



@ Your Library

Will Late Night Chat Save Lives?

An international project, which had its beginnings in South Australia, is providing a virtual library service, late at night, to doctors in the UK and Australia.

The project is called "Chasing the Sun" (CTS). It is the first international "virtual" reference service for health professionals and its aim is to provide an after business hours, on-line reference service for urgent clinical questions relating to patient care. The project takes advantage of global time differences between countries to offer out-of-hours librarian support. Using custom designed chat software a clinician in Australia may contact a health librarian in the UK immediately and be assured of an answer to their reference query. The impetus for this project was a result of an out of hours clinician query over a patient affected by the Bali bombings. UK librarians were called upon to answer the reference query.

The initial participants in this project were the South Australian Health Services Libraries' Consortium (SAHSLC) and the South West Information for Clinical Effectiveness (SWICE), Network, in the UK.

Since their collaboration in 2001 and following many hours of discussion and trials of software, CTS was officially launched in February 2005

Training sessions have been run in most states for interested libraries and staff from Epworth library attended a training session last month. Current members of the service are members of the South Australian Health Services Libraries Consortium, health libraries from Victoria, the Northern Territory, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, and members of the South-West Region of the UK National Health Service. Western Australia is just about to join and will cover the three hours when the Eastern states are not online. Adding additional countries such as New Zealand or Canada, with suitable levels of service, will cover more of the down time gap.

This exciting project is, as yet, unfunded but has already won an award from the International Information Industry in London.

It is hoped that Epworth will be set up to enable use of this resource within the next month. The link will be accessed from the library's intranet page. If you haven't yet explored this page, you may be surprised by the number of excellent resources available to you. Please call in or contact the library if you would like more information on our electronic resources or the "Chasing the Sun" project.

The Library is open 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Our phone number is 9426 6134

April/June 2005

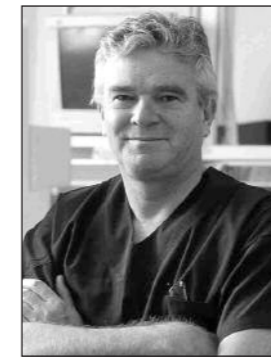
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New Carotid Clearway

There has been a dramatic increase in the use of minimally invasive techniques to manage carotid disease in the past two years. A national conference was held here at Epworth on 11 & 12 March 2005 to bring vascular surgeons up to date with the latest developments in this dramatic treatment.

The Chairman of the Epworth Vascular Unit, Mr. Michael Denton, is largely responsible for the initiative which attracted surgeons from many parts of Australia, as well as from Japan and the United States.



Mr Michael Denton

According to Mr Denton, "stenting has been performed for 15 years now to treat blocked arteries in other parts of the body, but the application of stenting to reopen carotid arteries is a relatively new procedure".

Mr. Denton says, "patients undergoing carotid stenting require no anaesthetic and have a very short hospital stay". This minimally invasive technique is clearly the way of the future and will be regularly used by growing numbers of young surgeons.

The advent of carotid stenting has raised interesting and important governance issues, not the least of which is determining which specialties are most appropriate to be undertaking these procedures. Cardiologists, neurologists, vascular surgeons, neurosurgeons and radiologists can all lay claims to some degree of competence in the management of carotid lesions. The Medical Advisory Council is very mindful of the potential "turf issues" and is working through these with the respective craft groups.

Opening of Epworth Eastern

Epworth has received the Certificate of Occupancy, following Practical Completion of the Epworth Eastern. Building and equipment installation work continues and some of the key projects include:

- installation of the digital operating suites
- building of the air bridge to link to Box Hill Hospital
- installation of the Cardiac Catheter Laboratory
- installation of the wireless network and other telephony devices
- installation of the Phillips cardiac monitoring system

Bookings for operating room, cardiac catheter laboratory, endoscopy, oncology and medical are now available. Please contact Sam Williams, Bookings Coordinator on 8807 7777 or via fax on 8807 7888.

Surgical / Medical Craft Groups

Over the past couple months many practitioners have attended the information evenings held at Box Hill Gardens Medical Centre to introduce some of the information and communication technology which will be used at Epworth Eastern. These meetings also allowed the formation of specialty craft groups.

If you are interested in being involved in a craft group please contact Mr Jack Mackay via e-mail on jackm@epworth.org.au.

Accreditation of Medical Practitioners

Epworth has the responsibility to ensure that only those practitioners who are appropriately qualified, trained and experienced undertake clinical care within Epworth (Box Hill, Brighton and Richmond campuses).

All professional health care providers have their credentials and clinical privileges reviewed at regular intervals. These assessments of credentials and clinical privileges are undertaken by professional peers and related professionals through the Medical Advisory Council of Epworth.

All accreditation applications will be processed through Epworth's Richmond campus. Practitioners accredited have admitting rights to all three campuses. All applications relating to Epworth Eastern will be reviewed by the Site Medical Director, Mr Jack Mackay before being processed at the Richmond campus.

Details on the accreditation process can be found on Epworth's website www.epworth.org.au/Accreditation.html or by contacting the Executive Medical Director's office on (03) 9426 6357.

Separate Provider Numbers required for doctors

A separate provider number must be sought for each practice location. Applications for a provider number for Epworth Eastern can be obtained through the HIC website <http://www.hic.gov.au> or by phoning 132 150.

6th World Congress on Brain Injury

Last month staff in the acquired brain injury rehabilitation unit at Epworth Rehabilitation were heavily involved in the organisation and presentation of the 6th World Congress on Brain Injury held in Melbourne between 5th and 8th May 2005. Two local Australian organisations, the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and the Australian Association for the Study of Brain Injury combined their resources to organise this meeting under the auspices of the International Brain Injury Association. Planning for the meeting has been underway for about four years under the guidance of A/Prof John Olver and Professor Jennie Ponsford, who were the Co-Scientific Chairs.



Dr G Williams (Epworth), A/Prof J Olver (Epworth), Prof Stefan Hesse (Germany), Mrs C Willmott (Epworth), Ms Jo Siketa (Epworth), Ms Nicola Hazlett (New Zealand).

The meeting attracted over 1150 delegates, which is the largest International Brain Injury Association meeting to date. Epworth staff presented twelve papers at the meeting and in addition were involved in chairing workshops, platform presentations and poster sessions. In order to promote the brain injury rehabilitation programme at Epworth, the hospital provided sponsorship to run a booth in the exhibition hall of the meeting and also sponsored the display of the eighty posters that had been submitted. In addition, Epworth Hospital sponsored the opening reception, where the three hundred international guests were treated to close contact with unusual Australian animals, including a black-headed python, salt water crocodile, black cockatoo and a variety of stick insects.

The faculty of invited international speakers covered topics from "Mechanisms of Brain Injury Recovery", "Acute Management", "Brain Injury Rehabilitation" and "Community Outreach Services". Each of the invited keynote speakers were internationally recognised in their field and it is doubtful that such a collection of expertise in the field of brain injury and brain injury rehabilitation will be assembled in Melbourne over the next decade.

The TAC, principal sponsor of the meeting, expressed delight at the contribution of local presenters, including our staff at Epworth.

A/Prof John Olver,
 Director of Rehabilitation, Epworth
 President, Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

Newly Accredited Doctors April/May 2005

Dr Michael Boquest	Anaesthetics	Dr Robin Low	Cardiology
Dr Brian Cowie	Anaesthetics	Dr Fluer Cattrall	Gynaecology
Dr Beng Oh	Anaesthetics	Dr Samuel Patten	Orthopaedic Surgery
Dr Tomasz Rawdanowicz	Anaesthetics	Dr Kenneth Chuah	Radiology
Dr Warren Saunders	Anaesthetics	Dr Afshin Eimany	Radiology
Dr Joel Symons	Anaesthetics	Dr Jacques Robin	Radiology
Dr Nicole Tan	Anaesthetics	Dr Catherine Balon	Surgical Assistant (Neurosurgery)
Dr Yew-Mun Cheong	Cardiology	Dr Christine Chen	Surgical Assistant (Neurosurgery)
Dr Gary Gordon	Cardiology Non Interventional	Dr Gordon Mar	Surgical Assistant

Disclaimer

The views expressed on Epworth Clinicians Gazette are not necessarily those of the Editor or Epworth Hospital.

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From My Desk

Giving Prostheses Back to Patients

Over the years, patients have often had prostheses or other implanted material such as pedicle screws returned to them by surgeons when they are removed. There seems to be no particular harm in this. Sometimes surgeons provide samples of tissue, such as fragments of disc material, as "trophies" for the more curious of our patients. However this can create problems and is arguably inconsistent with best practice infection control. An issue came to light recently when a request was made that a device removed from one patient be implanted into another patient as there were no other devices available. This led to a vigorous debate at the Clinical Governance Council where it was agreed that the hospital should have a definitive view on this practice. As a result the hospital now forbids that explanted devices or tissues be given to patients without the express permission of the Executive Medical Director or the Infection Control officer. I trust you will all understand this decision.

Artificial Disc Surgery Group formed

Half a dozen spinal surgeons representing neurosurgery and orthopaedics have met to discuss the formation of an artificial disc user group at Epworth. It was agreed that the best time to begin gathering data and examining results in a prospective manner is at the start, and the emergence of these new forms of treatment represent an opportunity to establish a clinical research program of real value – in much the same way as the cardiologists and cardiac surgeons did when open heart surgery commenced nearly 25 years ago.

We are hopeful that funding for a research position will be supported by the prosthesis suppliers and possibly by funding authorities, especially the Victorian Workcover Authority. The hospital is aware that this new technology remains controversial and that there are many experienced spinal surgeons who are ambivalent or actively opposed to these procedures – but we also think there is an opportunity to gather data in such a way that we can produce objective evidence of the value or otherwise of this interesting development in spinal surgery.

Pacemaker mediated tachycardia

Two Epworth clinicians have combined resources to have a paper on Pacemaker Mediated Tachycardia published in the magazine, Pace. The case used for the paper was also presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand in Brisbane earlier this year.

Authors of the paper are Malcolm J. Dennis of Epworth's Intensive Care Unit and Paul B Sparks, of the Department of Electrophysiology at Epworth.

As background to the paper, Malcolm Dennis says that pacemaker mediated tachycardia is a known complication of pacemaker therapy, in which a pacemaker participates in the development of inappropriate tachycardia, which is typically symptomatic.

The Costs of Treating Overseas Patients

Doctors are occasionally asked to provide an estimation of hospital costs for overseas visitors who are in Australia or are planning to come to Australia for treatment. Staff from doctors' rooms have usually contacted our business office for assistance in preparing a written estimation. However, we ask that all enquiries regarding overseas patients be directed to the Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr Noel Armstrong, in the first instance. Overseas patients present specific needs (and usually additional costs that would be otherwise unforeseen) and the Corporate Affairs department has many years experience in catering for overseas visitors. Just one example: overseas visitors will usually require collection from the airport and assistance with local travel and accommodation. These are tasks that the Corporate Affairs department can help coordinate and can help factor into realistic estimates of the cost of treatment.

Clinical Governance Council

The Clinical Governance Council recently produced a short document concerning the competency of our doctors and the management of frequent adverse events. The matter was taken to the Medical Advisory Council where a worthwhile debate ensued. Issues discussed including protection for whistleblowers, indemnity for surgeons who might be appointed to supervise poorly performing doctors, and the role of the colleges in "policing" competency. We hope that the final document will be approved by the MAC, in which case it will make its way straight into the Clinical Governance Manual due for publication later this year.

Stamped Signatures

One or two surgeons have been returning consent forms to the hospital with rubber stamped signatures. While we all appreciate the burden of paperwork which never seems to lessen, I hope you would agree that a consent form is significantly devalued if the signature of the doctor is not the real thing. If you were thinking of stamping (or even worse, pre-stamping) your forms in this way I would ask that you think again.

Peter J Dohrmann

Executive Medical Director

Malcolm says he and Paul encountered such a tachycardia shortly after implantation of a dual chamber pacemaker at Epworth late last year. On examination, the arrhythmia was attributable to a new automated pacemaker function, the "Auto Intrinsic Conduction Search" function. As pacemaker mediated tachycardia as a complication of this function had not been reported previously in literature, Malcolm and Paul submitted the case report to the Journal of Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology.

It was printed in the June edition, volume number 27. Full copies of the report can be obtained from Malcolm Dennis, Intensive Care Unit, Epworth Hospital, e-mail: malcolmd@epworth.org.au or fax 9427 0353.

Education

AHIA - Epworth Educational Forum for Health Funding Organisations

25 May 2005, 5.15pm for 5.30pm presentation start

Coles Myer Auditorium, Level 2, Epworth Hospital, 89 Bridge Road, Richmond.

Is fusion out and disc replacement in? New and emerging technologies in spinal surgery.

Presenting: Mr G Brazenor and Mr P Dohrmann

Cardiac Meetings

Each Wednesday at 7:30am
Coles Myer Auditorium

Breakfast is served from 7:15am.

For details of meetings: Lisa Cahill ph. 9426 6690

Emergency Department Meetings

Each Wednesday at 5:00pm
Emergency Department Clinical Room, Level 1, Erin Street

Enquiries: Dr Allen Yuen ph. 9426 6340

For details of meetings: Contact Heather Harvey ph. 9426 6284

Epworth Rehabilitation Monthly Inservice

First Wednesday of each month at 3:30pm – 5:00pm
Coles Myer Auditorium

For details of meetings: Judy Dungey ph. 9426 8769

Melbourne Infectious Diseases Group

Meetings to be held at Epworth at 7:00am
Coles Myer Auditorium

31st May, 14th June, 28th June

Enquiries: Jack Richards email: cyberMIDG@mh.org.au

Neuroscience/Radiology Meeting

Each Tuesday at 7:30am
Cato Room 1

Enquiries: Mr Peter Dohrmann ph. 9427 0100

Orthopaedic Meeting

Third Monday of each month at 7:30am – Cato Room 1

Presentation of Cases

Enquiries: Mr. Martin Richardson ph. 9426 4333

Physicians Meeting

First Thursday of the month at 6:00pm
Meeting Room 1

To confirm date and details of future meetings contact: Nadine Stacey ph. 9426 6589

Respiratory Medicine Meeting

First Monday of each month at 7:30am – Booth Room

Enquiries: Dr Michelle Caldecott ph. 9246 6178

Spinal Meeting

First Friday of each month at 7:30am – Cato Room 1

Enquiries: Dr Bruce Kinloch ph. 9426 8765

Telerobotic Surgery Study

Surgeons at the Australian Institute for Robotic Surgery have reported on the initial experience of telerobotic radical prostatectomy after the installation of the daVinci Surgical System at Epworth in late 2003.

Professor Tony Costello and Mr Justin Peters have reported on a series of 122 consecutive radical prostatectomies performed in the first 10 months after the arrival of the daVinci system. Perioperative data and pathological results were recorded.

Part of the study included an assessment of the ease with which non-laparoscopically trained surgeons could adapt to laparoscopic telerobotic surgery. The appraisal included an assessment of the training, safety and efficacy of this new form of operative procedure.

Of the 122 operated cases, none were converted to open surgery suggesting that the transition to robotic surgery was intuitive for the two non-laparoscopically trained surgeons. When postoperative continence, operating time and blood

transfusion rates were compared with open surgery no significant differences were found.

Costello and Peters have concluded that robotic radical prostatectomy represents a novel computer based surgical approach to prostate cancer, which offers the benefits of minimally invasive surgery without the steep learning curve associated with laparoscopic methods. Of course it remains to be seen whether the robotic approach will deliver improved outcomes in continence and potency over time.

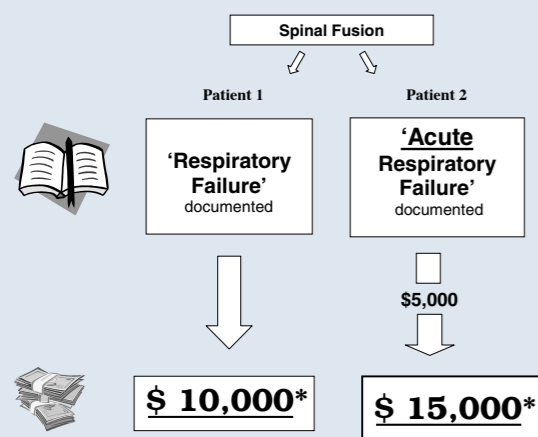
Professor Costello recently presented these results at the European Association of Urology (EAU) Scientific Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey.

Did you know

...that Epworth is becoming increasingly reliant on your documentation for correct reimbursement from the Health Funds. Only by complete and specific documentation of all medical conditions and complications, during an inpatient episode of care, is the hospital able to receive the full funding entitlement from the private Health Funds.

Example: **Acute Respiratory Failure**

When **'Acute Respiratory Failure'** is documented as opposed to unspecified **'respiratory failure'** for a patient who undergoes spinal fusion, for example, it can attract additional reimbursement of approximately **\$5,000**.



*The dollar values used are indicative figures only for the purpose of example illustration.

Lack of documentation in the medical record results in the hospital being underpaid for the work it does.

For more information, contact **Melinda Avram**, Coding Co-Ordinator, Health Information Services on **9426-8757**.

Launch of New Website

The new Epworth website was launched on 1 February 2005. The aim is to make the site more attractive and user friendly and to provide a clearer understanding of the current services offered at Epworth.

The website in its new form is by no means the final version and we are keen for your input into suggestions for improvement. Populating the website is a huge task in an organisation of this size and your comments are greatly appreciated by contacting **Jodie Bristow** in Corporate Affairs on **9426 8662** or via email: jodieb@epworth.org.au.

So... log onto www.epworth.org.au and we look forward to your feedback.

Meditation for Wellbeing

(A 6 week course specifically for Health Practitioners)

Following on from a successful meditation course held in 2004 another Meditation Course specifically for Health Practitioners is planned for July. The Course is to be held in Toorak on Thursday nights for 6 weeks beginning 14 July. The Course is designed for the personal growth of practitioners and to support them in their work with their own patients.

For further information and course details.

Website: www.pathways2wellbeing.com.au
 Email: daniel.lewis@med.monash.edu.au
 Tel: 95296094

Epworth Breast Service Opens

Tel. 1300 727 850

The Epworth Breast Service, which has just opened, aims to provide the highest standard of professional care with minimum delay. It is a specialist facility for rapid access, integrated, patient-centred service delivered by a dedicated multidisciplinary team specialising in breast disease.

Our two specialist breast surgeons, Jane O'Brien and David Speakman, have extensive training and experience in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of all benign and malignant breast conditions. Both have formal training in communication skills.

At Epworth, the multidisciplinary approach to patient management utilizes the skills of specialist breast surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, plastic surgeons, radiologists, radiographers, sonographers, pathologists, physiotherapists, breast care nurses and the administrative team.

We are able to provide care to the breast cancer patient at all stages of the patient journey, from diagnosis, through to surgery to chemotherapy and radiotherapy - all here at Epworth.

The Breast Service consulting rooms are located on the 7th floor of the Epworth Centre in a brand new, purpose-built suite, providing a relaxing, friendly environment with impressive views over Melbourne. Our breast care nurse is based here and is available to all patients for information, provision of educational resources, assistance with obtaining prostheses, psychosocial support and counselling in a private, dedicated counselling room.

Epworth Breast Service offers:

- Evaluation of all symptomatic breast problems in both men and women, with rapid access to a specialist breast surgeon for patients referred by their general practitioners with an emphasis on accurate and timely diagnosis.
- Immediate access to a full diagnostic work up including breast imaging (mammography/ultrasound) and pathology (fine needle aspiration/core biopsy) as required, with rapid provision of results.
- Access to a breast care nurse at initial visit and throughout the entire patient journey.
- Provision of a full range of all treatment modalities, with care delivered by a multidisciplinary team in accordance with agreed clinical guidelines, emphasizing compliance with evidence based practice. We aim to provide an integrated approach to breast care in which medical and allied health professionals consider all relevant treatment options and, together with the patient, collaboratively develop an individual treatment plan for each patient.
- Surgical management of benign breast conditions and breast cancer (symptomatic and screen detected) with access to the full range of breast surgical services including sentinel node biopsy and breast reconstruction.
- Post hospital discharge support from our breast care nurse and Epworth "Hospital in the Home".
- On site medical and radiation oncology services for both consultation and treatment.
- On site specialist breast plastic surgical service.
- Advice, screening and surveillance for women with and increased risk of developing breast cancer. (eg family history)
- Expert second opinions.
- Teleconferencing to discuss cases when doctors are not able to attend the multi-disciplinary meeting.



L-R: David Speakman (Breast Surgeon), Andrea Cannon (Nurse Coordinator) and Jane O'Brien (Breast Surgeon)

Details on our two specialist breast surgeons are as follows:

Jane O'Brien

Mobile: 0422 948 447

Jane is a specialist breast surgeon whose practice is exclusively confined to breast work, encompassing the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of all benign and malignant conditions of the breast. A Melbourne graduate, on completing her surgical training at St Vincent's she became the first Victorian breast fellow in 1995, completing a year in Melbourne and a subsequent year at the Edinburgh Breast Unit in Scotland. She then worked as a consultant breast surgeon in the United Kingdom for a period of eight years, which included two years at the internationally recognized Nottingham Breast Unit. She is a member of the European Society of Mastology, the British Association of Surgical Oncology and the American Society of Breast Disease. She has an appointment at BreastScreen Victoria (St Vincent's) and a public hospital appointment at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute. She has special interests developed during her time abroad in the areas of breast screening and in the organisation and delivery of integrated breast care services.

David Speakman

Mobile: 0410 542 395

David is a specialist breast surgeon with particular interests in sentinel node biopsy, minimally invasive treatments and breast reconstruction; but most importantly in providing holistic approach to the management of all patients with breast problems. He currently practices in both the Peter MacCallum and Monash Medical Centre multidisciplinary breast units and is active in clinical trials at both these institutions. He also is Director of the Monash Lymphoedema service. His other roles include participation in the medical and Scientific Advisory Committee of BreastScreen Victoria, the clinician's advisory group for Victoria's Cancer Service Review program, and being a facilitator at the Cancer Council's communication skills workshops for clinicians. David's postgraduate training in breast oncology, following his FRACS in 1997, was at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Edinburgh Breast Unit in Scotland. He will be pleased, along with Dr O'Brien, to provide a comprehensive service for all your patients with any breast complaints.

Epworth/Deakin Clinical Nursing Research Centre

I was appointed to Epworth to facilitate and engage in clinical research and to develop research capacity in research by providing research training and mentorship. In the last four months or so I have been busy getting acquainted with Epworth and getting to know the people who will be working with me on some very exciting projects. This has been a time of setting priorities and mapping the future.

This is a good opportunity to introduce my colleagues who are research fellows in the centre and who will be leading and supporting research activities. Dr Rosemary Watts has an interest in the discharge planning process and supporting people through transitions of illness. She has experience both as an intensive care nurse and as a lecturer of Nursing and she worked for three years in the Alfred/Deakin Nursing Research Centre to support clinical research. Bernice Redley is a PhD student in her final stages of candidature. She has extensive experience in emergency nursing practice and education. Her research interests are family presence and family support in the emergency department.

We are steadily building our research student numbers. Susan Cartledge will be undertaking her Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) degree this year at Epworth investigating patient recovery following cardiac surgery. The outcomes of this study will make a significant contribution to our knowledge of cardiac patient outcomes.

Recently we have been pleased to welcome to Epworth several visiting colleagues from Denmark. Torben Lauren, Deputy Director of Clinical Services and Connie Pederson, Head of Nursing visited Epworth from Gentofte University Hospital in Copenhagen to explore an exchange program between Danish and Epworth nurses. A second group of

visitors from Viborg County in Denmark were interested in the model of academic and clinical collaboration established here at Epworth to foster clinical nursing research. They are hoping to set up a similar collaboration in Denmark and a small group plan to visit Epworth again in May to observe and learn from our experience.

The year has started with a very promising start and is likely to continue to be very busy and productive.

Mari Botti

Chair in Nursing



From left Tove Kristensen (Director of Nursing), Henning Bruun Schmidt (Director of Health), Aase Lydixsen (Head of School), Bent Hansen (County Mayor), Mari Botti, Willy Mathiesen (Director of Health and Culture).

Launch of No Lift Patient Handling System

More than one hundred staff celebrated the recent launch of the No Lift System in the Epworth auditorium. It was a strong show of support for the implementation of a system that will dramatically reduce the risk of injury to staff and patients from manual handling.

Executive support for the system was highly evident with the presence of Mrs Melissa Carfax-Foster (Director of Operations), Mr Peter Dohrmann (Executive Medical Director) and Mr Noel Armstrong (Director of Corporate Affairs).



From Left to Right: Mary-Beth O'Brien (ANF Victorian Branch), Mr Peter Dohrmann (Executive Medical Director Epworth), Matt Perry (OHS Coordinator), Melissa Carfax-Foster (Director of Operations), Coral White (No Lift Coordinator)

Melissa launched the program with the hope that our staff, who are our most valuable asset, would use this opportunity to learn to care for their own health, as well as that of their colleagues and their patients. She stressed that support for this approach came from the Board, the Executive and management across the hospital and that commitment to the program would be ongoing.

Matt Perry (OHS Systems Manager) presented evidence of impressive gains made in terms of reduction of injury to staff, reduction of time lost, and savings in WorkCover claims by hospitals that had already implemented similar programs.

Mary-Beth O'Brien (OHS Projects Officer from ANF) reinforced the benefits of such an approach to manual handling, and the fact that the ANF and hospital management were as one in this approach.

The No Lift System is being introduced through the external consultancy of Louise O'Shea & Associates, which has successfully implemented the system in over 200 hundred hospitals throughout Australia. Operating Theatres were the first area to commence training in February. Implementation will occur ward by ward, and is expected to take at least 9 months.

Coral White

No Lift Co-ordinator

Epworth Musculoskeletal Research Centre

Following the official launch of the Epworth Musculoskeletal Centre last year, a number of research activities have been activated via this initiative. Some of these have included trialling of multimedia consent modules, establishing collaborations with the Cooperative Research Centre for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases which is undertaking detailed tissue analysis of Epworth patients with a variety of disorders including failed joint replacements, inflammatory and osteoarthritis as well as degenerative disc disease. In addition ethics approval has been gained to undertake and validate pre-operative physiotherapy programs for joint replacement patients as well as provide self management courses to patients with arthritis. The Management Committee for the Centre, chaired by Professor Stephen Graves would welcome any additional proposals for research activities from relevant stakeholders and will assist in getting those projects established.

In speaking of the Management Committee, it is important that there is transparent understanding of the key objectives of the functioning of this group. These are:

- To promote the multi-disciplinary management of musculoskeletal problems with emphasis on a quality total clinical team approach.
- To provide quality education and self-management programmes, including group sessions, for patients with bone and joint disorders.

- To provide patients with illustrated computerised multimedia information packages.
- To bring to the community the latest in techniques in the management of osteoporosis. This initiative will involve Epworth's endocrinologists and rheumatologists. The establishment of an osteoporosis clinic at Epworth should result in fracture patients presenting to Emergency Department receiving some level of referral for ongoing management.
- To provide dedicated pre-operative physiotherapy sessions, in group gatherings where practicable, to enhance recovery after joint replacement surgery.
- To provide quality inpatient management programs for patients following orthopaedic surgery.
- To provide patients with access to advanced surgical and biotechnologies.

Consultants should be aware that they can avail their patients of a multi media package that facilitates consent. Feedback from patients that have undergone this mode of learning has been most positive. To facilitate your involvement in this and other research projects coordinated by the Centre, Epworth is appointing a Research coordinator. The contact details for this person and more information on each of the projects as they develop will be provided in the near future.

Palliative Care Services

From late February 2005, Epworth has been able to offer a more comprehensive service for all patients requiring Palliative Care. This follows the recruitment of Jan Rogan, an experienced Palliative Care nurse, from the U.K.

Jan will work closely with Dr. Peter Sherwen, Oncologists, nursing staff and Allied Health professionals in order to provide a range of palliative services around the hospital. This newly formed team will be able to offer:

- Assessment and transfer of patients to hospice care when appropriate.
- Co-ordination of domiciliary palliative supports for patients returning to the community.
- Assistance with symptom control for terminally ill patients within the hospital.
- Education and support for hospital staff regarding end of life care.

It is hoped that the Palliative Care Team will be able to support not only Oncology patients but also many patients with non-malignant conditions who are approaching the end of life.

To make a referral or for further information, please contact:

Jan Rogan on 0400 191 761 or
Dr. Peter Sherwen on 0408 138 972

