

Prince of Wales Clinical School Research Newsletter

Volume 2; Issue 2. November 2019

Welcome to the second issue of the Prince of Wales Clinical School Research Newsletter for 2019.

Following the first rounds of the new NHMRC Funding Scheme this year, the calendar for grants and fellowships commencing in 2021 has been updated. Most notably, the Investigator Grants will now open in October and close in November 2019. More details are available on the NHMRC [website](#).

The affectionately named 'Randwick Sandpit' is rapidly changing the landscape of the hospitals campus. Many of you will have been asked to engage with the various working groups and sub-working groups being established for the Randwick Precinct. You may be experiencing *precinct fatigue* however, I urge you to become involved and have your say on the future of the site and to also ask questions, if you are unsure or feel you've been missed from the conversation. Please reach out if you are unsure of who to contact.

Please join me in congratulating **Dr Adrienne Torda** who has been appointed Associate Dean, Education and Innovation, UNSW Medicine. Adi will be well known to many of you in the School. She has convened the Ethics element of the UNSW Medicine since 2004 and was amongst the first cohort of Education Focussed academics in 2017. She combines her love of teaching with a passion for innovation, evaluation and quality improvement of teaching and has introduced a number of novel educational resources to the Medicine program. Adrienne is an advocate for equity amongst students and staff and is also the UNSW Sydney gender champion 2019-2020.

I would like to welcome [Michelle Murray](#) who has replaced Samantha McFedries as Research Projects Officer for the School. Michelle joins us from the Medicine Faculty



where she was previously the Project Officer for the UNSW Medicine Themes.

Warm regards,

Professor Phil Crowe

Head of School
Prince of Wales Clinical School

TOW PRIZE

The 47th Annual Tow Coast Association Health & Medical Research Early Career Awards will be held on Friday 29th November 2019 at the Edmund Blacket Building, Prince of Wales Hospital.

Over \$15,000 in prizes are typically awarded, including travel awards for winners to present their work at a national or international conference. There are six different divisions of prizes to support work by early career investigators on the Randwick Hospitals Campus, including Ph.D. and other higher-degree students and recent graduates, physicians, nurses, midwives, and other allied health providers.

Applications for the award closed on Friday 18th October 2019.

Visit the [website](#) for more information.

CONTENTS

NEWS

CAN PARP INHIBITORS AND IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS IMPROVE OUTCOMES IN OVARIAN CANCER?

23 August 2019 | Dave Levitan | [Modern Medicine Network](#)

The combination of a poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitor and immune checkpoint inhibition with tislelizumab was well tolerated and showed promising anti-tumor activity in a phase I trial of patients with multiple solid tumor types, according to a new study published in *Lancet Oncology*. Ovarian cancer was the most commonly represented tumor type in the trial.

“Non-clinical data have demonstrated a direct association between DNA damage and immune responses, which supports the combined use of checkpoint inhibitors and PARP inhibitors,” wrote study authors led by **Michael Friedlander**, MBChB, PhD, of the Nelune Comprehensive Cancer Centre at Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, Australia.

“Tumors that respond to PARP inhibition might have an enhanced sensitivity to combined treatment with a PARP inhibitor and an anti-PD-1 antibody, and the efficacy and safety of the two drugs administered together deserves further investigation.”

[Read More.](#)

Dr Michael Friedlander is Conjoint Professor in the Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney and medical oncologist at Prince of Wales and the Royal Hospital for Women.

TEXAS ALMOST MANDATED AN HPV VACCINE BEFORE POLITICS GOT IN THE WAY. NOW, THE STATE HAS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S HIGHEST RATES OF CERVICAL CANCER

12 August 2019 | Edgar Walters | [The Texas Tribune](#)

The state's approach stands in stark contrast to that of Australia, where leaders have successfully pushed a nationwide program that has made a sizable dent in cervical cancer rates.

In 2007, two governments set into motion a massive public health experiment.

One was the state of Texas, where lawmakers rejected a mandate to vaccinate adolescent girls against human papillomavirus, or HPV, a near-ubiquitous sexually transmitted infection that causes cervical cancer. For more than a decade since, the number of Texas adolescents vaccinated against HPV has remained low.

On the other side of the globe, Australia, a country with roughly the same size population and economy as Texas, was taking a radically different approach. Public health leaders there rolled out a nationwide

program that offered the HPV vaccine to girls for free at their schools. The program, though optional, proved popular, and it later expanded to boys. Vaccine coverage grew rapidly, with up to 80% of teens becoming immunized over the next decade.

Now, 12 years after Texas and Australia first veered onto wildly different courses regarding HPV prevention, their gap in health outcomes has widened demonstrably. Australia is on track to become the first country to eliminate cervical cancer, perhaps within a decade. Texas, meanwhile, has hardly made a dent in its rate of cervical cancer — which remains one of the highest in the United States, with an incidence comparable to that of some developing countries.

Medical experts in both Texas and Australia say the results underscore the effectiveness of widely available vaccines and cancer screenings.

“From the beginning, I think the [Australian] government successfully positioned the advent of HPV vaccination as a wonderful package that had a beneficial effect for the population,” said **Karen Canfell**, a cancer epidemiologist with the Cancer Council Australia. “It was celebrated for that reason, and it was a great public health success.”

[Read More.](#)

Dr Karen Canfell is Conjoint Professor in the Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney and an author on this paper. She is also Director of the Cancer Research Division at [Cancer Council NSW](#).

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS PLAYERS VISIT DIALYSIS PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL

31 July 2019 | Antony Field | [Southern Courier](#)

South Sydney Rabbitohs players have thrilled dialysis patients at Prince of Wales Hospital by dropping by for a visit and supporting the campaign for organ donors.

Prince of Wales Hospital transplant surgeon **Dr Shannon Thomas** said the visit was really uplifting for patients and staff with the hope more people will be encouraged to register to become organ donors.

“It can be really tough for patients who have to be hooked up to dialysis machines for hours at a time, sometimes several times a week, while they're waiting for a healthy kidney,” Dr Thomas said.

“It is difficult for them to carry on normal activities, even hold down regular work.”

[Read More.](#)

Dr Shannon Thomas is Conjoint Senior Lecturer in the Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney.

CAN TARGETED LUNG CANCER SCREENING SAVE THOUSANDS OF AUSTRALIAN LIVES?

31 July 2019 | Janelle Miles | [The Courier-Mail](#)

Australia could lead the world with a new early-detection program for lung cancer that has the potential to save thousands of lives.

Thoracic physician Kwun Fong, based at The Prince Charles Hospital, is heading the Australian leg of an international trial that is hoped will be the forerunner of a targeted national lung cancer screening program, which would be a world first.

Because the cost of screening all Australian smokers and ex-smokers for lung cancer would be prohibitive, the experts' hope is the research will identify key information that will pinpoint the people most likely to benefit from regular CT scans for lung cancer.

Although lung cancer is estimated to kill 9000 Australians this year — 60 per cent more than bowel cancer, the second biggest cause of cancer deaths — an Australian Government committee recommended against lung cancer screening in 2015.

But writing in the latest issue of *Public Health Research and Practice*, published by the Sax Institute, cancer experts said evidence was strengthening into the effectiveness of lung cancer screening.

Cancer Council Australia's screening and immunisation committee chairwoman **Karen Canfell**, who edited the issue, said researchers needed to identify the most appropriate group of people to screen for lung cancer to "maximise benefit".

[Read More.](#)

Dr Karen Canfell is Conjoint Professor, Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney and an author on this paper. She is also Director of the Cancer Research Division at Cancer Council NSW.

DOCTOR GRANTED FELLOWSHIP TO RESEARCH CANCERS OF HEAD, NECK EAR AND NOSE

28 July 2019 | Annette Sharp | [The Sunday Telegraph](#)

One of the most challenging and under-funded areas of cancer research is about to get a massive boost thanks to a top young Sydney doctor and a medical foundation.

Dr Anders Sideris will spend 12 months researching his passion — cancers of the head and neck, ear, nose and throat — after being granted a fellowship from the newly established Head and Neck Foundation in conjunction with the Prince of Wales Hospital.

"Head and neck cancer is underfunded and the outcomes, compared to other cancers, are poor and not much progress has been made in the area for the

past, say 30 years," Dr Sideris said.

"I studied medicine at the University of Newcastle where I became interested in head and neck cancer during the two years of my internship and residency.

"I was exposed to different types of surgery — everything from vascular surgery to general surgery to plastic surgery — and ear, nose throat, head and neck surgery — and head and neck stuck out because it's one of the most challenging. Operating on this cancer is challenging — and it's an area of real need."

[Read More.](#)

Dr Anders Sideris is Conjoint Associate Lecturer and a Masters student in the Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney.

'BAD SCIENCE': AUSTRALIAN STUDIES FOUND TO BE UNRELIABLE, COMPROMISED

22 July 2019 | Liam Mannix | [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

Hundreds of scientific research papers published by Australian scientists have been found to be unreliable or compromised, fuelling calls for a national science watchdog.

For the first time, a team of science writers behind Retraction Watch has put together a database of compromised scientific research in Australia.

"The public should be concerned. Almost 250 [papers], that's a number that many people would find unconscionably high," said Professor Simon Gandevia, deputy director of Neuroscience Research Australia.

"The public should be aware the bulk of medical research in Australia is paid for by the taxpayer. You are paying for this."

Professor Gandevia and Professor Vaux have been campaigning to establish an Australian Office of Research Integrity – essentially a bad science watchdog, empowered to investigate academics.

They took the proposal to Health Minister Greg Hunt 18 months ago, and believed he was supportive.

But the proposal has stalled, which the professors attribute to strong opposition from Universities Australia.

[Read More.](#)

Dr Simon Gandevia is Conjoint Professor & Senior Principal Research Fellow, Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney and Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA).

MORE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS ARE DEVELOPING BOWEL CANCER. SCIENTISTS ARE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY

19 June 2019 | Kimberly Gillan | [9Honey](#)

Bowel cancer has long been thought of as an over-fifties disease — but rates in younger Australians are rising by 9.3 percent per year, and experts are trying to work out why.

More than 16,000 cases of bowel cancer are diagnosed in Australia each year – that's 300 per week – and of those, 108 will die.

"When I was in medical school, it was rare as rare [and now] young people, and probably their parents and GPs, don't expect young people to get bowel cancer," **Associate Professor Graham Newstead**, director of Bowel Cancer Australia, tells Coach.

"[Death rates for people in their sixties] are reducing because we're finding them earlier because of screening, and we're curing them. But the incidence of mortality in the younger group is increasing because we haven't been screening them."

Researchers aren't certain exactly why bowel cancer rates are increasing in younger people, although it broadly correlates with rising obesity rates.

Even still, Associate Professor Newstead says he sees people under 50, and sometimes in their twenties, who are quite healthy being diagnosed with bowel cancer. He puts it down to modern food growing and processing practices disrupting our gut bacteria and causing mutations in our bowel.

"We're eating foods that have got preservatives and additives in them, grown under very different conditions to when we used to go out in the garden [by] sticking some carrot seeds in the ground and growing a carrot to eat," he says.

"Cows are meant to eat grass not grain, so they get bloated and to fix the bloat, they give them antibacterial agents. Then we eat the meat and they've got some residual antibiotics in them and that changes our gut microbiome, the flora lining our gut, in which the cells lining our colon live."

[Read More.](#)

***Dr Graham Newstead**, Conjoint Associate Professor, Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney.*

FROM PELVIC MESH TO MEDICATION: THE LATEST ON BLADDER CONTROL TREATMENTS

17 June 2019 | [Starts at 60](#)

When we think about the most prevalent health issues affecting Australians, conditions like cancer, arthritis and heart disease often come to mind. But there's another issue affecting millions of Australians: bladder leakage.

There are 4.2 million Australians living with bladder leakage and many of them are suffering in silence. While bladder leakage and incontinence isn't a topic that many people feel comfortable talking about openly, there are thankfully effective treatments that can reduce the severity of leakage and even put an end to it once and for all.

Stress and urge incontinence are the two most common types of bladder leakage. Stress incontinence refers to leakage triggered by a cough, sneeze or a strain, while urge incontinence is where people experience a sudden and uncontrollable urge to urinate.

"They're quite different. As a result, there's a whole bunch of different treatments for each," **Dr Tom Jarvis**, Urological Surgeon at Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital, tells Starts at 60.

Medication is typically prescribed as part of a wider treatment plan to combat bladder leakage.

"We normally suggest that patients have tried all the other measures and continue to try all the other measures while they're on medication because we know the medications work better when they do that," Jarvis says.

[Read More.](#)

***Dr Tom Jarvis**, Conjoint Lecturer, Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney.*

RESEARCHERS SUGGEST A RETHINK OF "BANNED" CHEST CLIPS ON CHILD CAR RESTRAINTS IN AUSTRALIA

13 June 2019 | [NeuRA Magazine](#)

Research using child-sized crash test dummies has shown, for the first time, a potential safety benefit in using plastic chest clips on child car restraints, as they keep shoulder straps together, reducing the risk of serious injury in a crash.

Despite chest clips being widely used in the United States, they do not meet Australian safety standards due to concerns they may cause neck injuries in a crash. However, researchers at the Transurban Road Safety Centre at NeuRA have found no sign of serious injury related to the chest clips when tested on Australian child restraints.

Researchers reviewed real-world data from an American crash database to see if there were any signs of injury in children up to the age of four.

"We found that there was actually a reduction in the risk of moderate to serious injury of all types in children under one when chest clips were used properly," said **Professor Lynne Bilston**, Senior Principal Research Scientist at NeuRA.

This review of American data prompted Professor Bilston to study the performance of Australian car

seats in crash tests using the same type of chest clips used in the US. Professor Bilston and her team conducted crash tests using small child-sized crash test dummies at the Transurban Road Safety Centre based at NeuRA.

"We tested chest clips in frontal crashes, using a crash test dummy that represents the smallest child who would normally be forward facing," said Professor Bilston.

The crash tests were done at 49 km/hr in a frontal direction, both with a tight harness and with a looser harness. Analysis of highspeed crash test footage showed the plastic clips tended to slide down the straps during the crash, meaning they are unlikely to be forcefully touching a child's neck. There was no difference in the neck forces with the clips in place.

The results of this research will be submitted for consideration by the Australian Standards Committee to determine whether plastic chest clips might have a net benefit, allowing them to be supplied with Australian child car restraints.

[Read More.](#)

[Dr Lynne Bilston](#), Conjoint Professor & NHMRC Senior Research Fellow, Prince of Wales Clinical School & NeuRA, UNSW Sydney.

COLD AND FLU HOME REMEDIES VITAMIN C, GARLIC AND ECHINACEA CAN DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD, TOP PHARMACIST SAYS - BUT THERE IS ONE SUPPLEMENT PROVEN TO WORK

3 June 2019 | Mark Brook | [Daily Mail](#)

A top pharmacist says there's little evidence 'natural' remedies for treating cold and flu actually work - and they can even do more harm than good.

Over-the-counter remedies such as echinacea, garlic and vitamin C supplements are popular during winter.

But Dr Geraldine Moses, from the University of Queensland's School of Pharmacy, said they are often ineffective, and can even 'interfere' with prescription medicines.

But there is one remedy which does have some merit - that being the immune-boosting supplement zinc.

But before people buy over-the-counter elixirs, Dr Moses told The Sydney Morning Herald it's critical for people to talk to their doctors or pharmacists.

The experienced pharmacist said she has seen several people experience bad side effects by mixing prescription medication and supplements.

'Every step of how drugs get around your body, complementary medicines can interfere (with),' Associate Professor Moses was quoted saying.

'The tablets and capsules (people) buy, they are not natural any more, they have been made in a factory. And that's where we worry,' Professor Moses was

quoted saying.

Former director of medicine at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, **Professor John Dwyer** advised people to not take natural remedies for colds and flu.

'There have been studies done on everything, and there is no consistent evidence that any of it makes a difference. There is no consistent evidence that anything works. And there is always a risk,' Professor Dwyer said.

[Read More.](#)

[Dr John Dwyer](#), Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney.

'DON'T TAKE YOUR HEALTH FOR GRANTED': WHEN BOWEL CANCER HITS AT 33

1 June 2019 | Emma Brancatisano | [10 Daily](#)

Samuel Fitzpatrick might feel the healthiest he's ever been, but there was a time he feared he wouldn't be there for his little girl.

The young dad was diagnosed with stage-four bowel cancer last year, one day after his 33rd birthday.

Fitzpatrick is not alone. While bowel cancers -- also known as colorectal cancers -- are often considered a risk for older generations, two new global studies have revealed they're rising significantly among those under 50.

A study of seven high-income countries, published in the Lancet medical journal this week, found the number of people in this age bracket diagnosed with colon cancer in the decade up to 2014 increased by 2.9 percent in Australia.

It is also up in New Zealand, by 3.1 percent in Denmark and by 1.8 percent in the U.K.

There were similar increases in those diagnosed with rectal cancer each year, while the number of Australian diagnoses of both types of cancers among those aged 50-74 dropped by 1.6 and 2.4 percent respectively.

The new research has firmed up calls from experts to lower the screening age for bowel cancer from 50 to 45, as recommended by the American Cancer Society.

Currently older Australians between 50-74 are offered free in-home screening kits every two years.

But experts are concerned young people might not consider the need to watch out for the condition, while doctors may discount that possibility when younger people present with health issues.

Associate Professor Graham Newstead, a colorectal surgeon and member of Bowel Cancer Australia, is treating an increased number of younger patients and agreed reviewing the screening age should be part of the solution.

"Most importantly, bowel cancer should not be dismissed by patients and GPs as a potential underlying cause of symptoms simply because the patient is younger," he said.

Newstead encouraged young people to learn about factors such as diet, lifestyle and family history as well as symptoms, blood in the stool, persistent changes in bowel habits, abdominal pain and unexplained anaemia.

[Read More.](#)

[Dr Graham Newstead](#), Conjoint Associate Professor, Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney.

THE NEW DROPS THAT COULD HELP SAVE EYESIGHT AND AVOID THE NEED FOR SURGERY

24 May 2019 | Gabriella Rogers | [9 News](#)

New eyedrops are being tested for a condition commonly known as surfer's eye with the hope of delaying or avoiding the need for surgery.

Australia has one of the highest rates of pterygium in the world, affecting one in every 100 people.

The fleshy, wing-shaped growth on the surface of the eye is often the result of years of sun exposure.

Surfers and older Australians are more prone to developing the condition.

A person who has a pterygium on the eye is also 24 percent more likely to develop melanoma on the skin.

"This is a disease that we believe is largely caused by exposure to ultra violet light," said Sydney ophthalmologist Professor Minas Coroneo.

"About 90 percent of professional surfers get this condition and in Los Angeles it's actually called surfer's eye," he said.

The benign lesion can cause redness and irritation, but it can also lead to vision loss.

"As it grows, it pulls on the cornea and distorts it and causes a form of astigmatism and in extreme cases it can grow all the way across and block your sight directly," Prof Coroneo said.

Current treatments which include steroid drops or other anti-inflammatory medication often have side-effects if used long-term.

Surgery has varied results in relation to regrowth rates, depending on the techniques used.

Ophthalmologists in NSW, Victoria, QLD and WA are investigating the use of eye drops that are reformulated from a drug called nintedanib which is used to tackle a type of lung cancer.

"The drug knocks off some of the blood vessels that are growing or most of them and also stops some of the scarring," Prof Coroneo said.

[Read More.](#)

[Dr Minas Coroneo](#), Professor, Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW Sydney.

RESEARCH GROUP UPDATES

ADULT CANCER PROGRAM: DR ASHWIN UNNIKRISHNAN

Dr Ashwin Unnikrishnan has been awarded a highly competitive, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (USA) Translational Research Program grant for 3 years.

Dr Unnikrishnan's project is one of 33 grants awarded from a pool of 266 full applications (following a Letter of Intent initial submission process) and reflects a <12.4% success rate. Congratulations Ashwin.

The project is investigating '*Beyond Azacitidine: Investigating new therapeutic targets for the treatment of Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS).*' Co-investigators include Prof John Pimanda (SoMS; Lowy), Prof Marc Wilkins (BABS), A/Prof Mark Raftery (Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre) and Dr John Zaunders (STVCS).

Follow **Dr Ashwin Unnikrishnan** on [Twitter](#).

ADULT CANCER PROGRAM: JOHN KOKKINOS, PHD CANDIDATE



John Kokkinos pictured with judges.

Source: Maja Baska

Congratulations to **John Kokkinos** who won the UNSW Sydney 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Final for his engaging presentation about his research into the treatment of pancreatic cancer using gene silencing nano-drugs. John is supervised by Associate Professor Phoebe Phillips, **Professor David Goldstein**, Dr George Sharbeen, Dr Joshua McCarroll, and Professor Cyrille Boyer.

PhD candidates had just 180 seconds, and a single Powerpoint slide, to explain their research in a clear and concise manner - and demonstrate why it is so important.

With \$3,000 on offer for first prize, the academic competition was fierce - as research candidates consolidated their ideas and distilled their discoveries down to a comprehensible bite-size presentation.

Mr Kokkinos will now represent UNSW in the Asia Pacific competition at the University of Queensland, as well as the international Universitas 21 final – a virtual event with judges watching video presentations.

View John Kokkinos' presentation [here](#).

CANCER CAG ANNOUNCES SEED GRANTS

Congratulations to **Dr Toni Jue** and **Dr Sylvia Chung** who were both awarded seed grants from the SPHERE Cancer Clinical Academic Group.

The E/MCR seed grants fund academics and clinical-academics up to 10 years post-PhD to lead new collaborative research with mentoring and support provided through a structured team. They aim to develop our research workforce and emerging leaders. The successful projects are substantive, cross-disciplinary initiatives with evidence of a clear pathway to significant external peer reviewed funding of any category to sustain and build ongoing research. The funds for these collaborative grants are sourced from Cancer CAG and SPHERE funds (where available) and administered by UNSW Sydney.

Led by **Dr Toni Jue**, '*Unravelling the regulatory mechanisms behind checkpoint inhibition in the presence of corticosteroid*' includes collaborations with CCI, SESLHD, UNSW as well as the University of Sydney.

Led by **Dr Sylvia Chung**, '*GBM-IMMUNOMICS: Glioblastoma (GBM) patient response map with spatial resolution of GBM tumour cells within its immune microenvironment partnering immunotherapy*' includes collaborations with CCI, SESLHD, UNSW as well as Douglass Hanly Moir, University of Sydney.

EDUCATION-FOCUSSED: A/PROF ADRIENNE TORDA

It has been a busy year for **A/Prof Adrienne Torda**, our education-focussed academic. UNSW Medicine has announced the appointment of A/Prof Torda as the new Associate Dean Education and Innovation. She was also made a fellow of the [Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia \(HERDSA\)](#). This fellowship was formally awarded at their conference in July, held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Adrienne will be known to many of you a long-standing member of the Prince of Wales Clinical School, who has convened the Ethics element of the UNSW Medicine since 2004. Adrienne became an Education Focussed academic in 2017 as part of the first cohort at UNSW. She combines her love of

teaching with a passion for innovation, evaluation and quality improvement of teaching and has introduced a number of novel educational resources to the Medicine program. Adrienne is an advocate for equity amongst students and staff and is also the UNSW Sydney gender champion 2019-2020.

Adrienne has been awarded educational fellowships by several national and international organisations, including the UK Higher Education Academy, the Australian and New Zealand Association of Health Professional Educators and the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia. She has also received grants for innovative educational projects and awards for her teaching.

In addition to her passion for education, Adrienne is a senior Infectious Diseases physician at Prince of Wales hospital where she continues clinical practice, contributes to local and national clinical research projects, as well as teaching and supervising medical graduates at all levels of training.

Adrienne's 'infectious' enthusiasm, together with her experience in teaching across all six years of the Medicine program and her deep knowledge of the rapid pace of technology-driven changes in education, perfectly suit her to the role of Associate Dean Education and Innovation in UNSW Medicine. In this role, A/Prof Torda will work with the Senior Vice Dean Education on innovative education strategies to enhance medical education and will also strengthen opportunities for Faculty teaching support and development, particularly creating educational opportunities for conjoint staff.

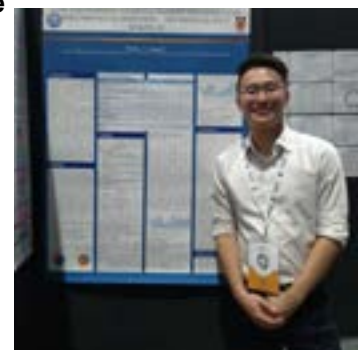
Follow **A/Prof Adrienne Torda** on [Twitter](#).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Vincent Liang completed his ILP under the supervision of **A/Prof Adrienne Torda** in 2018. Earlier this year he presented the poster - '*Low vaccination coverage against influenza and pneumococcal infection*



A/Prof Adrienne Torda receiving the HERDSA Fellowship.
Source: Twitter



Vincent Liang pictured with the poster he presented at ASID 2019.
Source: Vincent Liang

- *the message isn't making it*' at Australian Society of Infectious Diseases Annual Scientific Meeting in Darwin.

NEUROINTERVENTIONAL UNIT

The Neurointerventional Unit has secured HREC approval to conduct an off-label multi centre clinical trial of the Pipeline Embolisation Device with Shield Technology (PED-Shield) using aspirin as a sole anti platelet agent in difficult-to-treat ruptured brain aneurysms, with POWH as the lead site in what is likely to be an international study.

The clinical trial will be led by **Dr Jason Wenderoth**, along with colleagues Dr Andrew Cheung and Dr Nathan Manning. \$524K external funding has been secured for the project from Medtronic to assist with administrative aspects of the trial.

NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH GROUP (NSURG)

The Neurosurgical Research Group comprising the Neurosurgery and Pathology Departments at Prince of Wales Hospital has developed the first DISC histopathological scoring system, published in the [Journal of Clinical Neuroscience](#) in August.

The group sought to validate the clinical relevance of histopathological evidence of inflammation through a previously proposed histological grading system. Previous work in this area has been a controversial subject, with many hypothesising that disc infection is etiologically related to acute / chronic back / leg pain.

Our proposed histopathological disc score system is the first of its kind to systematically evaluate the clinical relevance of positive disc cultures obtained using previously defined aseptic technique.

The disc score system validates the relevance of inflammation and positive disc culture, finding that there is poor correlation between histopathological features and bacterial infection predisposing discogenic pain.

Modic changes, and randomised contaminant control group studies are necessary to answer the questions behind the relevance of possible disc infection with both C. acnes and other commonly identified species.

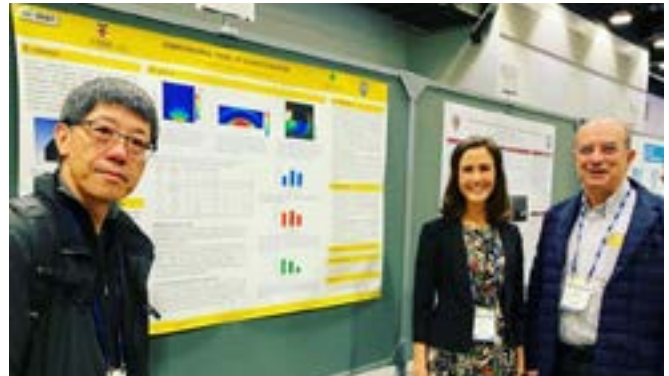
[Read More.](#)

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Three students joined their former supervisor, **Prof Minas Coroneo** at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting held in Vancouver, Canada earlier this year. This meeting is the premier international eye research meeting, the student's projects being accepted for presentation recognises the quality of their research.

Fiona Johnston completed her ILP with the School in 2018. She presented her poster '*Computational model of sclerotic scatter*' at the meeting. Fiona was

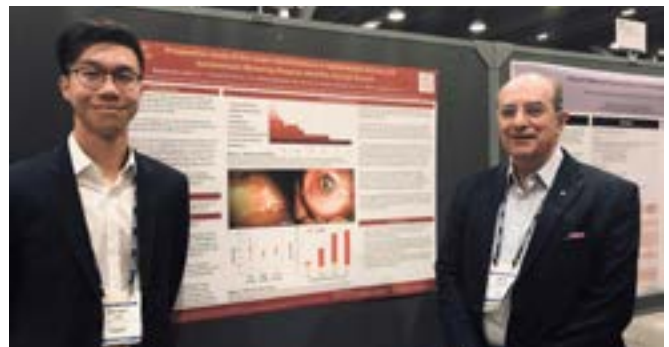
co-supervised by Professor Arthur Ho, Brien Holden Vision Institute, UNSW.



Fiona Johnston pictured with supervisor, Prof Minas Coroneo & co-supervisor, Prof Arthur Ho.

Source: Prof Coroneo

Brendon Lee completed his ILP with the School in 2017. He gave a poster presentation on the '*Prospective study of the ocular manifestations in Epidermolysis Bullosa and Autoimmune Blistering Diseases identifies Dry Eye Disease.*' This was a collaborative project with Professor Dedee Murrell, St George Clinical School. Read the abstract, [here](#).



Brendon Lee pictured with supervisor, Prof Minas Coroneo.

Source: Prof Coroneo

Dr Matthew Ip was an ILP student in 2014 and following his graduation from the MD, has returned to undertake a Master of Surgery with the School. His poster was selected as a "hot topic" for the meeting - '*Ocular surface squamous neoplasia, a now medically treatable disease spectrum?*'



Dr Matthew Ip pictured with supervisor, Prof Minas Coroneo.

Source: Prof Coroneo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPHERE CLINTRIAL REFER APP

SPHERE is developing a ClinTrial Refer App and would like to invite your trial group to join, and add your recruiting trials to the app. Please contact [Douglas Williams](#), who is coordinating placement of trials onto the new app. He will explain the next steps to take advantage of this free service to publicise your trials.

[Read more.](#)

TRIPLE I BIG IDEAS INITIATIVE - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Do you have a big idea in infectious disease, immunity and inflammation?

Is it a tractable problem that is yet to be conquered?

Facilitated workshops with broad stakeholders are available to provide independent advice and help in the development of big ideas.

Please contact [Rebekah Puls](#) for any further questions about the EOI to this scheme, that is now open all year round.

Download the application form [here](#).

TRIPLE I SECONDMENT / EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Triple I supports capacity building and networking for early and mid-career researchers across SPHERE. This is an opportunity to promote network development and researcher training by linking partner organizations, health districts and clinical/laboratory environments. Grants of \$5,000, supported by a detailed budget, are available.

Download the application form [here](#).

Application close date: 1 Nov 2019

Contact [Rebekah Puls](#) for more information.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

[Dr Daniela van Santen – Harm reduction revisited: the casual effect of harm reduction programs on infection risk among PWID in Amsterdam, the Netherlands](#)

Date: Oct 22, 2019 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Venue: Berg Family Foundation Seminar Room, Level 6, Wallace Wurth Building, Kensington Campus, UNSW Sydney

Kirby Institute Seminar Series presents Dr Daniela van Santen Postdoctoral Fellow, Public Health Service of Amsterdam, the Netherlands and Burnet Institute, Australia Daniela van Santen is a Venezuelan/Dutch infectious disease epidemiologist.

[More information.](#)

[Brett Tindal Memorial Lecture: Dr Kerry Chant](#)

Date: Oct 23, 2019 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Venue: Berg Family Foundation Seminar Room, Level 6, Wallace Wurth Building, Kensington Campus, UNSW Sydney

The Kirby Institute invites you to our special presentation Dr Kerry Chant NSW Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary of the Population and Public Health Division at the NSW Ministry of Health.

[More information.](#)

[Harm reduction for smoking: vaping and other smokeless tobacco products](#)

Date: Oct 24, 2019 3:00 pm

Venue: Lecture Room 122, Building R1, 22 - 32 King St, Randwick, NSW 2031

An overview of harm reduction approaches for smoking cessation. About this Event Although complete abstinence from tobacco and nicotine use might be the ideal, many people struggle to become tobacco free.

[More information.](#)

[FREE Public Forum: Strategies for Healthy Ageing](#)

Date: Oct 30, 2019 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Venue: The Juniors, 558A Anzac Parade, Kingsford

Older Persons' Mental Health Service, Eastern Suburbs Mental Health

Services, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District presents 'Strategies for Healthy Ageing', a free public health initiative to promote healthy lifestyles in the older community by providing an awareness of strategies to reduce risk factors for psychological distress and memory disorders as we age. Presentations will highlight current research on ageing well and include strategies that can be incorporated into daily routines.

[More information.](#)

[A Whirlwind Tour of Alternative Study Designs](#)

Date: Oct 31, 2019 3:00 pm

Venue: Lecture Room 122, Building R1, 22 - 32 King St, Randwick, NSW 2031

The seminar will provide an overview of less common study designs that could be useful in public health research. About this Event While most public health researchers are familiar with randomised controlled trials and survey studies, there are a range of other study designs that are less familiar, but which have the potential to answer research questions that might be difficult or impossible with an RCT or survey design.

[More information.](#)

[UNSW Paediatric Research Week](#)

Date: Nov 11, 2019 - Nov 13, 2019

Venue: Tutorial Rooms A&B, level 8, The Bright Alliance

Please join us for the School of Women's and Children's Health 7th Annual UNSW Paediatric Research Week this November. Featuring a full program of presentations from our Higher Degree Research (HDR), Independent Learning Projects (ILP), and Honours Students from the Discipline of Paediatrics and the Children's Cancer Institute, this event will display the best work of some of our medical research students.

[More information.](#)

[Half a Million Steps: Documentary screening and panel discussion](#)

Date: Nov 18, 2019 6:00 pm

Venue: The Roundhouse, Anzac Parade, Kensington, NSW 2052

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), Kirby Institute (KI) and Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH) are hosting a free screening of the documentary Half a Million Steps followed by a panel discussion at UNSW Sydney on Monday, 18 November 2019.

In October 2018, a group of 100 people participated in the Long Walk to Treatment, a Uniting Church initiative to raise awareness of the lack of drug treatment services in regional NSW. The Long Walk to Treatment was a trek from Dubbo in central-west

NSW to Sydney that delivered an open letter to NSW Parliament urging that effective drug treatment be available to all.

[More information.](#)

[14th GeneMappers Conference 2019](#)

Date: Nov 20, 2019 - Nov 22, 2019

Venue: Q station, Sydney Harbour National Park, Manly, NSW

The GeneMappers Conference is a gathering of researchers with interests and expertise in laboratory genetics and molecular biology as well as bioinformatics and statistics.

[More information.](#)

[Public Health @ UNSW Symposium: Harnessing Great Science for Public Health Impacts](#)

Date: Nov 27, 2019 - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Venue: John Niland Scientia Building (G19), UNSW Sydney

The Symposium will showcase high-quality higher degree research and early career public health research being conducted across Medicine and related centres and schools. It will feature the UNSW Medicine 2025 research themes of Neuroscience, Mental Health & Addiction, Infectious Disease, Immunity & Inflammation, Cancer and Non-Communicable Diseases.

[More information.](#)

[47th Annual Tow Coast Association Health & Medical Research Early Career Awards](#)

Date: Nov 29, 2019 - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Venue: Edmund Blacket Building, Prince of Wales Hospital

The 47th Annual Tow Coast Association Health & Medical Research Early Career Awards will be held on Friday 29th November 2019 at the Edmund Blacket Building, Prince of Wales Hospital.

Over \$15,000 in prizes are typically awarded, including travel awards for winners to present their work at a national or international conference.

There are six different divisions of prizes to support work by early career investigators on the Randwick Hospitals Campus, including PhD. and other higher-degree students and recent graduates, physicians, nurses, midwives, and other allied health providers.

[More information.](#)

SUCCESSFUL FUNDING

Congratulations to Prince of Wales Clinical School researchers who have been successful in receiving new competitive grant or contract funding for 2019. Grants currently under embargo or administered outside of UNSW Sydney, will not be listed. Grant information obtained from [Boris](#).

If your grant is missing from the list, please [email](#) Michelle Murray, Research Projects Officer.

Category	UNSW Investigators (POWCS Investigators in bold)	Funder / Scheme (Project titles only provided for non-commercial research)
Cat. 1	Delbaere, K, Lord, SR, Close, J , Herbert, RD	NHMRC Partnership Project <i>Engaging and supporting older people in fall prevention in the community: International implementation study</i>
Cat. 1	Juge, L, Bilston, LE , Cysique, LA, Rae, C, Burke, PG	Brain Foundation / Research Gifts Program <i>Early identification of cerebral small vessel disease burden in obstructive sleep apnoea patients using advanced magnetic resonance imaging</i>
Cat. 2	Butcher, K	NSW Health Cardiovascular Senior Scientist Grants <i>Extending the Time for Thrombolysis in Emergency Neurological Deficits with Tenecteplase (EXTEND TNK 24).</i>
Cat. 2 In Kind	Meiser, B	Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute / State Government Contract <i>A qualitative study to explore patient attitudes and system enablers to establishing a national genomics registry of inherited cancer syndrome</i>
Cat. 2	Thomas, S	Abbott Australasia / Investigator Initiated Study <i>The use of Interwoven nitinol stents to treat the Juxta-anastomotic Stenosis in the Arteriovenous Fistula</i>
Cat. 3	Barber, TJ, Thomas, SD	Abbott Australasia / Contract Research
Cat. 3	Goldstein, D	The Health-Science Alliance / Contract Research
Cat. 3	Goldstein, D, Park, SB, Simar, D, Ward, RE	World Cancer Research Fund International / Regular Grant Programme <i>IN FOCUS Exercise Trial</i>
Cat. 3	Jorm, L, Varcoe, RL	Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery (ANZSVS) / Research Contract
Cat. 3	Thomas, SD , Barber, TJ	Abbott Australasia / Investigator Initiated Study
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Parr, W	3dMorphic Pty Ltd / Contract Research
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Pelletier, M	Alphatec Spine, Inc. / International Contract
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Oliver, RA, Pelletier, M, Wang, T	Anika Therapeutics, Inc / International Contract (x4 contracts)
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Lovric, V	Device Technologies Australia / Contract Research
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Oliver, RA, Pelletier, M, Wang, T, Tan, C, O'Connor, J, Rawlinson, J, Mitchell, GJ	Double Medical / International Contract (x2 contracts)
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR	Foundry Therapeutics 1 Pty Ltd / Contract Research
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Oliver, RA, Lovric, V, Pelletier, M, Wang, T	Geistlich Pharma AG / International Contract
Cat. 3	Sorrell, CC, Mobbs, RJ	Medtronic (USA) / External Research Program
Cat. 3	Yang, JL, Wang, X, Goldstein, D, Crowe, PJ	Noxopharm Limited / Contract Research
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR	Nuvasive (USA) / International Contract (x2 contracts)

Category	UNSW Investigators (POWCS Investigators in bold)	Funder / Scheme (Project titles only provided for non-commercial research)
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR	SeaSpine Orthopedics Corporation / International Contract (x2 contracts)
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Oliver, RA	SIRAKOSS LTD / International Contract (x8 contracts)
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR	Spinal Elements Inc / International Contract
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Oliver, RA, Christou, C	Triumph Technology Pty Ltd / Contract Research
Cat. 3	Walsh, WR, Oliver, RA	XeroThera Inc. / International Contract
Cat. 5	Moses, DA, Goldstein, D, Power, C	Monash University / Australian Research Data Commons - Transformative Data Program Shared Grant <i>Bioimaging Bank: Linking Medical Imaging and Biobanking Data for Cancer Research</i>

NHMRC KEY APPLICATION DATES

Partnership Projects PRC3

Applications opened: 1 August 2019
Minimum data due: 20 November 2019
Applications close: 4 December 2019.

MRFF International Clinical Trials Collaborations 2019 PRSC3

Applications opened: 1 August 2019
Minimum data due: 20 November 2019
Applications close: 4 December 2019.

UKRI (MRC) Joint Call

Applications opened: 5 August 2019
Applications close: 16 October 2019

Investigator Grants

Applications opened: 2 October 2019
Minimum data due: 31 October 2019
Applications close: 27 November 2019

Investigator Grants: MRFF Priority Round

Applications opened: 2 October 2019
Minimum data due: 31 October 2019
Applications close: 27 November 2019

Development Grants

Applications open: 23 October 2019
Minimum data: 20 November 2019
Applications close: 11 December 2019

Centres of Research Excellence

Applications open: 23 October 2019
Minimum data due: 20 November 2019
Applications close 4 December 2019

NHMRC NOTICES

Self-nomination for NHMRC peer review panels in 2020

NHMRC encourages interested researchers to nominate for Ideas Grants peer review in 2020 within their RGMS CV & Profile. A guide to aid researchers in determining the most appropriate funding schemes for their expertise and experience is available on the [NHMRC website](#).

Investigator Grants 2020 Update

The Investigator Grants 2020 round is now open for applications in [RGMS](#). Further details are available on [GrantConnect](#) and the [NHMRC website](#).

In addition to the Investigator Grants 2020 Grant Guidelines, the following resources are available to assist applicants and RAOs prepare applications:

- Investigator Grant 2020: Key Changes
- 2020 Eligibility Web Tool
- Key Characteristics of Investigator Grant 2019 Applications

Invitations to participate in Investigator Grants peer review in 2020 will be sent mid-October.

NHMRC encourages members of the research community to contribute their expertise to the peer review process.

MRFF Investigator Grants

Applicants wishing to be considered for MRFF Investigator Grants can apply through the 2020 NHMRC Investigator Grants round in [RGMS](#). Grant Guidelines for the MRFF funding round are available through the scheme's Grant Opportunity on [GrantConnect](#).

Note: For the purpose of MRFF Investigator Grants, the definition of a clinician researcher is a health professional (including allied health professionals) who works directly with patients to do research on health and disease and to develop new treatments.

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATION LIST

Publications available online from April 2019-August 2019 with author affiliations to UNSW Prince of Wales Clinical School.

Publications are listed under UNSW Medicine Themes to illustrate how the Prince of Wales Clinical School is contributing in all areas of medical research at UNSW Sydney.

CANCER

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Brighton, T. A., Khot, A., Harrison, S. J., Ghez, D., Weiss, B. M., Kirsch, A., . . . Goldschmidt, H. (2019). Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter study of siltuximab in high-risk smoldering multiple myeloma. [Clinical Cancer Research](#), 25(13), 3772-3775.

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Hall, M. T., Simms, K. T., Lew, J. B., Smith, M. A., Brotherton, J. M., Saville, M., . . . **Canfell, K.** (2019). The projected timeframe until cervical cancer elimination in Australia: a modelling study. [The Lancet Public Health](#), 4(1), e19-e27.

He, E., Alison, R., Blanks, R., Pirie, K., Reeves, G., **Ward, R. L.**, . . . Green, J. (2019). Association of ten gastrointestinal and other medical conditions with positivity to faecal occult blood testing in routine screening: A large prospective study of women in England. [International Journal of Epidemiology](#), 48(2), 549-558.

Ho Shon, I., Gotsbacher, M. P., Guille, J., Kumar, D., Codd, R., & **Hogg, P.** (2019). Preparation of a dithiol-reactive probe for PET imaging of cell death. [Methods in Molecular Biology](#), 1967, 295-304.

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