributions.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and, as always, I welcome feedback on the various items that follow.

Prof Michael Grimm
Clinical Associate Dean

The past few months have witnessed a very exciting expansion of our research portfolio. The Microbiome Research Centre (MRC) continues to attract collaborations from NSW and beyond. We now have over 60 collaborative research projects across the five themes of the MRC. I am particularly excited about the collaborations in the Mental Health/Neuroscience theme with grants for schizophrenia and strong potential for grants in dementia. The dementia field in particular will see strong involvement from St George and Sutherland hospitals. The Cancer theme has seen new projects in breast cancer, head and neck cancer and, with the arrival of A/P Maija Kohonen-Corish, lung cancer.

Our links with the nutrition and dietetics departments at the University of Wollongong (UoW) are growing stronger with research projects on the role of diet and the microbiome in kidney disease. Our own Prof. Georgina Hold has launched the AIM study comprising a consortium of all the major IBD centres in NSW and ACT. The AIM study, once fully funded and established, will become an iconic study in the IBD field and will sustain a very exciting research programme.

We were very delighted to receive a $2M Federal Government grant to our St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation, to fund expansion of the bioinformatics team at the MRC. We have been able to recruit three new bioinformaticians who will support the stellar work being done by Dr Xiaotao Jiang. Once the visa requirements are satisfied, all three will likely start at the beginning of next year. Having four embedded bioinformaticians who are fully integrated into the clinical and scientific environment within the MRC would be a tremendous boost to our research capability, productivity and translational impact.

On June 21st, 2018, we had an amazing launch event for the MothersBabies research programme. This study aims to recruit 2000 women to investigate the role of the microbiome in pregnancy and its outcomes, including the health of the babies. It will be another iconic study that will define the global research agenda in this field. The precursor to this study is the MUMS study, which is funded by an MRC grant and has been running at an amazing pace, thanks to the hard work, skill and dedication of Dr Dani Susic, PhD student (supervised by Dr Amanda Henry and myself), and Amanda and Dani’s ILP student, Michelle Bai.
I am also delighted to announce that we have appointed a very talented Project Manager, **Ms Naomi Adams**, who will take the lead on running the MothersBabies programme commencing early November. The MRC team will expand greatly in the new year with several research nurses, post-docs, PhD, ILP and honours students joining us. It is all very exciting!

The MRC refurbishment project proceeds smoothly and the work is expected to conclude at the end of this year. There will be a grand opening ceremony in February 2019 and this will be attended by a very impressive list of dignitaries.

A few weeks ago, we also launched our brand new MRC website. Please visit our site at [https://microbiome.org.au/](https://microbiome.org.au/) and follow us on Twitter and promote the MRC (@MRC_microbiome).

I am so excited to see so many of you engaged in research activity within our school and I think this is a great time to be a part of this amazing development. It is our opportunity to inspire the next generation of clinicians and scientists and push the frontiers of medicine. I wish to put on record my deep gratitude and sincere thanks to **Ms Jacquie Stratford**, the CEO of our St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation, who has worked tirelessly, often single handed, to make things happen for us. I also wish to thank my dedicated and wonderful core team of the MRC led by **Dr Fatima El-Assaad**, our Senior Research Associate, who has been the engine driving our success. Thank you all.

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

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**Update from Clinical Teaching Unit**

**Staffing Changes**

To better improve the service and operations of the teaching units, we recently made some changes to the positions and have been successful in recruiting **Deborah Broder** to the newly created position of **Team Leader, Education Support**. Deborah has many years’ experience at UNSW, most recently in the Discipline of Paediatrics in the School of Women’s & Children’s Health. Deborah will lead and oversee the operations at both St George and Sutherland Teaching Units. She will be based primarily at St George and will also spend time at Sutherland. We have also created a new position at Sutherland teaching unit. **Susan Nicholls** recently commenced in the role of **Education Support Assistant**, assisting the Education Support Administrator Melinda Camporeale. Susan will also spend some time helping out at St George.

**Kevin Tunney** has done a fantastic job keeping the St George CTU running in recent months, and we are pleased he will stay on until the end of the year as **Education Support Administrator**. Due to visa restrictions he won’t be able to stay beyond December. Recruitment is currently underway for a continuing replacement, as well as a maternity leave replacement for **Melinda Camporeale** as she embarks on a new chapter in her life from late November. We appreciate your patience and support in the upcoming months during this extremely busy time.

**End of year Examinations**

While our new staff are busy learning the myriad of tasks associated with delivering the undergraduate medicine program, they have also had to dive head first into exam preparation. Exams kicked off in September with Phase 3 (Year 6) clinical exams, VIVA and portfolio exams.

Exam preparation is currently underway for the upcoming **Phase 2 and Phase 1 exams** which will be held in late November at both St George & Sutherland Hospitals.

A very big thank you to all staff who participated and contributed to the success of the exam process - we could not do this without your commitment and dedication.

**Examiners needed**

We will again be asking for your help for the following examinations:

- **Phase 2 (Years 3) ICE clinical examinations** – Thurs 22 & Friday 23 November (both St George and Sutherland CTUs)
- **Phase 1 (Year 2) OSCE examinations** - Tuesday 27, Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 November (St George CTU)

CTU staff have sent out emails asking for everyone’s availability. If you do meet a patient with an interesting history or good clinical signs who would be happy to be involved in the clinical exams please let us know.

The Year 6 students will commence their **PRINT term** (Preparation for Internship) on 8 October before they go on to graduate later this year.

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**ST GEORGE CTU**

Deborah Broder—x32709  
Education Support Team Leader (St George & Sutherland)  
(9113 2709)

Kevin Tunney – x32022  
Education Support Administrator  
(9113 2022)

**SUTHERLAND CTU**

Melinda Camporeale x37946  
Education Support Administrator  
(9540 7946)

Susan Nicholls x37597  
Education Support Assistant  
(9540 7597)
The St George & Sutherland Clinical School Postgraduate Student Program currently has 23 enrolled students (19 PhD and 4 Masters).

We welcome the following new students in Semester 2:
- Wentian LI (Supervisor: Ashish Diwan)
  Research topic: *Smad Signalling pathway in intervertebral Disc Degeneration (PhD)*
- Ji TU (Supervisor: Ashish Diwan)
  Research topic: *Molecular Studies in Inter-vertebral disc degradation (PhD)*

**Upcoming Conferal:**
- Peter WU - PhD (Supervisor: Ian Cook)

**Annual Progress 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**
- Planning to Publish...First Steps—9/10/18—10am—1pm
- Extending your research—How & Why of Writing for ‘The Conversation’ - 17/10/18—12pm—1pm
- Thesis Submission Seminar—29/10/18—10am—13.30am
- Thesis Writing Boot Camp—17/11/18—9am—5pm
- Nature Masterclass - 9/11/18
- Animal Care & Ethics Course 22 & 23/11/18 9am—5pm

See [GRS website](https://stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm) for event details.

See also the [Graduate Research School Newsletter](https://stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm).

View the [Researcher Development Unit](https://stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm) Events and

**Statistical Seminars @ St George Hospital**
Stats Central, a statistical consulting unit of UNSW ran a series of seminars throughout August to September at St George Hospital. These were very popular and well attended. We would like to thank Stats Central and [Nancy Briggs](https://stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm) in presenting these seminars. If you missed out, 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)

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**Research in Progress Meetings 2018**
The St George and Sutherland Clinical School Research in Progress Meetings have had a successful run of seminars.

**Upcoming Seminars**
- **17 October**—Dr Tertia Purves-Tyson, Research Fellow NeuRA
- **31 October**—Dr Amanda Henry, Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, School of Women’s & Children’s Health and Obstetrician, St George Hospital; and Dr Bill Giannakopoulos, Senior Lecturer, St George & Sutherland Clinical School and Consultant Rheumatologist, St George Hospital
- **14 November**—Dr Peter Wu, Conjoint Senior Lecturer, and Gastroenterologist, St George Hospital

Subscribe to mailing list: admin-stgcs@unsw.edu.au
Website: [https://stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm](https://stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm).

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

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**New Conjoint Appointments**
The following staff have been appointed as new conjoints with the School since May 2018:

Conjoint Senior Lecturers: Freda Passam, Peter Wu

Conjoint Lecturers: Andrew Cooke, Matthew Miller

Conjoint Associate Lecturers: Alexander Goswell, Amit Sarkar, Amy Montgomery, Anas Naeem, Charis Tan, Chi Lap Nicholas Tsang, Daniel Ricciardello, Hayden Robinson, Jeff He, Josh Karpes, Justin Fong, Kaalya De Silva, Ken Cai, Lisa Hackett, Lucy McKenzie, Michael Krigstein, Michelle Chen, Mohamed Rahman, Muditha Nanayakkara, Peter Bowstead, Samuel Tawfik, Seema Channappagoudar, Susmit Roy

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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 May and August 2018 are on the School’s [website](https://stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm).
Conjoint Reception—Research & Teaching Awards

On 20 September we held our annual conjoint reception and teaching and research awards held at Novotel Brighton. Our winners

Teaching Excellence Awards

Registrar/JMO Teacher of the Year
Dr Matthew Davies (St George)
Dr Muthusamy Kaneson (Sutherland)

Consultant Teacher of the Year
Prof Mark Brown (St George)
Dr Benjamin Kwan (Sutherland)

Research Excellence Awards

Best Clinical Publication
Dr Peter Wu

Best Basic Science Publication
Dr Fatima El-Assaad

Dr Muthusamy Kaneson and Prof Sean Emery

Prof Mark Brown and Prof Sean Emery

Dr Benjamin Kwan and Prof Sean Emery

Dr Fatima El-Assaad and Dr Peter Wu
Conjoint Reception — Speakers

Prof Tony Kellerher
Prof Tony O’Sullivan

Prof Michael Grimm
Prof Emad El-Omar
A/Prof Peter Gonski

Clinical School staff L-R:
Kevin Tunney, Shinoo Swapnil, Hemaxi Ghelani, Deborah Broder, Susan Nicholls, Carolyn Green, Marina Margarian, Jamie Mills

Kevin Ni, Julia Beretov, Halina Leung, Uphar Chamoli
Don Pryor, Beng Chong
Hemaxi Ghelani, Valerie Jovanovic, Leisa Rathborne
The annual St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation (SSMRF) running event, the Beachside Dash, took place on Sunday 9th September.

Around 700 participants competed in either the two, five or ten-kilometre race, raising more than $60,000 for medical research programs being undertaken by the foundation.

Among the runners was Associate Professor George Mangos, Head, Department of Renal Medicine, and Clinical Academic at St George & Sutherland Clinical School (pictured left).

Jacquie Stratford, Chief Executive Officer, SSMRF, said she was delighted with the turn out for the day.

“Thank you to everyone from the clinical school and district who got involved in the Dash this year, helping to raise funds to continue to support important research at the St George and Sutherland Hospitals. We hope to see more hospital staff put on their running shoes in 2019!” Jacquie said.

Starting and finishing in Peter Depena Park in Sans Souci, the Beachside Dash took in the views of Dolls Point and Brighton.

The Beachside Dash will return in 2019 on Sunday 8th September.

For more information or to keep updated on the Beachside Dash or other SSMRF events please go to http://www.stgeorgemrf.com.au/

Jacquie Stratford, Chief Executive Officer
St George & Sutherland Medical Research Foundation
Join the Challenge!

We’re back for our third year and this time round participants can choose from 4 amazing challenges - a coastal walk, scenic drive, paddle up the coast or join this year’s scooter crew in the Shire, led by Cronulla Sharks Footballer Luke Lewis.

This amazing one-day event will raise much-needed funds for SSMRF and the UOW Medical Research.

Terms and conditions apply. See website.

WIN $10K IN OUR RAFFLE

Phone: (02) 8545 8888
Email: info@michaeltynanchallenge.com
Web: www.michaeltynanchallenge.com.au
Install AttendeeHub App using the above QR code, and type "St. George & Sutherland Medical Research Symposium" in the search tab to access all the details of the event.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:15am</td>
<td>Registration opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>A/Professor Christopher White Director, Research SESLHD</td>
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<td>The Prince of Wales Hospital</td>
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<td>8:40am</td>
<td>The John Edmonds Lecture</td>
<td>Supported by St George Hospital</td>
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<td>Stories from the Inside: Perspectives on hepatitis health care and research in the prisons</td>
<td>Professor Andrew Lloyd Program Head, Viral Immunology Systems Program (VISP) The Kirby Institute, School of Medical Sciences, UNSW Infectious diseases physician, Justice Health &amp; Forensic Mental Network Questions &amp; Discussion, chaired by A/Professor Amany Zekry</td>
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<td>9:20am</td>
<td>St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation</td>
<td>Professor John Edmonds and Ms Jacquie Stratford Chair and CEO, SSMRF</td>
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<td>Morning tea in the Lobby</td>
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<td>Poster Viewing</td>
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<td>Basic Science/Clinical Research/Students - Oral Presentations</td>
<td>Chaired by Professor Tony O’Sullivan and Dr Fatima El-Assaad</td>
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<td>Evidence Based Medicine – The promise, the reality</td>
<td>Professor Cynthia Farquhar Postgraduate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology University of Auckland, New Zealand Coordinating Editor, Cochrane Menstrual Disorders and Subfertility Group Questions &amp; Discussion, chaired by Professor Michael Chapman</td>
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<td>11:20am</td>
<td>The Watson Memorial Lecture</td>
<td>Supported by Clinical School, UNSW</td>
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<td>Microbiome Research Centre Update</td>
<td>Professor Emad El-Omar and MRC Researchers Editor in Chief, GUT St George &amp; Sutherland Clinical School, UNSW St George Hospital Questions &amp; discussion, chaired by Professor John Edmonds</td>
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<td>The Hastings Memorial Lecture</td>
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<td>Microbiome Research Centre Update</td>
<td>Associate Professor Chris White</td>
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<td>St George &amp; Sutherland Clinical School, UNSW</td>
<td>Presentation of Research Prizes Mr Bob Greenhill and Professor John Edmonds</td>
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<td>Afternoon tea in the Lobby</td>
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<td>Microbiome Research Centre Update</td>
<td>Professor Liz Lobb Professor of Palliative Care Adjunct Professor, University of Notre Dame, Sydney</td>
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<td>Symposium Close</td>
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