



UNSW PAEDIATRIC RESEARCH WEEK 2014

The 2nd Annual UNSW Paediatric Research Week was held from 10th-14th November 2014 at Sydney Children's Hospital. The week included an array of research presentations and workshops.

Highlights for 2014 included the Independent Learning Project (ILP) Awards and Allied Health & Nursing Research Symposium, culminating in the UNSW Paediatric Research Showcase.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated their time to present, and review abstracts. Your support is much appreciated, as well as the contribution you are making to research on this campus. Also, thank you to the audience – we hope you found the week informative and inspiring.

Any feedback for improving Research Week in 2015 can be emailed to Samantha McFedries, Research Coordinator - s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au

ILP AWARDS

The high quality of abstracts submitted for the ILP Awards are testament to our fantastic supervisors, co-supervisors, and our students themselves.

Thank you to the judges who either scored abstracts or oral presentations on the day - the Awards could not go ahead without your help.

Results:

Overall Winner: Bernadette Cameron

'The natural history of CMV, EBV and BKV viraemia in paediatric renal transplant recipients receiving valganciclovir prophylaxis.'

Supervisors: Dr Sean Kennedy; Dr Fiona Mackie

People's Choice: Jasmine Chan

'Tacrolimus Use in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.'

Supervisors: Conjoint A/Prof Avi Lemberg; Dr Steven Leach

Finalist: Kenneth Chew

'The impact of nutrition on respiratory function in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.'

Supervisors: Dr Michelle Farrar; Dr John Widger

Finalist: David Chan

'Survey of patients and parents about the pain experience at and after discharge following appendicectomy at Sydney Children's Hospital.'

Supervisors: Dr Jordan Wood; Conjoint A/Prof David Champion

GOOD CLINICAL PRACTICE TRAINING

Thanks to the Sydney Children's Hospital Clinical Research Centre (SCH CRC) who held Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training during research week.

Good clinical practice is an international quality standard that is provided by the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH), an international body that defines standards, to regulate clinical trials involving human subjects.

Understanding GCP-ICH standards is important for all investigators involved with research using human participants, not just those involved with clinical trials. It provides investigators and their study teams with the tools to protect human subjects and collect quality data.

We look forward to supporting the Sydney Children's Hospital Clinical Research Centre in holding future GCP training in the New Year, for those who missed out during Research Week.

RESEARCH WORKSHOP

UNSW Paediatric Research Week, for the first time, included a workshop entitled 'Research or Quality Improvement Projects? How to make it work in practice.'

Continued on Page 2

WELCOME

Welcome to the 10th Edition of the Paediatric Research Newsletter.

Since the last Newsletter there have some great new additions: congratulations to Sara Savige, Steven Leach and Nada Mirkovic, who have all successfully produced babies. Wonderful news!



Congratulations to those who have been successful in this NHMRC round; it was another tough year.

Thank you to all of those who contributed so positively to our second annual Paediatrics Research Week and in particular, Samantha McFedries, who did an outstanding job.

I was particularly impressed again by the standard of our Independent Learning Project presenters. I am very grateful to Professor John Mattick for agreeing to be the plenary speaker.

On a sad note, Tony Roscioli is moving on from UNSW at the end of the year but he will only be down the road at the Garvan Institute and he continues on Staff in the Genetics Department at Sydney Children's Hospital.

I would like to thank Tony for his contribution to the Discipline of Paediatrics; I hope his new position will afford us future opportunities to explore collaborations. I am sure you all will join me in wishing him well at the Garvan.

I would like to congratulate Maria Craig on being promoted to a Professor; very well deserved.

I hope you all have a safe and restful break over the festive season and ready to come back refreshed for another round of grant writing!

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter and please remember to send any news or suggestions to Samantha McFedries (s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au) for inclusion in future editions.

Best wishes,

Professor Adam Jaffe

John Beveridge Professor of Paediatrics
Head of Discipline of Paediatrics
School of Women's & Children's Health

Associate Director of Research
Sydney Children's Hospital
Network
(Randwick)

UNSW PAEDIATRIC RESEARCH WEEK CONT'D

The workshop included speakers from UNSW Clinical Academics (Prof Adam Jaffe; Dr Keith Ooi), Sydney Children's Hospital Quality Manager/Clinical Improvement Officer (Laurel Mimmo), and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network Research Ethics and Governance Offices (Jillian Shute; Carolyn Casey).

The workshop discussed how to turn a clinical question into a research question; research project design and methodologies; and approval pathways for projects and support available: quality improvement approval, ethics, and governance.

This workshop was well-received by our audience, who found it interesting, informative, and witty. Thank you to the speakers for sharing their knowledge and encouraging others on this campus to consider conducting research and quality improvement projects in the future.

We look forward to UNSW Research Week 2015, tentatively scheduled November - exact dates to be confirmed.

Highlights In this Edition

NEWS

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Maria Craig who was recently promoted to Professor. This is a wonderful achievement and very well-deserved.



Professor Maria Craig is a clinical academic within the Discipline of Paediatrics and staff specialist in paediatric endocrinology at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Professor Craig is active in both teaching and research within the Discipline.

Professor Craig's research interests include the viral aetiology and epidemiology of childhood diabetes (type 1, type 2, Cystic Fibrosis-related diabetes and monogenic diabetes) including the association with enteroviruses in collaboration with the Virology Research Group at Prince of Wales Hospital, headed by Professor Bill Rawlinson.

She is also actively involved in research into diabetes complications - vitamin D deficiency and growth disorders (including Prader Willi Syndrome) in collaboration with Professor Kim Donaghue at the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Professor Craig leads the viral arm of the national ENDIA Study (Environmental Determinants of Islet Autoimmunity) - a pregnancy to early life cohort study. She is the Chief Investigator of the CoRD type 1 diabetes prevention study and ADDN - the Australasian Diabetes Data Network.

To view Professor Craig's research profile and publications, please visit:

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/associate-professor-maria-craig>

PAEDS IN THE PRESS

Discipline of Paediatrics Academics, Conjoint, and students who have featured in the media between September and December. These stories are stored on the Schools online repository:

<http://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/news-events>

SEPTEMBER

1ST SEPTEMBER 2014

- [Sydney hospital hosts major cancer trial](#)
Dr David Ziegler announces Sydney Children's Hospital to be Australian lead site in international trial investigating the use of a drug previously prescribed to treat African Sleeping Sickness.
- The Australian

OCTOBER

3RD OCTOBER 2014

- [End to HIV no closer as treatment fails to treat baby](#)
Conjoint Professor John Ziegler is interviewed after second case of a baby who was ostensibly "cured" of HIV after early treatment has been discounted as a possible breakthrough in fighting the disease.
- The Conversation

6TH OCTOBER 2014

- [Health students taste country life](#)
2013 ILP Student Lucy McMullen discusses Rural Appreciation Weekend (RAW) an event organised by UNSW's Rural Allied Health and Medical Society (RAHMS) for the purpose of introducing students to rural medicine and the rewards of country living.
- The Daily Advertiser
- [Paediatricians say mandatory detention is child abuse](#)
Conjoint Associate Professor Karen Zwi is interviewed after study published in the Medical Journal of Australia finds that 80% of Australian paediatricians believe mandatory detention of asylum seeker children constitutes child abuse.
- The Conversation
- [Detention "sanctioned child abuse"](#)
Conjoint Associate Professor Karen Zwi discusses why the Department of Immigration's recent announcement about the release of 150 children in detention is "confusing" and an attempt to "deflate the issue".
- The Medical Journal of Australia Insight
- [Migrant "abuse" can scar children for life](#)
Conjoint Associate Professor Karen Zwi describes the range of adverse childhood experiences that children in detention centre's are exposed to and the impact on physical and mental health outcomes in adulthood.
- IRIN Global

23RD OCTOBER 2014

- [The national incidence and clinical picture of SLE in children in Australia – a report from the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit](#)
The first ever estimate of paediatric systemic lupus erythematosus (pSLE) incidence in Australia finds similar rates to those worldwide, but flags shortfalls in the treatment of the condition. UNSW Paediatric Investigators included - Dr Fiona Mackie, Conjoint A/Prof Andrew Rosenberg, Dr Brynn Wainstein, Conjoint Prof John Ziegler, & Dr Davinder Singh-Grewal
- Rheumatology Update

29TH OCTOBER 2014

- [Self Improvement: Understanding the Human Genome](#)
Conjoint Associate Professor Edwin Kirk explains the human genome.
- 702 ABC Sydney (radio)

NOVEMBER

4TH NOVEMBER 2014

- [New CF drug provides hope](#)
Professor Adam Jaffe is interviewed about prescription medicine Kalydeco, which was recently placed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- Campbelltown MacArthur Advertiser
- [Marsden grants to advance novel medical research](#)
Professor Richard Lock is a named investigator on a successful Marsden Grant (NZ) lead by Professor Bill Wilson at the University of Auckland.
- Scoop Independent News

5TH NOVEMBER 2014

- [Green tea extract paving the way for less toxic cancer treatment](#)
Dr Orazio Vittorio discusses the anti-cancer properties in catechin, paving the way for a new and less toxic therapy for cancer.
- Cancer Institute NSW

8TH NOVEMBER 2014

- [Complex format may determine whether extremely premature babies live or die](#)
Associate Professor Kei Lui and Dr Robert Guaran discuss development of a new model for when to resuscitate premature babies.
- WA Today
- [How the Newborn and Paediatric Emergency Transport Service is saving children](#)
Dr Andrew Berry is interviewed on the work of the Newborn and Paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS).
- Sydney Morning Herald

9TH NOVEMBER 2014

- [Premature babies: Resuscitation guidelines are under review](#)
Associate Professor Kei Lui, Dr Robert Guaran, and Dr Parag Mishra discuss review of current medical guidelines that determine when to resuscitate and when to administer palliative care to premature babies.
- Sydney Morning Herald

13TH NOVEMBER 2014

- [New funding for Australian-first childhood cancer precision medicine centre](#)
The Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) has awarded Children's Cancer Institute \$1.5million for the establishment of a unique Precision Medicine Centre for Childhood Cancer in Australia.
- Children's Cancer Institute website

24TH NOVEMBER 2014

- [Babies evolved to last days without milk](#)
Associate Professor Kei Lui is interviewed regarding the survival of a baby dumped in a Sydney stormwater drain.
- News.com.au

DECEMBER

1ST DECEMBER 2014

- [Young children living with arthritis pain are waiting six months to get an appointment with a doctor](#)
Dr Davinder Singh-Grewal discusses diagnosis delays with juvenile arthritis.
- Herald Sun

4TH DECEMBER 2014

- [Australia lags behind UK and US for juvenile arthritis](#)
Dr Davinder Singh-Grewal is interviewed regarding the shortage of paediatric rheumatologists and the lag in standard of care.
- Rheumatology Update

If your story has been missed, please contact Samantha McFedries (Research Coordinator).
s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au | 9382 3038

JOHN BEVERIDGE ORATION

The 13th Annual John Beveridge Oration was held on 11th November at Sydney Children's Hospital. Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission spoke on 'health, human rights and children in immigration detention.'

Professor Triggs provided a thought provoking insight into the topical issue of children in detention centres, and the work of the Commission. Her focus at the Commission is on the human rights treaties to which Australia is a party to, and working with nations in the Asia-Pacific region to take a practical approach to human rights.

Professor Triggs has combined an academic career with international commercial legal practice and worked with governments and international organisations on offshore insurers, World Trade Organisation law and human rights. Professor Triggs' long-standing commitment to legal education builds upon the Commission's efforts to inform Australians about their fundamental human rights, especially those of children.

The issue of children in detention is close to the heart and work of the Discipline of Paediatrics, particularly Conjoint Associate Professor Karen Zwi who has visited the Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre.

A/Prof Zwi has been heavily involved in the research and consequent discourse of detainee's health, through her role as the paediatrician appointed by the Australian Human Rights Commission as part of its inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention, the RACP's spokesperson on refugee health, and the head of refugee clinics in South Eastern Sydney. Together with her role as Clinical Program Director for Community Health Ambulatory Rehabilitation Population Allied Health (CARPA) at Sydney Children's Hospital.

"At the time of my visit, there were 356 children on Christmas Island, most of whom had been locked-up between six to nine months. Not only are some of the children suffering from physical health issues such as

rotting teeth and fungal infections, they are showing developmental and mental health problems."

Also, at the time of A/Prof Zwi's visit there were more than 40 unaccompanied minors detained on Christmas Island – in her opinion the duty of care has been abdicated and the detention of children amounts to child abuse based on evidence that prolonged exposure to adverse childhood experiences makes for worse physical and mental health outcomes.

This is an opinion shared by many paediatricians in Australia according to a study published in the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) earlier this year.¹ In this study, 103/127 (81.1%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the Australian Medical Association statement that detention of asylum seeker children was a form of child abuse. Furthermore, 90/127 respondents (70.9%) disapproved or strongly disapproved of detention of asylum seeker children.

The study involved a questionnaire that was sent to paediatricians identified as practicing "general paediatrics" or "community paediatrics" in Australia and listed on the RACP (Paediatrics and Child Health Division) register. There were 139 respondents out of 343 eligible paediatricians (40.5% response rate), the sample was considered to be broadly representative of all Australian general paediatricians.

You can read more on the work of Conjoint A/Prof Karen Zwi in the area of children of detention centres on the Schools online repository of media articles:
<http://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/news-events>

¹ Corbett, E.J.M., Gunasekera, H., Maycock, A., Isaacs, D. (2014) Australia's treatment of refugee and asylum seeker children: The views of Australian paediatricians. Medical Journal of Australia, 201 (7), pp. 393-398.

UNSW SHUTDOWN 2014-2015

As many staff would be aware, since 2009 the University has shut down its operations over the Christmas/New Year period to minimise operational costs and to reduce the University's annual leave liability.

The University intends to shut down again this year from the close of business on Friday, 19 December 2014, with the University to re-open on Friday, 2 January 2015.

How the Shutdown will affect you will depend on whether you are an Academic or Professional staff member. For information on what shutdown arrangements will apply to you, please visit the UNSW HR website:
https://www.hr.unsw.edu.au/xmas_shutdown.html

Discipline of Paediatrics Office Shutdown:

- Samantha McFedries - Research Coordinator: 12th December 2014 - 19th January 2015
- Mary Hattingh - PA to Prof Adam Jaffe: 19th December 2014 - 5th January 2015
- Deborah Broder - Team Leader, Student Services: 19th December 2014 - 5th January 2015
- Melinda Bresolin - Student Services Officer: 19th December 2014 - 5th January 2015

CHANGES TO ROS

In October, a new grants module went live in UNSW's [Research Output System \(ROS\)](#). This module allows researchers to link their publications to the associated grants based on a feed of UNSW grant information from [InfoEd](#).

The grants module is being introduced in preparation for linking ROS to [UNSWorks](#), UNSW's institutional repository, which will streamline the process for uploading publications to meet the ARC and NHMRC open access mandate requirements.

If you link a publication to a grant in ROS, the metadata about that publication and the associated grant will be automatically sent to UNSWorks, once the integration with ROS is completed.

For more information about using the grants module please see the [ROS Online Guide](#) or contact your [Outreach Librarian](#).

Ph 9385 1012 | Email kate.dunn@unsw.edu.au |

EARLY CAREER ACADEMIC NETWORK

The Early Career Academic Network is an exciting new meeting place to bring together the energy, interests and diversity of Early Career Academics (ECAs) at UNSW Australia.

The Network is an initiative of the UNSW's Early Career Academic Network Executive Committee (ECAN-EC) who have collated the vast amount of information and resources relevant to ECAs at UNSW to create a 'one stop shop' with regular targeted news, networking events, and career support.

For more information, visit:
<https://research.unsw.edu.au/units/early-career-academic-network>

LYNDA.COM AT UNSW

Lynda.com helps UNSW staff to learn software, creative, and business skills to achieve personal and professional goals. UNSW staff have unlimited access to a vast library (2,278 courses and 109,000 tutorials) of high quality, current, and engaging video tutorials taught by professional teachers.

To login please enter your ID in the format of zID@ad.unsw.edu.au.

For more information, visit:
<https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/catalogue/lynda.html>

GRANT SUCCESS 2014

In 2014, researchers within the Discipline of Paediatrics, UNSW have been affiliated with approximately \$10.5 million worth of successful funding applications.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone on their achievements in 2014 - we are proud to share in, and celebrate your successes!

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR	OTHER INVESTIGATORS	FUNDER - SCHEME
Prof Jennifer Couper (Uni. Adelaide)	Prof Maria Craig	NHMRC - CRE
Prof Maria Craig		Diabetes Australia Research Trust - Awards & Research Grants Scheme
A/Prof Yves d'Udekem d'Acoz (Murdoch Children's RI)	Dr Nadine Kasparian	NHMRC - Partnership Projects
Dr Michelle Henderson		Cancer Australia - Priority-Driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme
Dr Hayden Homer (O&G)	Prof Adam Jaffe; Dr David Ziegler	UNSW - Major Research Equipment and Infrastructure Initiative
Dr Nadine Kasparian		NHMRC - Project Grant
Dr Nadine Kasparian		University of Sydney - Cancer Institute NSW Translational Program Grant Sub-Contract
Prof Maria Kavallaris		Cancer Institute NSW - Research Equipment Grants
Dr Jordana McLoone		Leukaemia Foundation of Australia - Grants-in-Aid
Dr Jordana McLoone	Dr Claire Wakefield; A/Prof Richard Cohn	Monash University - CA Support For Clinical Trials - ANZCHOG Concept Validation Scheme Shared Grant
Dr Manoj Menezes (SCHN)	Dr Michelle Farrar	Thyne Reid Foundation
A/Prof Kevin Morris (BABS)	Prof Adam Jaffe	UNSW - Goldstar
Prof Murray Norris		NHMRC - Project Grant
A/Prof Julee Oei	A/Prof Kei Lui	NHMRC - Project Grant
Dr Tony Roscioli	Prof Anne Cunningham; Dr Anne Turner; A/Prof Michael Buckley	National Institutes of Health (US)
Ursula Sansom-Daly		Cancer Institute NSW - The Premier's 'Rising Star' PhD Award
Ursula Sansom-Daly		Cancer Institute NSW - Early Career Fellowships
Prof William Tarnow-Mordow (USYD)	A/Prof Kei Lui	NHMRC - Project Grant
Dr Claire Wakefield		Cancer Institute NSW - Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow
Dr Jenny (Yingzi) Wang		Cancer Council NSW
Dr David Ziegler	Prof Michelle Haber	NHMRC - Project Grant

Please Note:

Not all grants listed are administered by the School of Women's & Children's Health. Our researchers collaborate with many institutions including University of Sydney, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and the University of Adelaide - amongst other faculties and schools within UNSW, therefore often funds are primarily administered outside of the School.

If your grant is missing, please contact Samantha McFedries, Research Coordinator - s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au

PROJECT TITLE	DURATION	AMOUNT AWARDED
Centre of Research Excellence for the Protection of Pancreatic Beta Cells	2015-2019	\$2.5 million
Charateristing enteroviruses that lead to type 1 diabetes		
Giving an adult life after Fontan surgery to those with the most severe congenital heart conditions		
MRP4 and MRP3 transporters: potential new targets in ovarian cancer	2014-2017	\$589,989
NanoString nCounter® Analysis System, an automated, multi-application, digital detection and counting system.	2015	\$366,500
Critical illness in children: Can we afford to neglect the psychosocial risks? The impact, acceptability, and cost-effectiveness of routine psychosocial assessment and stepped care for families of infants with heart disease	2015-2019	\$932,563
Management and conduct of a randomised controlled trial to examine the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of a tailored psycho-educational intervention for melanoma survivors at high risk of developing new primary disease	2014	\$53,000
Dual modality photoacoustic/ultrasound imaging system for preclinical cancer studies (CCIA)	2014-2015	\$350,000
Developing a national survivorship care plan for survivors of childhood blood cancer	2014-2015	\$48,874
Meeting the needs of Australian childhood cancer survivors: Development and pilot testing of a new e-tool	2014-2015	\$27,393
Spinal Muscular Atrophy	2015-2017	Embargoed
Activating cystic fibrosis conductance regulator expression: the therapeutic potential of RNA directed gene activation	2015	\$40,000
A novel molecular target capable of abrogating neuroblastoma development	2015-2017	\$777,098
To2rpid0 2 Study: Targeted Oxygen in the resuscitation of preterm infants and their developmental outcomes - part 2	2015-2019	\$2.2 million
Research into craniosynostosis		
2014 Rising Star PhD Student Award - Ursula Sansom-Daly	2014-2015	\$10,000
'Novel approaches to address barriers to care among adolescents and young adults with cancer: Intervention research targeting vulnerable populations.'	2015-2017	\$179,796
Does placental transfusion prevent death and disability in very preterm infants? Childhood follow up in the NHMRC Australian Placental Transfusion Study.	2015-2018	\$854,490
Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Research - Claire Wakefield	2014-2018	\$20,000
Identifying and targeting a novel self-renewal signalling cascade in leukemic stem cells	2015-2017	\$360,000
Targeted Inhibition of the FACT (Facilitates Chromatin Transcription) Complex as a Novel Therapeutic Approach in Embryonal Tumours	2015-2018	\$990,680

NEW FUNDING FOR AUSTRALIAN-FIRST CHILDHOOD CANCER PRECISION MEDICINE CENTRE

Children's Cancer Institute has been awarded a grant of \$1.5 million for the establishment of a precision medicine centre. The centre heralds a new era in childhood cancer research and treatment and has the very real potential to substantially improve patient outcomes and survival rates.

The grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) will enable the establishment of a unique Precision Medicine Centre for Childhood Cancer in Australia.

"From our many years of research, it's become clear that a 'one size fits all' approach to treating children with cancer does not work, said Professor Michelle Haber AM, Executive Director of Children's Cancer Institute. "That is why one in five children still die from their disease.

"The funding from ACRF will help Children's Cancer Institute, together with our partners at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, develop a Precision Medicine Platform to give Australian children diagnosed with the most aggressive cancers the best possible chance of survival."

Children with high risk or relapsed cancers have particularly poor outcomes and, for these children, there are limited treatment outcomes. Precision, or personalised, medicine represents an exciting opportunity to make major inroads into improving survival and quality of life.

The ACRF Precision Medicine Centre for Childhood Cancer will provide the capability for every newly-diagnosed Australian high risk childhood cancer patient, and every child who relapses following treatment, to have their therapy individually and uniquely personalised, based on a combination of genomic and molecular data relating to their own particular cancer, followed by monitoring of the response of their own tumour cells, growing in the laboratory, to specifically selected anti-cancer drugs.

The genomic revolution has given us unprecedented opportunities to study the underlying causes and characteristics of individual patients' cancers. With the establishment of the ACRF Precision Medicine Centre for Childhood Cancer, researchers will now be able to more accurately diagnose and predict disease outcome; provide earlier intervention; identify new treatment regimens; reduce toxic side effects of treatment; and, ultimately, realise the vision of saving the lives of all children with cancer.

"No such program currently exists in Australia and we are very excited to be at the forefront of changing the way children with cancer are being treated," says Professor Haber.

"This funding will be critical in helping us launch the platform for our Precision Medicine Program. Our goal is to be able to offer this program to every Australian child with high risk or relapsed cancer by 2020."

<https://www.ccia.org.au/news/new-funding-australian-first-childhood-cancer-precision-medicine-centre/>



CANCER STEM CELLS COULD BE EASIER TO TARGET FOLLOWING WORLD-FIRST DISCOVERY BY AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHERS

Children's Cancer Institute researchers have identified, for the first time, new properties essential to drug-resistant tumour cells that could revolutionise cancer treatment and reduce the side-effects of chemotherapy.

The study was published this month in *Blood* and is the first to prove that a key cellular signalling mechanism, essential to the survival of cancer stem cells, is quite different to that of normal, healthy stem cells.

The often debilitating side-effects of chemotherapy are caused by cytotoxic drugs that indiscriminately attack rapidly dividing cells – both malignant and healthy – including cells in the bone marrow, digestive tract and hair follicles. Understanding the different components of this mechanism in cancer stem cells will provide the opportunity to develop new therapies that will target these cells, while leaving normal, healthy cells untouched.

A critical protein called β -catenin is a key driver for the survival of cancer stem cells. The β -catenin pathway was identified decades ago, and since then drug companies have tried to target and 'block' it to eliminate cancer cells – but because β -catenin is located inside a cell's nucleus, the delivery of drugs via this pathway was considered impossible.

This study – led by Dr Jenny Wang, leader of Children's Cancer Institute's Cancer and Stem Cell Biology group – has uncovered a novel gene known as GPR84, which plays a key part in the β -catenin pathway and sits on the surface of the cancer cell.

"A gene that sits on the surface of a cell is much easier to target," says Dr Wang, "and in identifying GPR84 as one of the drivers of cancer stem cells, we're gaining a better understanding of the pathways they rely on to survive."

Dr Wang's study focuses solely on acute myeloid leukaemia – a form of acute leukaemia that is much more difficult to treat and has a significantly poorer prognosis than the commonest childhood cancer, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. However, as the β -catenin pathway is active in a wide variety of cancers and in cancer stem cells including liver, colon, brain and skin, her findings can potentially be applied to a number of cancers in both children and adults.

"Cancer stem cells can be incredibly drug-resistant and a main cause of relapse in patients – so it's critical we understand how they behave in order to target and eliminate them," continued Dr Wang. "By uncovering GPR84, we've made an important step towards this goal."

Dr Wang's study reflects Children's Cancer Institute's vision, which is to identify and develop more targeted, effective and less toxic treatments.

<https://www.ccia.org.au/news/cancer-stem-cells-could-be-easier-target-following-world-first-discovery-australian-researchers/>



NHMRC PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS COMMENCING IN 2016

TIPS

- Target the most advantageous review panel by carefully selecting FoR codes and keywords in the project title.
- Scientific Quality is 50% of the weighting and needs to be flawless to achieve a category 6 or 7 – therefore, you need to demonstrate that your project will fundamentally answer the research question with the data generated.
- Include pilot data!
- It is strongly recommended you use the Microsoft Word template (introduced in 2013) for your grant proposal. The template is available here: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply-funding/project-grants>
- Demonstrate why your team is the best team to answer this question. It looks good if you have published together already. It's important to be multi-disciplinary and include early career researchers.
- Provide detailed justification of career breaks.
- NHMRC now allow flexibility to use funds provided for Research Support Schemes to cover the gap between the SSP (previously called PSPs) and the researcher's part or total salary including on costs – therefore seek advice on how best to factor this into your budget for example:
 - Ask for earlier start date than anticipated i.e. Research Assistant budgeted to commence in Jan but actual date is July.
 - Ask for 1FTE but only appoint at 0.8FTE
- Justify the role rather than the person you have in mind for a SSP. Detail critical skill sets for that position.
- Recruitment of participants needs to be well justified particularly timelines, consideration of drop-out rate (withdrawals from the study).
- Don't use too many acronyms.

DON'T FORGET STATISTICS

Forty-three percent of project grant applications are submitted without a statistical plan or sample size / power calculation; have an inappropriate effect size; do not factor in drop-out rate; or include too many endpoints.

Therefore you are urged to speak to a biostatistician early on, and throughout the development of your application.

Not too mention continuing this relationship throughout the project and including them in your application as an Associate Investigator with x FTE.

Statistics need to be very clear and outcome measures must align with the project.

You will need to address variability of outcome measures and provide clear detail and rationale of number of participants / samples etc. chosen.

Make sure you provide enough information in your application so that your sample size calculation is reproducible.

There may be a biostatistician on your review panel.

A clinical study that is not appropriately designed or powered is likely to be unethical. (*National Statement on Ethical Conduct – 3.3.3; Good Clinical Practice Note for Guidance CPMP/ICH-135/95 – 6.9, ICH E9*).

Things to consider prior to meeting with a biostatistician:

- Variables for your outcome measures
Refer to variables as variables, not parameters
- Power
- Significance level
- What is clinically or scientifically important - “effect size”
Could be obtained from literature or pilot studies.
- One or two-sided test
- The analysis and statistical test you are using

BIostatistical Support Available

- Kylie-Ann Mallitt, Biostatistician is available to assist Academic and Conjoint staff within the Discipline of Paediatrics: kmallitt@kirby.unsw.edu.au
- UNSW has site licences for statistical software packages, available here: <http://www.it.unsw.edu.au/staff/software/index.html>
- Power and sample-size calculators are freely accessible online i.e.: <http://stat.ubc.ca/~rollin/stats/ssize/>
- The School of Public Health & Community Medicine Biostatistical Unit is available to provide a broad array of statistical services on an advisory and consultative basis. The Unit runs on a cost-recovery basis for clients within UNSW Medicine which means that individuals will be expected to pay for the excellent service. <http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/centres-units/unsw-biostatistics-unit>
A/Prof Andrew Hayden, Head of Unit
9385 2734 | biostats.unit@unsw.edu.au

BUDGET BUILDING

The enhanced version of the [UNSW Research Pricing Tool](#) is now live. New functionality includes the option to use the tool to price Category 1 projects (i.e. NHMRC or ARC applications).

Further information can be found on the UNSW Research Pricing Tool webpage or by sending an email to the Research Partnerships Unit.

<http://research.unsw.edu.au/unsw-research-pricing-tool>
research.partnerships@unsw.edu.au

RESOURCES TO HELP

- Subscribe to Grant News
Email grantsnews@unsw.edu.au with 'subscribe grant-news' in the body of the message
- Research Strategy Office (RSO)
 - Strategic advice, application review, feedback – enquiries.rso@unsw.edu.au
 - Library of successful applications (contact Scott Hoggan – s.hoggan@unsw.edu.au phone 9385 5600)
- Grants Management Office (GMO) – mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au
 - Compliance and eligibility issues
 - Post award management
- YouTube – search NHMRC
- Colleagues / Mentors etc.
 - Ask for critical feedback on your draft application from colleagues in your field / outside your field / friends / family
 - Ask clinicians in field / area of research to comment on impact

ISSUES WITH APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2014

Issue	Examples	%
Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing plan • No sample size / power calculation • Inappropriate effect size • Drop-out not factored in • Too many end-points • No stratification / too much stratification 	43%
PSP Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not aligned with role or experiments 	26%
Translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak history of translation • Not clear view of possible future translation • No strategy for translation 	12%
Errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect citation, reference, point • Spelling, grammar, acronym • Inconsistencies 	11%
Timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing or incomplete (no staging) • Impact of significant developments not factored 	10%
Track Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak, poor or modest 	10%
CI / AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CI should be AI; or AI should be CI • Required expertise not present in team 	5%
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of innovation 	2%

KEY DATES

4 th December 2014	Applications Open
22 nd January 2015	Deadline for Citizenship waiver requests
22 nd January 2015	Deadline for New Investigator rulings
18th February 2015	Internal Deadline for Applications <i>All applications from UNSW Academic & Conjoint staff, and students must be submitted via the Grants Management Office. The GMO will ensure applications comply with UNSW policies and sponsor requirements.</i>
5 th March 2015	External Deadline for Applications

CONSUMER REVIEW

If you are intending to apply for Cancer Council NSW Project Grant funding in 2016, there is one thing you can do right now that will substantially raise your chances of being funded – involve a consumer in your research proposal.

Evidence over previous rounds shows Researchers who wait until the end of the process to involve consumers in their work are significantly less likely to be funded.

The Consumer Review Form component of a CCNSW Project Grant application is worth 50% of the final application score and ranking. Having a consumer involved in the proposed research is extremely highly regarded and more likely to receive higher scores by the Consumer Review Panels.

CCNSW recently completed the 2014 Consumer Participation in Research Training Program, resulting in 35 newly trained and eager consumers available to assist you with your work. These consumers have been specifically trained on how to collaborate with you to improve your research and your chances of receiving grant funding.

To apply to have a consumer join your research team, complete the online application form here: <http://www.cancervoices.org.au/consumer-representative/>

As consumer involvement is one of the less understood parts of the CCNSW application process, CCNSW have also updated their '[Consumer participation in research: information for researchers](#)' webpage.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact research@nswcc.org.au

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Cancer Council NSW's 'consumer review of research' process?

All applications for Cancer Council NSW (CCNSW) research funding undergo a two-stage review process. The first is scientific peer review, which is managed either by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in the case of applications for Project Grant funding, or by CCNSW's Cancer Research Committee in the case of other funding programs. Subsequent to scientific peer review, a panel of specially trained consumers score and rank funding applications using the Consumer Review Form, an appraisal tool developed from research-identified consumer and community values for research funding.

2. What is expected of researchers?

Researchers are required to complete and submit the purpose-designed 2-page Consumer Review Form, addressing each of the five consumer review criteria. Adequate detail in lay terms must be provided.

The Consumer Review Form must be completed in a manner which can be read as a stand-alone document and without reference to information provided in the separate, scientific application. Consumers generally do not have a science or research background, and are not expected to read or understand the full research application.

Every consumer review criterion must be addressed. A response of not applicable (N/A) is unacceptable, and applicants who respond in this way, or who leave a response completely blank, will automatically be scored 0 for that criterion. Cutting and pasting information from the original scientific application into the template is also not acceptable. Lower scores are invariably assigned to responses that attempt to 'baffle' consumer reviewers rather than answer in lay terms.

Researchers must substantiate imposing statements provided to consumers just as they would in scientific applications through appropriate referencing. CCNSW staff trained in science, health and research support the Consumer Review Panel. Researchers are advised not to include incorrect information in their Consumer Review Form, as panel members will be advised of such during the review process.

Applications that are assigned low scores in the Consumer Review component of the assessment tend to be marked down on Criterion 5, Consumer Involvement. Rather than simply stating that consumers will be involved, it is important for researchers to detail who is to be involved and show that there has been genuine consideration and planning for consumer involvement as an integral part of the research project. A reasonable and appropriate level of consumer involvement may vary, depending on the nature of the research being undertaken, but could include almost any kind of two-way interaction between consumers and researchers. Note that the researchers planning to disseminate their results to consumers does not constitute consumer involvement in a project; the project must receive input from a consumer. Likewise, consumers who sit on institution advisory group do not constitute consumer involvement in the specific project, which is the Cancer Council NSW requirement.

Researchers are strongly advised to refer to guideline documents outlining frameworks for consumer participation in research, including those produced by the National Health and Medical Research Council (2004; see http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/r33.pdf) and Cancer Voices Australia and Cancer Australia (2011; see http://canceraustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/national_consumer_framework_web_504af020f2184.pdf) to ensure that they genuinely appreciate who constitutes a consumer and what constitutes legitimate consumer involvement.

The website <http://www.involvingpeopleinresearch.org.au/> also contains a wealth of extremely useful information for researchers about how to facilitate meaningful consumer involvement.

3. Will I jeopardise my chance of being funded by CCNSW if I do not adequately address the consumer review criteria?

Yes. Funding decisions are based on both scientific peer reviewer ratings and the CCNSW Consumer Review processes. If you score high in the scientific peer review but poorly during consumer review, it will lower your overall ranked position and your application may be ranked below the number of applications that can be funded by the CCNSW that year.

Clearly, scoring and ranking highly in both peer and consumer review provides an application the best chance of being funded. Researchers are advised to address the consumer review criteria as carefully as the scientific methodology.

4. What if the research involves complex processes and terminologies?

It is in researchers' best interest to explain complex processes or names in simple ways, for example, 'the cell protein' rather than the full scientific name, code or classification for the protein. Consumers need to get a sense for the wider implications and societal benefits of the research rather than knowing the complex names or systems of particular molecular or other structures.

5. What if the funding application is for a small part of a larger research project?

When funding additional to that requested from CCNSW will be required to complete a research project, researchers should provide detail on the way in which the first stage of the research will, in and of itself, benefit society. Otherwise they leave themselves open to speculation that if future funding cannot be found it would be a waste of money to fund only the first stage.

6. Is lay involvement in ethical review considered consumer involvement?

A Research Ethics Committee constituted according to the NHMRC's National Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Research must include a layperson representative. However, ethical review and approval are not accepted as a mode of consumer involvement. Likewise, the requirement for consumer involvement criterion is not satisfied by the participation of consumers in the research protocol itself. Consumer involvement in research refers to active involvement in the research process, and requires that informed consumers are involved in any or all of the prioritising, planning/design, recruitment, monitoring progress, evaluation and/or dissemination of research findings.

7. Aren't we all consumers?

Informed consumers are those that understand the views and concerns of wider groups, such as members of Cancer Voices NSW, who keep abreast of current issues faced and the needs of those affected by cancer. Consumers who represent these groups are just as responsible for providing information to assist researchers as they are for feeding information back to their constituency. Research participants, clinicians/

hospital staff and/or the researchers themselves are not considered consumers in relation to consumer involvement and should never be described as such in the Consumer Review Form. This practice will ensure that the response to this criterion is scored 0 by consumer review panel members.

8. Can consumers be involved in basic (laboratory) research?

There is a role for consumers in basic research. Information on how to involve consumers in all research disciplines is provided in the reports referenced in the response to FAQ 2, above.

CONSUMER REVIEW SCORING

Please score the researcher's response to the Consumer Involvement criterion on a range of 0 to 7 (do not use decimals).

Please remember that any prior knowledge you may have of the researcher and/or their research should not influence your scoring: assessment should be impartial and based solely on the information provided in the Consumer Review form.

In assigning your score, please refer to the general guide to scoring depicted on the scale below and described in more detail on p.3, and consider how well you think the response addresses the following key points:

- Has consumer consultation into the development of this specific project already been undertaken?
- Have the researchers clearly identified the nature of consumer consultation to date?
- Has an individual consumer, or a consumer organisation, agreed to act as the consumer representative on this project?
- Are there formal processes/structures in place that link the researchers with consumers? For example, is the consumer named as an Associate Investigator on the proposal, or is the consumer nominated as a member of the project Advisory Group?
- Given the nature of the research, is the extent and type/s of consumer involvement appropriate? For example, it would be expected that consumer involvement in a clinical trial would be more extensive than consumer involvement in a basic science study.
- Is the nature of ongoing consumer involvement clearly described, including the matters on which consumers will be consulted and the mechanisms by which this consultation will occur?
- Have researchers identified the preferred approach of consumers for ongoing involvement in the research?



ARE YOU A YOUNG SCIENTIST WITH A PASSION FOR COMMUNICATING YOUR RESEARCH?

UNSW and ABC RN want to help you make an impact and turn your vital work into compelling radio programs and online features to reach a wider audience.

To mark 40 years of The Science Show, Top 5 under 40 is an exciting initiative to discover Australia's new generation of science thinkers – and give them a voice.

We know about the struggles of young researchers to get a foothold in Australia. This project aims to highlight the value and potential of our talented younger scientists.

We're looking for outstanding early-career researchers aged under 40 working in Australian universities and research organisations across the fields of science, medical research, technology, engineering and maths. A desire and flair for communicating your work is a must.

The 10 applicants with the most innovative ideas will be selected for a two-day workshop in February 2015, coordinated by ABC RN. Working with the network's experienced producers and science presenters, you will develop your radio program ideas and pitch to a panel of judges, including Robyn Williams (RN), Professor Fiona Stanley (UWA), Professor Lesley Hughes (Macquarie) and Professor Merlin Crossley (UNSW).

The five winners – our Top 5 under 40 – will undertake a 10-day media program as 'Scientists in Residence' at RN's Sydney studios.

This initiative is supported by UNSW, one of Australia's leading science and technology universities and ABC RN, the ABC's national ideas network, in recognition of *The Science Show* which celebrates 40 years on air in 2015.

Applications close Friday 16th January 2015 (midnight AEDT).

If you have any issues or technical problems with your application please email media@unsw.edu.au

Frequently asked questions

Who's eligible for the Top 5 under 40 scheme?

You need to meet the following criteria to apply:

1. You are an early-career researcher, which is defined by the Australian Research Council as having been awarded a PhD or equivalent within the last 5 years (excluding any career interruptions), and your research is in one or more of the following disciplines: science, including medical science, technology, engineering and maths.
2. You are an Australian citizen or resident currently working for an Australian university or research institution.
3. You will be under 40 years of age as at 31 July 2015, when the media residencies will be completed.

How do I apply for the Top 5 under 40 scheme?

Complete the online application form. The questions give you an opportunity to outline your aptitude and interest in communicating your research in an engaging way to the public.

Applications close Friday 16th January 2015 (midnight AEDT). If you are shortlisted you will need to attend a two-day workshop at ABC RN in Sydney on 26-27 February 2015.

The five winners, to be announced on The Science Show in March, will undertake their 10-day residencies at a mutually convenient time between March and July 2015.

Will support be provided for successful applicants who live outside of Sydney to participate in the scheme?

Yes. Shortlisted candidates will receive domestic travel and accommodation for the Sydney workshop in February. Any of the five winners based outside of Sydney will be eligible for domestic travel, accommodation and expenses for the 10-day residencies.

Who is on the judging panel?

Top 5 under 40 judges include Robyn Williams (ABC RN), Professor Fiona Stanley (UWA), Professor Lesley Hughes (Macquarie) and Professor Merlin Crossley (UNSW). Project ambassadors include Nobel Laureate Professor Brian Schmidt (ANU); Chief Executive of the Australian Museum, Kim McKay; RN's Natasha Mitchell, Presenter of Life Matters; the CSIRO's incoming CEO, Dr Larry Marshall; and marine scientist Professor Emma Johnston (UNSW/Sydney Institute of Marine Science).

More information:
<http://www.unsw.edu.au/top5under40>

To apply:
<http://www.unsw.edu.au/top-5-under-40>

2014 TOW RESEARCH AWARDS

The 2014 Tow Prize was held on Friday 28th November in the Edmund Blackett Building, on the Prince of Wales Hospital Campus.

The Coast Association Tow Research Awards were initiated due to the vision of Dr Wally Tow, a visitor from Singapore in the early 1970s, who continues to support the meeting.

The Awards provide the only common forum on the Randwick hospitals campus for junior investigators to present their basic and clinical research, and are intended to foster collaborations between clinical investigators and research scientists who are located at the many research institutes and hospitals around the Randwick hospitals campus.

On Tow Research Day junior clinical investigators and basic researchers present their work and compete for prizes in five Divisions: Open Senior; Open Junior; Clinical; Case Presentations; and two Poster Prizes. A prize for the most highly ranked Nurse/Midwife in any division is also awarded.

The Tow Awards are traditionally sponsored by the various hospitals and foundations around the Randwick campus that have naming rights for the prize divisions, as well as corporate sponsors.

For more information, visit:
www.tow.org.au



Ursula Sansom-Daly receiving the Open Senior Division Award, presented by Prof Terry Campbell.

2014 TOW RESEARCH AWARD WINNERS:

AWARD	WINNER	INSTITUTION	PRESENTATION TITLE
Case Presentation	Dr. Paul Atkinson	Department of Reproductive Medicine, Royal Hospital for Women	Hyperandrogenism in Pregnancy
Clinical Division	Dr Catherine Langusch	Department of Surgery, Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick	Delayed versus ad libitum feeds following pyloromyotomy for infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis – early results of a multi-centre randomised controlled trial
Open Junior Division	Rebekah Ahmed	Neuroscience Research Australia	Eating behavior and metabolic changes across the spectrum of motor neuron disease and frontotemporal dementia
Open Senior Division	Ursula Sansom-Daly	Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital	Recapture Life: Harnessing e-health to promote resilience in adolescent and young adult cancer survivors
Allied Health	Elizabeth Craig	Sydney Children's Hospital	A survey of current paediatric peritoneal dialysis practices in Australia and New Zealand and the correlation with peritonitis
Poster	Christine Shiner	NeuRA	Investigating brain activity, cortical excitability and motor-function bilaterally after stroke: a multimodal, case series approach
Poster	Xiaochun Wang	Lowy Cancer Research Centre	Overcoming resistance of targeted EGFR/panHER monotherapy by inhibition of STAT3 escape pathway in sarcoma

SCHN ETHICS UPDATE

Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) & Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Submission Closing & Meeting Dates for 2015



Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Submission Closing	Meeting Date
4 January 2015	16 January 2015
24 January 2015	13 February 2015
21 February 2015	13 March 2015
21 March 2015	10 April 2015
18 April 2015	8 May 2015
23 May 2015	12 June 2015
20 June 2015	10 July 2015
25 July 2015	14 August 2015
22 August 2015	11 September 2015
19 September 2015	9 October 2015
24 October 2015	13 November 2015

Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)

Submission Closing	Meeting Date
10 January 2015	30 January 2015
7 February 2015	27 February 2015
7 March 2015	27 March 2015
4 April 2015	24 April 2015
2 May 2015	22 May 2015
6 June 2015	26 June 2015
4 July 2015	24 July 2015
8 August 2015	28 August 2015
5 September 2015	25 September 2015
3 October 2015	23 October 2015
7 November 2015	27 November 2015

The following meetings will only occur if required by demand.

Please contact the Research Ethics Office to determine if this meeting will proceed, and what your available options are if the meeting is cancelled; e.g. out of session review; held over to meetings 2016.

14 November 2015	4 December 2015	21 November 2015	11 December 2015
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These dates are available online: <http://intranet.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/research/human-research-ethics>

Christmas / New Year Shutdown

The SCHN Research Ethics team will be in the office up until the 24th December, however for any 'new' business, please be aware:

- Any items submitted after Friday 12th December will not be actioned until the office reopens on 6th January 2015.
- If there are any urgent LNR applications or amendments that must be processed due to contractual arrangements, patient safety, or being time sensitive (i.e. must start the project to capture the 'season' for the disease), please CC Jillian Shute, Executive Officer, Research Ethics when you submit your application / amendment.
i.e. email to ethics.schn@health.nsw.gov.au AND jillian.shute@health.nsw.gov.au
- If any new HREC applications (or LNR applications to be processed in the New Year) are received after 3rd December and 12th December respectively, they won't be registered (to receive a HREC reference number) until the new year; the purpose being, for your information, so that their reference number reflects the year they are reviewed.

ETHICS CONTACTS

ethics.schn@health.nsw.gov.au

(02) 9845 1253

SCHN Intranet:

<http://intranet.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/research/human-research-ethics>

Website:

<http://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/health-professionals/our-research/ethics-and-research-governance>

SCHN RESEARCH GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Christmas / New Year Shutdown

The Research Governance Office will be closed from 25th December, and will reopen on Monday 6th January 2015.

All new SSAs and LNRSSAs can be submitted at anytime.

There are no closing dates and you are not required to await for human ethics approval before submitting your application.

However, your SSA or LNRSSA will not be approved until the Research Governance Office has received a copy of your ethics approval letter. This can be emailed to: governance.schn@health.nsw.gov.au

Procedure for submitting an SSA:

1. **Electronic copies** of the following documents are to be emailed to: governance.schn@health.nsw.gov.au

- SSA / LNRSSA including signatures
- NEAF / LNR
- Invoice Authorisation Form - if applicable
- Ethics Approval Letter (when you have received it)
- Supporting documentation submitted / approved by ethics i.e. protocol, participant information and consent forms, CV's etc.

2. **Physical copy** of your signed, original SSA or LNRSSA to be sent to:

ATTENTION: RESEARCH GOVERNANCE
SCHN Research Office
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
Locked Bag 4001
Westmead, NSW 2145

Procedure for submitting an Amendment:

- Receive approval of your amendment from ethics.
- Complete SCHN Research Governance Amendment Form available here:
<http://intranet.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/research/research-governance>

Governance Weekly Visits:

The last visit to Randwick by a member of the Research Governance Team will be on Wednesday 17th December 2014 between 9:30am-2pm.

Appointments can be made by emailing governance.schn@health.nsw.gov.au or phoning 9845 3011.

These visits provide you with the opportunity to discuss one-on-one how to complete and submit your SSAs and LNRSSAs.

GOVERNANCE CONTACTS

governance.schn@health.nsw.gov.au

(02) 9845 3011

SCHN Intranet:

<http://intranet.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/research/research-governance>

Website:

<http://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/health-professionals/our-research/ethics-and-research-governance>

SCH MEDICAL RECORDS UPDATE

All SSA's that require access to medical records held by the SCH Health Information Unit (including >3 years off-site records) need to contact the unit and receive authorisation.

Medical Records, if satisfied, will complete and sign the '(d) Declaration by the Authority for Data Provision' page of your SSA.

SCH stores medical records for up the last 3 years. The older records are stored off-site. If you require access to off-site records you may be charged a fee to retrieve records.

Please contact the Health Information Services Unit at Randwick by email, in the first instance:

SCHN-HIU@health.nsw.gov.au

ETHICS & GOVERNANCE FEES

The Ethics and Governance Fee Policy has recently been updated for 2014/2015 financial year and can be viewed online:

intranet.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/files/attachments/74/schn-fee-policy.pdf

Please familiarise yourself with this policy, and remember to include fees in the budgets of competitive grant applications and commercial / collaborative trials.

UNSW ETHICS

For researchers who are thinking of applying to the UNSW HREC, please remember that any project involving patients in a teaching hospital or otherwise connected with the hospital or area health service should be approved by the hospital HREC, which in that case is considered to be the primary HREC.

In instances where you submit to the UNSW HREC, and they establish a connection between the project and the hospital, your application will be rejected.

More information:

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/human-ethics-procedures-uns>

SCHOOL PRIZES

For the first time in 2014, the School of Women's & Children's Health awarded prizes to Discipline of Paediatrics conjoints for their contribution to research within the School.

The prizes were presented at a 'Thank You' dinner held on Monday 8th December. Another first for the School, bringing together both disciplines for a end of year social event.

We are thrilled to announce the following prize winners:

- **Senior Staff Research Award** - Associate Professor Annie Bye
- **Junior Staff Research Award** - Dr Marion Mateos

Prizes for contribution to teaching have been awarded for a number of years, and in 2014 we congratulate the following recipients:

- **Junior Staff Teaching Award** - Dr Adam Bartlett
- **Highly Commended** - Dr Jonathan Nguyen (St George)
- **Senior Staff Teaching Award** - Dr Brendan McMullan
- **Highly Commended** - Dr Arjun Rao

Congratulations to all our winners, we value your continued contribution to the School, and specifically the Discipline of Paediatrics.

MARGARET DANCE PRIZE

During Research Week 2014, we were delighted to award the Margaret Dance Prize to the highest ranked BSc (Med) Honours student in the Discipline of Paediatrics for 2013.

Congratulations to Sadia Islam who completed her Honours year under the supervision of Professor Maria Craig and Dr Shubha Srinivasan.

Sadia's project was titled 'The role of parental overweight, birth weight and risk of islet autoimmunity and type 1 diabetes.'

The competition was very close and came down to one mark, with all of our Discipline of Paediatrics Honours students receiving High Distinctions in 2013 - a fantastic result.

This prize is presented in the year following the students Honours year, to allow for grades to be finalised.

ACADEMIC PROMOTION SCHEDULE 2015

The Academic Promotion Schedule for 2015 is now available online and includes links on how-to apply.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.hr.unsw.edu.au/employee/acad/acadprom.html>

2014 UNSW LIST OF TOP QUALITY RESEARCH OUTLETS

As part of its Measure of Research Performance, UNSW maintains a list of top quality research outlets. The 2014 UNSW List of Top Quality Research Outlets is now finalised.

The process of determining the List involved UNSW researchers proposing the addition or removal of research outlets from the existing List. A Central Oversight Committee of Research Outlets comprised of representatives from across the Faculties then met and made consensus decisions regarding proposed changes to the List. UNSW researchers then had opportunity to appeal the addition or removal of a research outlet.

Links to the outlets on the finalised List are below (authentication is required):

- [Journals](#)
- [Conference Proceedings](#)
- [Publishers](#)
- [Non-traditional Outlets](#)
- [Standalone Non-traditional Outputs](#)

The School of Women's & Children's Health nominated 25 journals to be added to the 2014 List of Top Quality Research Outlets. Of these, 18 were added. See list below:

- Anaesthesia
- Archives of Disease in Childhood. Fetal and Neonatal Edition
- BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
- Genetics in Medicine
- Journal of American Society of Nephrology
- Journal of Cystic Fibrosis
- Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
- Journal of the American Society of Nephrology
- Journal of the Peripheral Nervous System
- Neonatology
- Neurotherapeutics
- Neurourology and Urodynamics
- Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases
- Pediatric Nephrology
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Psycho-Oncology
- Reproductive BioMedicine Online

REVISED UNSW TRAVEL PROCEDURE

A revised [Travel procedure](#) has been approved, effective October 2014. This outlines health and safety aspects, booking process and expenses arrangements.

Remember to check in [myUNSW](#) "my Announcements" section for news on procedures and guidelines up for consultation or that have been approved.

NHMRC GENOMICS RESEARCH CALL

'Preparing Australia for the 'omics revolution' is a Major Health Issue identified in the NHMRC's [Strategic Plan 2013 - 2015](#).

The rapid advances in genomics and in a wide range of other 'omics' have already begun to emerge from the laboratory to directly affect patient care. 'Omics' is a shorthand way of referring to the steps in translation from the gene sequence through intracellular steps, into health and ill health of individuals.

The potential for better focussed individual treatments and preventive strategies, and the implications for health policy and practice, are immense.

This is early advice that NHMRC is considering opening a targeted call for applications to support research that aims to:

- Demonstrate how the discovery and application of genomic data in one or more human diseases impacts the care of patients with that / those diseases
- Identify the economic and policy impacts of implementation of the application of that genomic data into the Australian health system.

It is expected that the following outcomes will be achieved by the funded grant:

- A strong evidence base to applying genomics to clinical medicine in one or more areas of major disease burden
- A significant increase in the understanding of practical strategies that could be used by Australian health system planners and policymakers, including economic and policy impacts of implementation.

NHMRC expects to fund one grant only that addresses issues on a national basis. It is anticipated that the grant will be of a significant size.

NHMRC is providing this early advice now in order to give the research community sufficient time to pursue collaborations.

We expect to provide an update in early 2015 - watch [Research Tracker](#).

Announced by the NHMRC on 12th December 2014.

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/notices/2014/nhmrc-early-advice-preparing-australia-omics-revolution>

ECR REVIEWER TRAINING PROGRAMME

The UNSW Research Strategy Office (RSO) is collaborating with its counterparts at the University of Sydney and Monash University on developing an Early-Career Research Reviewer Training Program aimed at developing higher levels of competency for NHMRC assessors.

ECRs from across the three universities will be provided with the NHMRC peer review guidelines, they will be able to access the applications and write their own 'mock peer review assessment'.

These ECRs would then be able to review and compare their efforts with a summary of the actual assessor reports. There are still some details that need to be finalised but over the coming weeks we envisage contacting researchers asking if they would like to contribute past successful and/or unsuccessful grant applications, along with their assessor reports to this project.

If you have any queries/comments in the interim please contact the RSO at nhmrc@unsw.edu.au

NHMRC PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS SCHEME

The NHMRC have decided to review the Partnership Projects scheme's policy and processes and will reopen the Scheme in January 2015 as a continuous call.

Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year with reviews taking place three times: January to April; April to June; and June to December 2015.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply-funding/partnerships-better-health/partnerships-projects>

SUPERVISOR TRAINING

Anyone who is a supervisor of staff or students must complete Health and Safety for Supervisor training.

There are two options available, you must attend either the training for Office-based supervisors or the training for Lab-based supervisors (no need to attend both).

This training outlines the health and safety systems that need to be followed at UNSW.

To register for the training go to [myUNSW](#), then "Training Registration", then "OHS-Staff", then chose one of the two courses.

For further details see the [health and safety training web page](#).

FUNDING

The new School of Women's & Children's Health website contains a list of funding opportunities available throughout the year.

Please remember:

- All applications from UNSW staff & students must be submitted via the Grants Management Office (GMO). Carlie Robinson is the Grants Officer for the Discipline of Paediatrics. carlie.robinson@unsw.edu.au | 9385 7236
- Non-ACGR scheme applications must comply with UNSW's policy for pricing and indirect costs.
- The internal deadline for submission of grant applications to the GMO is 2 weeks prior to the external deadline. This timeframe allows the GMO to ensure applications comply with UNSW policies and sponsor requirements.

- Many philanthropic Funds and Foundations provide funding for university research. In cases where research grant funding is awarded via an advertised competitive application round, the submission of applications is managed through the GMO, which will also manage the grant once awarded. See 'managing research income from philanthropic funding schemes' for further information.
- All applications that require signature from the Head of School - Prof Bill Ledger, need to be submitted to his Personal Assistant (Jana Stewart), five days prior to the external deadline. jana.stewart@unsw.edu.au | 9382 6515

<https://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/paediatrics-research-resources>

GUPTA PAEDIATRIC TRAVEL AWARD

Following the generous donation of Professor and Mrs Gupta, we are delighted to invite applications for the Gupta Paediatric Travel Award.

This prize, valued at \$4500, is to be awarded to:

- A junior medical trainee with a UNSW conjoint appointment;
- A junior academic (Associate Lecturer) enrolled in a higher research degree at UNSW; or
- A paediatric health-related scientist working at UNSW or holding conjoint status up to and including three (3) years post doctorate;

who will be travelling interstate or overseas for a training position of a minimum of six (6) months.

Eligibility, conditions, further information and an application form are available from Mary Hattingh - m.hattingh@unsw.edu.au

Applications close on 31st December 2014.

SCHF SEED GRANTS

The Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation has recently announced support for five seed funding grants in 2015, worth \$20,000 each.

One grant is specifically aimed at supporting Allied Health and Nursing Research.

The judging criteria for all grants will be on scientific merit and significance, track record of the investigators and alignment with SCHN research strategy.

Eligibility, conditions, further information and an application form are available from Samantha McFedries - s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au

Applications close on 31st January 2015.

ALL STREAMS

December

Funder	Scheme	Internal Close	External Close
Cascade-Fellows International fellowship programme for talented young researchers in Life Sciences	Fellowship	17-Dec-14	31-Dec-14

January

Funder	Scheme	Internal Close	External Close
Durham University The EU-sponsored Durham International Fellowships for Research and Enterprise (DIFeREns) allows Durham University to gather together scholars, researchers, policy makers or practitioners from around the world and across the full spectrum of science, social science, arts and humanities to address themes of global significance in collaboration with Durham's Research Institutes and researchers.	Durham International Senior Fellowships	18-Dec-14	9-Jan-15
Society in Science Candidates that present an unusual research project that departs from the mainstream and that have a remarkable track record will be short-listed and could emerge from the annual selection process with an award for the prestigious grant. 5 years	The Branco Weiss Fellowship	2-Jan-15	15-Jan-15

February

Funder	Scheme	Internal Close	External Close
The Ian Potter Foundation Prioritises support for world class biomedical research to bring new preventions and cures closer to reality, through the use of new technology, innovative practices and knowledge.	EOI - Medical Research	20-Jan-15	3-Feb-15

March

Funder	Scheme	Internal Close	External Close
Australian Research Council (ARC) Provide funding for research projects that can be undertaken by individual researchers or research teams.	Discovery Projects	4-Feb-15	4-Mar-15
National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Support the creation of new knowledge by funding the best investigator-initiated research project plan of five years, or less, in any area relevant to human health.	Project Grants	18-Feb-15	18-Mar-15
National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Scheme will provide support for teams of researchers to pursue collaborative research and develop capacity in clinical, population health and health services research.	Centres of Research Excellence	4-Mar-15	18-Mar-15
National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Research Fellowships support Australia's very best medical and health research talent in full-time research during the most productive years of their research life to further develop as leaders in their field and contribute to the Australian research community through active participation.	Research Fellowships	11-Mar-15	25-Mar-15
National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) NHMRC Practitioner Fellowships provide support for active clinicians and public health or health services professionals to undertake research that is linked to their practice or policy.	Practitioner Fellowships	11-Mar-15	25-Mar-15
Australian Research Council (ARC) Separate element of the Discovery Program. The DECRA scheme will provide more focused support for researchers and create more opportunities for early-career researchers in both teaching and research, and research-only positions.	Discovery Early Career Researcher Award	5-Mar-15	25-Mar-15

April			
Funder	Scheme	Internal Close	External Close
Australian Research Council (ARC) Scheme provides funding to Administering Organisations to support research programs led by an Indigenous Australian researcher and build research capacity of higher degree research and early career researchers.	Discovery Indigenous	18-Mar-15	1-Apr-15
National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Further develop Australian health and medical early to mid-career researchers. It aims to enable investigators to establish themselves as independent, self-directed researchers; expand capacity for biomedical, clinical, public health and health service delivery research, and for evidence-based policy development in Australian health systems; encourage the translation of research outcomes into practice; and bridge the gap between research and industry.	Career Development Fellowship	19-Mar-15	1-Apr-15
National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Foster career development at the postdoctoral level by encouraging the beneficial experience of a different research environment.	Early Career Fellowship	19-Mar-15	1-Apr-15
National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Create partnerships among decision makers, policy makers, managers, clinicians and researchers.	Partnership Projects	2-Apr-15	15-Apr-15
National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Support for health care professionals (e.g medical specialists, general practitioners, public health practitioners, physiotherapists, nurses, midwives, radiologists, and other allied health providers), health care personnel (health service managers, hospital department leaders, clinical trial managers) health systems and health policy makers to translate evidence into health care and public health improvements.	Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship	2-Apr-15	15-Apr-15

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

January			
Funder	Scheme	Internal Close	External Close
Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE) CURE seeks novel research projects of relevance to any or all pediatric epilepsies, including: (1) the cellular, molecular, and systems-level understanding of the underlying pathogenic mechanisms; (2) investigations of the impact, natural history, and epidemiology; and (3) novel treatments which may impact progression of the disease. \$250,000 2 years	Pediatric Epilepsies Award	2-Jan-15	15-Jan-15

POPULATION HEALTH				
January				
Funder	Scheme	Internal Close	External Close	
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges This challenge focuses on how to effectively reach and empower the most vulnerable women and girls to improve health and development – including economic – outcomes as well as gender equality.	Putting Women and Girls at the Center of Development	18-Dec-14	1-Jan-15	
New measurement tools and new combinations of approaches to ensure all children thrive – that they not only survive, but also have the chance to live healthy productive lives.	Creating and Measuring Integrated Solutions for Healthy Birth, Growth, and Development			
Australasian College of Dermatologists \$25,000	Scientific Research Fund	18-Dec-14	1-Jan-15	
The Ian Potter Foundation Grants to target programs that help improve quality of life for those in our community living with disability or illness and support programs that focus on the prevention of diseases.	EOI - Health & Disability	29-Dec-14	12-Jan-15	
February				
National Institutes of Health Studies which propose to characterize or identify factors in early childhood (birth-24 months) that may increase or mitigate risk for obesity and/or excessive weight gain and/or to fill methodological research gaps relevant to the understanding of risk for development of obesity in children. LOI due 30 days prior to application due date.	Understanding Factors in Infancy and Early Childhood (Birth to 24 months) That Influence Obesity Development	22-Jan-14	5-Feb-14	

PUBLICATIONS

Publications authored by UNSW Paediatrics academics, conjoints, & students from September 2014 or In Press.

If your publication is available online but is missing from these pages, please email Samantha McFedries, Research Coordinator: s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au

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☞ Education

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