The end of the calendar year is always a good time to reflect on the achievements of the past 12 months, and take a moment to examine where we are heading in 2014.

This has certainly been a very successful period for Epworth HealthCare in 2013. Our staff’s efforts and dedication is evident in a number of activities and long-term projects that came to fruition, and in others that are progressing well.

In particular, our redevelopment team has achieved tremendous results across multiple sites. Redevelopment works at Epworth Richmond reached several important milestones in the past few months. New wards became operational at Epworth Camberwell during the year and our first mental health service opened in October. The service was a significant milestone and represents our ongoing commitment to growing our mental health services and care, to better meet the needs of our patients and the wider community.

Our excellence in patient services and treatment will be given a boost with new Epworth Medical Imaging services at Epworth Freemasons sites from mid-December, and Epworth Camberwell from March next year. Likewise, development of the My Epworth Patients mobile app, is well underway.

We continue to invest significantly in staff education and development, with great success and very positive feedback. Our annual GP conference in August and Twilight Leadership Series in September were great achievements. Our Clinical Institute has also held some outstanding and successful symposiums of world standard in the past few months.

Sadly, Jenny Henderson, our long-standing President of Friends of Epworth passed away in November. Jenny was passionate about Epworth and made a great contribution over her many years of service. We extend our sympathy and condolences to her family and friends. Board members Peter Hay and Judy Leitch retired in October and November respectively, after five years of dedicated service. Associate Professor Neil Collier and Associate Professor Robert Rome also retired from their roles with the Clinical Institute.

I would also like to farewell long-serving member of staff, Bronwyn Mace from Epworth Rehabilitation and Elizabeth Kennedy, who joined Epworth as our first in-house lawyer in December 2009.

We welcomed many new faces to the Epworth team in 2013, including Janet Matton who joined the Board in November.

I was proud to announce in October Sir Aaron Danks’ founding gift of £6,000 in 1920 was announced as the top Australian philanthropic gift of all time. This was a wonderful recognition of Epworth’s role in the community and shows the strength of our reputation for excellence at not only a Victorian but a national level.

Wishing you and your family a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year. I hope you enjoy this well-earned break and I look forward to building on the successes of 2013 in the coming year.

Alan R Kinkade
Group Chief Executive
Supporting GP professional development

Epworth HealthCare hosted its seventh annual GP Conference at its state-of-the-art Clinical Education and Simulation Centre in late August, providing an excellent opportunity to engage with 95 GPs from metro Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The conference is the largest continuing professional development education meeting hosted by Epworth as part of the overall GP Liaison Unit education program.

Topics included: detecting cancer, cardiology, women’s health, men’s health, orthopaedics and plastics clinical skills workshops – including joint and soft tissue injection techniques, plastering, knee and shoulder assessments, and suturing and excision techniques – CPR, emergency medicine, common problems in general practice and general medicine.

For more information on Epworth’s GP Education Program contact the GP Liaison Unit (03) 9426 8504 or email gp liaison@epworth.org.au

Sharing our expertise through Grand Rounds

The Grand Round program, introduced in 2011, is proving to be a great success, with audience numbers steadily increasing year-on-year.

Of the 36 Grand Round presentations run this year, highlights included Medication Safety – Safe Practice, Best Practice, presented by Davina Lau & Elizabeth Kennedy; End of Life Decision Making, presented by Dr Peter Sherwen; Medical, physical and psychosocial outcomes up to 10 years post traumatic brain injury, presented by Professor John Olver; and Opportunities and Challenges for Personalised Cancer Medicine, presented by Dr Mack Shackleton.

The introduction of recording and videoconferencing has allowed the Richmond-based Grand Rounds to reach a wider audience; plans for next year include making recordings available on the intranet.

The 2014 program commences on 12 February with Dr Paul Nisselle presenting Open Disclosure and the New Standards.
Annual Report and Research Report 2012–2013 now available

The Epworth HealthCare 2012–2013 Annual Report and 2012–2013 Research Report were presented at November’s Board of Management meeting and will be available to view via the website.

The Annual Report highlights Epworth HealthCare’s many achievements during the last financial year and the numerous ways our clinical and non-clinical staff contribute to Epworth’s continued success.

The Research Report is now in its third year, showcasing the incredible efforts of our research staff, partners and patients to translating our commitment to research into excellence in clinical care.

A thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these publications; all staff are urged to take a moment to read this wonderful collection of stories.

The Power of Philanthropy

The donation that opened the first Epworth hospital in 1920 was voted the number one philanthropic gift of all time in October.

Epworth HealthCare was delighted with the announcement it had won the people’s choice award, out of a pool of 50 organisations named by Pro Bono Australia.

The Top 50 Philanthropic Gifts project was initiated by The Myer Family Company, The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund, Pro Bono Australia, Philanthropy Australia and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Investment and Philanthropy at Swinburne University of Technology, to showcase Australia’s most significant philanthropic achievements.

The generous donation of six thousand pounds from Sir Aaron Danks in 1920 enabled the purchase of the original 13-room palatial mansion “Yalcowinna” in Erin Street, Richmond. Renovations to convert the mansion into a Methodist hospital cost £3,324, part of which was donated by local GP, Dr Georgina Sweet and her father, in memory of their mother and wife Dr Margaret Sweet who died during the 1919 influenza epidemic.

Epworth Group CEO Alan Kinkade said he was honoured that the spirit of philanthropy which established Epworth nearly a century ago is an ongoing force at Epworth today.

“From our small beginnings nearly 95 years ago, the spirit of philanthropy has continued to the present, thanks to the generous support of our donors who share the Epworth vision,” Mr Kinkade said.

“The Top 50 Gifts celebrates Australia’s most significant philanthropic achievements from the 1800s until today,” Head of Philanthropic Services for the Myer Family Company, Peter Winneke, said.

“Each gift has been responsible for shaping Australian society, culture and public policy in areas including the arts, environment, health, housing, science and education.”
A meeting of minds at the Cardiac Sciences Symposium

The Cardiac Sciences Symposium – Case Based Cardiology: Discussing, Updating and Managing Current Cardiology Cases took place at the Hilton on the Park, Melbourne on 19 October.

The program, attended by more than 120 clinicians, included demonstrations and discussions around common cardiac case problems, occurring regularly in both cardiology and cardiac surgical practice. Sessions included Ischaemic Heart Disease, Atrial Fibrillation and Anti-Coagulation, Valvular Heart Disease and Cardiomyopathy.

Associate Professor Ron Dick and the Cardiac Sciences Sub Committee welcomed back guest speakers Associate Professor David Muller, from Sydney’s St Vincent’s Hospital, and Epworth ex-fellow Dr Saibal Kar, from Los Angeles’ Cedars Sinai Medical Center, who presented alongside an expert panel of Epworth Cardiologists and Cardiothoracic Surgeons.

The symposium followed The Fourth Annual Obstetrics & Gynaecology Clinical Institute Symposium held in August and the Internal Medicine and Critical Care Clinical Institutes second annual Perioperative Medicine Symposium held in September.

Growing our services – Epworth Medical Imaging

We are very pleased to announce that Epworth has entered into an agreement with Sonic Healthcare Limited (Sonic) to establish a new service, Epworth Medical Imaging. Sonic has more than 25 years industry experience and a demonstrated track record in delivering medical imaging services to hospitals throughout Australia.

Epworth Medical Imaging opens at Epworth Freemasons on 21 December 2013. Plans for a service at Epworth Camberwell opening late 2013 are currently underway. Epworth Richmond and Epworth Eastern will continue with the existing imaging services supplier.

As leading health care providers, Epworth and Sonic share a vision for excellence in healthcare and optimised patient care. Through this new venture we have the opportunity to design a service to meet our clinical requirements and provide patients with the most up-to-date technological advances and innovative treatment options in diagnostic testing.

Ms Sandy Chamberlin has been appointed the role of Director of Operations, Radiology, to oversee the delivery of this important service to our doctors and patients. She brings to the role extensive experience in management and establishment of new radiology services.

Appointments can be made by calling (03) 9483 3377 and more information will be available at epworth.org.au/medical-imaging.
In 2014, the Epworth Research Institute Awards (annual research grants made available to Epworth researchers) will each be named in honour of those who have previously made significant contributions to our research and clinical care.

Past clinical leaders, Professor Brian Buxton, Professor Priscilla Kincaid-Smith, Dr Kingsley Mills, and Professor Graeme Sloman will each have a grant named in their honour. Yvonne Tjandra has also accepted the invitation on behalf of her husband, Associate Professor Joe Tjandra who sadly passed away in 2007 following a long battle with bowel cancer. The names of the remaining four awards will be announced in 2014.

Epworth is proud of its heritage and advancements in clinical care, education and research and appreciates the significant contribution made by many great clinicians to Epworth’s success. Our research institute facilitates grants each year to ensure this ethos continues well into the future.

The number and value of available grants has increased each year since their inception – in 2013 nine grants were awarded at a total value of $226,134.

The Epworth Research Institute was established in 2010 to significantly increase the support of research across Epworth.

For more information on Epworth Research Grants contact (03) 9936 8058.

Epworth – Our Tradition and History

The Epworth Richmond redevelopment has provided an opportunity to turn a blank wall at the Bridge Road carpark entrance into a visual celebration of Epworth’s history, with the newly installed artwork Epworth – Our Tradition and History.

Artist Anton Hasell said the healing powers of light and water are central to the work of art, which uses 48 light-boxes to illuminate imagery of historical importance to Epworth’s 93 year story.

“The light-boxes bring to mind stained-glass windows, x-ray displays and computer screens that, along with the collage of images, celebrate Epworth’s journey,” Anton explained.

The artwork celebrates the many doctors, staff and benefactors whose contributions to advances in medical practice at Epworth have enabled the highest standard of care to be delivered to our wider community.

Creating a welcome environment through art

An Art Committee has been formed to oversee the provision of art across Epworth, with a particular focus on artworks in patient areas. The committee is chaired by Mrs Yolanda Klempfner AO, former Board of Management member and coordinated through the Epworth Medical Foundation. Currently an audit is underway to locate and catalogue all existing pieces of art. The committee aims to assist Epworth to manage and extend its collection and display of art to further improve the environment for patients, visitors and staff.
Rolling out scanned medical records

Epworth HealthCare is implementing the Scanned Medical Record (SMR) system throughout the organisation, using the BOSSnet system. Once a patient is discharged, their paper-based medical record is scanned into BOSSnet, allowing multiple clinicians and staff to access the medical record in real-time from any location (both internal and external), concurrently.

The roll-out of BOSSnet is well underway, to provide real-time access to live Pathology and Radiology results.

Epworth Brighton, Epworth Camberwell, Epworth Richmond and Epworth Hawthorn have all gone live with the SMR; Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Cliveden are scheduled to go-live in March 2014, which will deliver consistent processes across all Epworth sites.

More information about the SMR Project can be found on the intranet via the newly improved BOSSnet eLearning Centre or by emailing the project team directly: smrp@epworth.org.au

New Epworth Clinic part of Epworth Excellence

Epworth Camberwell opened its doors in August to a new mental health service, Epworth Clinic, providing inpatient and day patient programs for adults and adolescents. The clinic offers care for those experiencing depression, mood disorder and anxiety with a specific focus on: Acute Stress Reaction, Schizophrenia, Depression, Bipolar Affective Disorder Type 1 & 2, Anxiety Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder.

The state-of-the-art facility is managed by a strong team of highly experienced mental health registered nurses and allied health clinicians.

The Epworth Clinic allows for continuity of care and a community focus, ensuring clients remain integrated into the community during treatment.

The program concentrates on skills clients can use in everyday life, with a focus on transition to outpatient support programs as soon as possible.

A purpose built, multi-disciplinary health education and research centre is co-located within the facility and includes therapy rooms to support education and teaching of medical, nursing and allied health students.

Historically, Epworth Camberwell has provided best practice rehabilitation where allied health professionals and nurses work closely with rehabilitation physicians in an interdisciplinary team to create individualised rehabilitation programs for each patient.

Now with the extra beds and mental health services, more than 100 new staff are working on the site including extra nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, cleaners and administrative staff.

The redevelopment included consulting suites, therapy rooms, a cafe, ancillary retail and support services as well as 98 extra car spaces.

THE EPWORTH CLINIC ALLOWS FOR CONTINUITY OF CARE AND A COMMUNITY FOCUS, ENSURING CLIENTS REMAIN INTEGRATED INTO THE COMMUNITY DURING TREATMENT.
Congratulations to Professor Nilmini Wickramasinghe (Epworth Chair of Health Information Management) who, as part of a team of researchers from RMIT University, Monash University and Moi University in Kenya, was recently awarded the Distiguished Poster Award at the World Congress on Medical and Health Informatics held in Copenhagen. The event hosts a high quality scientific exchange of current research and thinking in health and biomedical informatics. The team was recognised for their work: Information Architecture Considerations in Designing a Comprehensive Tuberculosis Enterprise System in Western Kenya, which was funded by a Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Exploration grant.

Prof Wickramasinghe thanked Epworth HealthCare for its continued support and said: “There were approx 1300 participants this year so it is quite a prestigious recognition and to be very honest I was the most surprised of all as there really were some excellent poster presentations by some leading informatics researchers.”

In November, Associate Professor Robert Rome expressed his desire to step down as Director of the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Clinical Institute after five years of service.

Epworth HealthCare is extremely grateful for Robert’s commitment, expertise, leadership and generosity in establishing the Clinical Institute, including the development of the annual Obstetrics & Gynaecology Symposium, gynaecology registrar and student training, and a strong audit program.

Professor John Catford announced the news to the members of the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Clinical Institute and expressions of interested closed 25 November, with interviews planned for December.

The successful applicant is expected to be announced in early 2014.

Above: Associate Professor Robert Rome

Epworth Freemasons in October hosted a Halloween inspired quarterly CEO Dinner – Halloween Night to Remember. With 64 guests, many of whom were nominated for special recognition by their managers and peers, the Epworth Freemasons night was imbued with a creepy and otherworldly air.

The night was a tribute to the efforts of a special group of employees who have consistently performed above expectations in their respective jobs. With the ambiance of the Freeo’s Café transformed into eerie and darkened cave of skeletons, spiders and other ghoulish things, our chefs did us proud in presenting an array of Halloween inspired delicacies. Some humorous entertainment involving mummy wrapping and apple bobbing set the mood and after the formalities of the certificate presentations, the room relaxed into an evening of fun and laughter with work colleagues and friends.

A Halloween CEO dinner to remember

International recognition for Epworth Professor

Robert Rome retires as Clinical Institute Chair

Above: Associate Professor Robert Rome
Ten years on from the first robotic surgical case held in Australia at Epworth Richmond, Australia’s first multidisciplinary robotic surgical symposium was held at the Park Hyatt and Epworth hospitals on 15–16 November.

Convened by Director of Robotic Surgery, Mr Daniel Moon, the program featured pioneers of robotic surgery in various specialties from around the country, along with three international experts: Prof Mihir Desai, University of Southern California, USA; Prof John Boggess, University North Carolina, USA; and Prof David Jayne, University of Leeds, UK.

The first day consisted of a discussion of training and credentialling issues relevant to all disciplines, followed by a video-based overview of robotic surgical applications in Urology, Gynaecology, Colorectal surgery, Cardiac surgery, Thoracics, and ENT surgery. In the afternoon, three separate break-out masterclasses in Urology, Gynaecology, and Colo-rectal surgery were held.

On the second day of the meeting, three simultaneous live surgical cases were transmitted to the Clinical Education and Simulation Centre in Richmond: *Robotic radical prostatectomy* at Epworth Freemasons, *Robotic radical hysterectomy* at Epworth Eastern and *Robotic anterior resection* at Epworth Richmond.

The quality of the cases and transmission was world-class and a credit to the Epworth HealthCare theatre and IT teams who spent months preparing the logistics of such a complex event.

Over 100 delegates attended, with the symposium proving to be a resounding success in providing a high quality scientific and surgical exchange.

**In other Robot News**

The first daVinci robot that Epworth introduced to the Australian hospital setting in 2003 has grown up and moved out!

The surgical robot was donated by Epworth to Scienceworks Museum at Spotswood for *Think Ahead*, a permanent exhibition which opened on 5 December.

The robot features at this exhibition about advances in science and technology because it changed surgical options for patients when it was introduced.

Mr Daniel Moon, Urologist and Director of Robotic Surgery at Epworth, said the introduction of robotics enabled surgeons to see anatomy better than they had ever been able to see it before.

“Advances in robotic surgery have given surgeons dexterity and control that would be impossible with human hands. For example removing prostates has always been delicate because you’re operating near important tissues that control urinary and reproductive functions,” he said.

For more information about the exhibition visit the *Think Ahead* page on Sciencework’s website.

**New IT system for Medical Oncology**

A project has commenced to provide a Complete Cancer Solution (CCS) for Epworth HealthCare, through the introduction of a Medical Oncology IT module, adding to the existing ARIA® Radiation Oncology Information System.

A few of the many benefits of this initiative are:

- The introduction of electronic patient scheduling to potentially reduce patient waiting times and maximise use of chair occupancy
- Facilitating standardised chemotherapy ordering
- Providing instant access to consistently presented patient information at any time, from any location, and
- Providing electronic calculations of appropriate chemotherapy doses, tracking of lifetime dosages of chemotherapy and coordination of treatment protocols for complex, combination therapies, reducing the risk of adverse drug reactions.

The project has a phased approach with the first phase delivering the electronic diary which is planned to go-live at Epworth Richmond and Epworth Freemasons in the New Year.

Phase 2 will deliver greatly improved functionality with the addition of chemotherapeutics and drug ordering.

Project updates will be regularly communicated to doctors and staff however to seek further information about ARIA® or the Medical Oncology project, please feel free to email: ec-moisprojectteam@epworth.org.au
 Warehousing moves to Abbotsford

The Procurement and Facilities team has recently relocated to a large warehouse facility in Abbotsford, quadrupling the space they previously occupied in Richmond.

James Piplios, Executive Director Procurement and Facilities, said the move has reduced congestion at the loading dock at Richmond, improving carpark safety for staff and visitors.

The team is now focussing on streamlining processes to improve ordering.

Generous donors fund advanced cardiac equipment

Patients in the Cardiac Ward at Epworth Richmond have access to the most advanced cardiac monitoring system in the world, thanks to the generosity of donors to the Epworth Medical Foundation.

The cardiac telemetry equipment provides continuous monitoring of patients’ heart rates and rhythms, with staff able to access the results from the bedside, the nurse station as well as remotely around the hospital.

“This equipment is a major upgrade to our cardiac unit and increases efficiency in patient care,” said Ilan Fogel, Nurse Unit Manager of the cardiac ward.

Above: Associate Professor Neil Collier

Neil Collier retires as Clinical Institute Chair

In June, Associate Professor Neil Collier announced he would be stepping down as Director of the General Surgery & Gastroenterology Clinical Institute after five years of service.

Under his leadership the Institute has developed three accredited and one unaccredited general surgery registrar training posts, with two more under development, including delivering RACS-accredited education programs and training. Under Neil’s guidance, the Institute has also contributed to medical undergraduate teaching programs, developed mechanisms for cross-campus collaboration, supported ties with Cleveland Clinic through the Colorectal Fellowship program and developed regular audit meetings, bi-annual presentations and annual symposia.

We thank Neil for his commitment, expertise, leadership and generosity in establishing the Clinical Institute.

In September, Mr Gary Crosthwaite was appointed to the position. Mr Crosthwaite has had a very distinguished career and a long-standing professional association with The Royal Melbourne Hospital, the University of Melbourne and Epworth. He has a proven track record in professional leadership, team management and teaching, and has demonstrated the highest standards of clinical expertise and integrity.

Epworth is extremely privileged to have someone of Mr Crosthwaite’s standing to lead the Clinical Institute in the next phase of its development.

Below: The cardiac telemetry system enables staff to monitor patients from anywhere within the ward
Epworth Professor appointed President of RACS

Epworth Eastern Professor Michael Grigg has recently been elected to be the next President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

It is almost 20 years since a Victorian surgeon has been elected to this position.

Previously President of the Australia and New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgery, Professor Grigg also has extensive involvement with Epworth Eastern Hospital that dates from the time the hospital opened its doors in 2005.

Professor Grigg is a Vascular Surgeon and the Monash University Professor of Surgery based at Eastern Health – a position that he has held for 15 years – and is also the Executive Clinical Director of Surgical Services.

Professor Grigg founded the Surgical Research Group and has been a reviewer for numerous journals and the National Health and Medical Research Council. His major research interests relate to arterial replacement surgery. He is a Wellcome Foundation research fellow.

My Epworth Patient app – an Australian first

A mobile application allowing doctors to access key patient information remotely through their mobile device is currently being developed by Epworth for our accredited specialists.

Key features of the My Epworth Patients app includes push notifications when a doctor nears an Epworth hospital notifying the number of patients at that hospital location, a summary list of patients by ward, and the ability to view patient information including name, gender, date of birth, admission date, ward, bed number, UR number and admission details. This includes the presenting condition and operation descriptions. All details provided are restricted to the treating doctor.

The app provides the opportunity for doctors to record their diagnosis, visits and notes as they see their patients with email notifications built in to help facilitate billing. Doctors will be able to call the ward directly from the app if needed.

An alpha (first cut) of the app has been developed and presented to a group of interested doctors for feedback and input prior to release. Testing the app will commence in January 2014 with the expected rollout to commence before the end of March 2014.

We believe this is the first app of its kind made available to doctors in Australia, and we are very proud that Epworth is the first hospital to achieve this.
Epworth oncology patients will benefit from a new treatment system, to be installed in early 2014. Patients at Epworth Freemasons will be the first in the country to benefit from the second generation small footprint Varian Medical Systems TrueBeam STx linear accelerator. The TrueBeam STx stereotactic system is expected to double the number of patients who can be treated at Freemason’s Radiation Oncology.

The system has stereotactic radiosurgery capability, which allows for sub-millimetre accuracy for the treatment of many cancer types. The system can also be used for non-cancer related, functional conditions such as epilepsy, Parkinson’s Disease and tremors when traditional surgery is not applicable.

“We already have one stereotactic machine at Epworth Richmond, so while this is a new machine type, it is still delivering the same complex and precise treatment to our patients,” said Director of Operations, Radiation Oncology Paul Fenton.

Epworth Radiation Oncology patients will further benefit from the introduction of motion management system Calypso at Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Richmond sites next year. Calypso uses radiofrequency transponders, surgically placed in tumours to actively track and adjust the radiation beams if there is patient movement or due to breathing. This allows radiation therapy to be delivered to a smaller treatment area when breathing would traditionally have to be compensated by treating with larger radiation beams.

“This technology will allow Epworth to improve our cancer patient outcomes and provide this technology for the first time in Victoria,” Paul said.

“Studies indicate the use of Calypso can allow for a more accurate radiation beam, which translates into treating with higher, curative radiation doses with less associated toxicity.”

A surgical microscope for brain surgery

Removing a tumor in the brain without damaging surrounding tissue requires expert skill and highly magnified vision. The Epworth Medical Foundation recently purchased a new state-of-the-art neurological microscope which is now being used in the operating theatre at Epworth Richmond to magnify the surgical area and make it easier for surgeons to perform delicate brain surgery.

The Leica operating microscope was the subject of the Foundation’s mid-year appeal which raised $412,000 to purchase the highly advanced equipment.

“The Leica operating microscope is a huge advancement in neurosurgery that will literally save or prolong a person’s life,” said neurosurgeon, Mr Craig Timms. “The technology is state-of-the-art and the clarity it brings to delicate and precise surgery is outstanding.”

Above Neurosurgeon Mr Craig Timms performs delicate brain surgery using the neurological microscope.
Prestigious award for Epworth pilot program

Epworth Medical Administration Registrar, Dr Paul Eleftheriou has been named by the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA), as the 2013 recipient of the prestigious Margaret Tobin Challenge Award.

The challenge was renamed in December 2002 to honour the contribution to RACMA by the late Dr Margaret Tobin, South Australia’s mental health chief reformer who was killed at work, in October that year.

Dr Eleftheriou, who has previously trained in surgery and medical education, was recognised for his contribution to the practice of medical administration through improving medical accreditation processes at Epworth. This is undertaken with a data management system that manages credentialling of doctors in a program that could revolutionise professional governance in hospitals.

Dr Eleftheriou said the new system, currently named the Medical Services DataBase (MSDB), demonstrates the difference between 20th and 21st Century thinking as it saves time, space and money.

Together with SharePoint technology specialists OBS, Epworth developed an automated online system that updates information daily, compared with the old system which required three accreditation staff and a RACMA registrar handling multiple confusing Excel spreadsheets and thousands of medical practitioner paper files,” Dr Eleftheriou said.

Initially scoped by Epworth Business Analyst David Salter, the new system ensures compliance with Scope of Clinical Practice and Policies, providing a way to validate the professional practice of an individual doctor at any time.

“Epworth has not just changed the system but improved the workflow at the same time. The time needed for accreditation and reference checking has been reduced from weeks to days. A linked web service piloted with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) conducts a daily update on our medical practitioners and signals an immediate alert regarding any changes instituted by AHPRA and the Medical Board.

The Award, which was announced at the Annual Conference, held this year in Brisbane, selects the best twelve-minute presentation by a College candidate. The candidates, who enter from each Australian State/ Territory & New Zealand, are invited to speak on a topic of their choice. The winner is presented with a medallion and a cash prize.

Epworth HealthCare launched a Safety and Wellbeing initiative in October, as part of National Safety Month, featuring a range of activities at each Epworth location including massages, wellbeing seminars and fresh fruit.

Epworth’s safety and wellbeing priorities and responsibilities were shared during the campaign and key staff recognised with safety awards for their good work in this area.

Performer Colin Lane brought a comedic element to the campaign with many staff attending a viewing of the ‘Talking Safety Syndromes with Colin’ video, now available on the intranet.

Improving safety and wellbeing is an ongoing priority for everyone at Epworth and continues beyond National Safety Month. All staff are encouraged to be aware of its importance every day and to make improvements, no matter how small, to foster a safe workplace.

Life’s better in a safer workplace. Epworth. Better.

Think Act Stay Safe

Left Comedian Colin Lane presents “Talking Safety Syndromes with Colin”

Above Dr Paul Eleftheriou, recipient of the prestigious Margaret Tobin Challenge Award
Developing Epworth leadership

In late August, 45 individuals who participated in the Epworth HealthCare emerging and operational leadership program graduated with a Swinburne University Diploma of Management.

Epworth recognises that leadership development is critical to the achievement of organisational goals and objectives. Epworth’s leadership development opportunities focus on enhancing the leadership capabilities of the leader to ensure they effectively lead and manage their staff and to prepare them for future career opportunities.

All of the individuals who graduated have worked extremely hard and should be proud of their achievement. Executive and leaders across the organisation came to the graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievement and success.

A new group of emerging and operational leaders has now commenced the program.

Ensuring contractor compliance

The Health and Safety Team have been focused on increasing the level of compliance for contractors engaged to complete work at Epworth sites with the implementation of iPRO.

iPRO is an external database that requires contractors to register online for compliance verification purposes and allows contractors access to relevant documentation. Contractors are required to swipe their iPRO card for each shift, ensuring contractor compliance.

iPRO also allows Epworth to access preferred contractors and notify registered contractors of OH&S updates and relevant mandatory training requirements.

This initiative is nearing completion and will be mandatory at all Epworth sites by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the iPro database, please contact your Divisional Health and Safety Advisor or alternatively send an email to: sarah.thompson@epworth.org.au

Great Ocean Walk for Wellness

A group of walkers, ranging from 17 to 75 years of age, battled the elements to hike 40 kilometres along the Great Ocean Walk in October.

The walk from Cape Otway to the Twelve Apostles raised $15,000 to help patients from country Victoria gain access to cancer treatment at Epworth.

Participants including Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Michael Robinson and Director of Operations in Radiation Oncology, Paul Fenton, continued through rain, hail and shine to complete the three day trek.

Battling up muddy hills, down steep steps and along windy ridges the troupe took in great views, pounding surf, changing vegetation and wonderful wildlife, all off the beaten track along the picturesque Victorian coastline.

A highlight of the trip was meeting local guide Mark Brack, who grew up in the light keeper’s cottage at Cape Otway and provided an authoritative background on the history of the area.

Epworth patient Jenny Fellows from Deniliquin, NSW and her son Jack also participated, to raise funds for patients based in rural areas.

“My son Jack and I did the recent Walk for Wellness with the Epworth hospital as a fundraiser for country patients. The weekend was a wonderful experience in so many ways and one I would recommend to anyone,” said Jenny.

“The Great Ocean Walk is truly one of this country’s great wonders. As a recent patient of Epworth I experienced this amazing organisation in a different way with the same positive outcomes! Thank you to all.”

The Walk for Wellness will be held again in late October 2014. For further information please contact Kathryn Johnston on (03) 9426 6359 or email kathryn.johnston@epworth.org.au
Sixteen participants including a doctor, staff and patients raised a total of $75,000 for cancer services at Epworth by taking a ten-day trek along the Great Wall of China, an ancient wonder of the world.

The Hike for Health included both restored and un-restored sections segmented with magnificent watchtowers atop mountain ridges with magnificent views over the local area.

Included in the troupe were oncologist Dr Allan Zimet, EMF Executive Director Scott Bulger, Trustee Cathi Biddick, several staff from cancer services and active members of the community.

There is no doubt the walk proved arduous with long stretches of steep inclines and some steps almost a metre high but the group persevered, all finishing with an enormous sense of camaraderie, achievement and satisfaction.

One group member Margaret Duncan reported on the group’s blog some participants’ sentiments about the hike. Here are some of the messages:

Rita Magro: I wanted to raise money to help people who don’t have the support I had during my cancer treatment. The experience of the Wall was a real bonus.

Peter Essex: I saw my time on the Wall as a way of giving something back to people in need.

Margaret Duncan: I feel I have gained valuable lessons from both my fundraising journey and my walk on the Wall. I have learnt you don’t need to know all the steps before you start. You just need to know how to make the first step and trust you will make the second and each successive step as it presents itself, appreciating every step along the way. That is how I raised over $10,000 and that is how I walked the Great Wall of China. I think that’s how all great journeys are accomplished.

Cathi Biddick: The Wall is a metaphor for a journey. It stretches out before you with ups and downs and seemingly never ends. I have a friend undergoing cancer treatment. When I find the walk hard, I find it helpful to think of those going through chemotherapy or radiotherapy and remember how much harder their journey is. I know this hike will end, but cancer patients don’t know how long or hard their individual journey will be, or where and how it ends.

Dr Allan Zimet: For me the Wall is something that has endured for thousands of years and will continue to endure. I like its permanence and indestructibility. It is probably one of the few things that will remain unchanged, particularly in a country like China, in 500 years time. It is a touchstone; it reminds us where we are in the universe – a mere speck.

The Hike for Health will be held again next year along the Great Wall of China from 12 September 2014. For further information please contact Kathleen Lambrick (03) 9426 8170 or email: kathleen.lambrick@epworth.org.au
Staff and volunteers enjoy the spirit of Christmas

Each year in the lead up to Christmas, carol singing and festive music fill the halls and wards of Epworth hospitals, led by the Pastoral Care teams at each site.

Epworth Richmond’s Executive Director, Eileen Hannagan, initiated the first Epworth Christmas Choir in 2010 and it’s been a great hit in the past three years, with many staff returning each year to spread the joy.

Choirs elicit an incredible and often emotional response from patients, their families and ward staff. The staff choir at Richmond visits wards, Emergency, ICU and even operating areas to sing a range of favourite Christmas carols. On other days, patients are treated to the sounds of the Salvation Army Band; Trinity Trebles and the Strathcona Choir (school students); Organised Water; and the Bill Brown Singers.

At Epworth Freemasons the Salvation Army Veterans’ Band performs their annual Christmas concert in the Courtyard of Peace & Harmony. Patients, doctors and staff gather in the courtyard to enjoy an hour of traditional Christmas music, while those unable to leave their rooms can watch the concert via their televisions.

At Epworth Eastern, volunteer Gill Bell leads a group of staff and volunteers who sing on two different days; while Ensemble Q+, introduced by a former patient to Epworth, donates their time on another day.

And for a gift of a different nature, Epworth staff at all sites are committed to generously supporting Victorians in need through Wesley Mission Melbourne’s Food for Families Appeal. Throughout November and December, we see staff donating food items, biscuits, toiletries and toys or games for children. This enables Wesley Mission to distribute food and gifts not only over the Christmas Season, but throughout the year.

Epworth doctors celebrate Christmas James Bond style

The 2013 Epworth Doctors’ Christmas Cocktails were held on 28 November at Melbourne Museum. Over 200 Epworth specialists and their partners attended the evening. The highlight of the evening was the Designing 007 – Fifty Years of Bond Style exhibition. The exhibition was open throughout the evening for attendees to view exhibits relating to the past 50 years of James Bond.

Above (left to right) Mr Alan Kinkade (Group Chief Executive) with guests Mrs Jane Trembath, Dr Peter Trembath, A/Prof Eugenia Pedagogos and Mr Kosta Stathoulis
Epworth staff celebrate Christmas

Epworth again celebrated the year with staff enjoying the festivities at the Epworth HealthCare Christmas party at Melbourne Museum on 6 December. Over 1500 staff from across the organisation attended the party. The band, ‘The Notes’ provided fantastic entertainment throughout the night with many staff dancing the night away.
The major redevelopment of Epworth Richmond continues to make significant progress each month and with the works commencing on Erin Street, the transformation is evident. Bulk excavation works have been underway on the future pod 4 site over the last few months. These works will continue into the new year. A timelapse camera was installed onsite to capture the demolition works and can be viewed on our website under the major projects page. This camera will also remain for the build of pod 4.

Tender for the build of Pod 4 was issued last month. The tender process will move into early 2014 and a builder is expected to be appointed and announced in March 2014.

Epworth Richmond’s main theatre complex has continued to progress well with the opening of two new Endoscopy Suites and two new theatres. Stage 4B works is scheduled for completion around the end of January 2014; delivering a further 14 bed recovery area for our day surgery department.

Significant changes have been made to the main entry off Bridge Road with the florist moving into its new shop front, the opening of the port cochere and drop off zone and rectification works to the pavers and seating area. Along with this, Epworth Richmond recently installed artwork commissioned for the wall located at the Bridge Road car park entrance.

Epworth Geelong

Tender for the first stage of Epworth Geelong has been issued. The tender process will move into early 2014 and a builder is expected to be appointed and announced in March 2014 subject to Board approval.

“THE MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT OF EPWORTH RICHMOND CONTINUES TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS.”

Epworth Freemasons lodged a town planning application for the Clarendon Street campus to City of Melbourne and to Heritage Victoria in June, to allow for facility upgrading and expansion. The application specified expansion of the Central Sterilisation and Supply Department, construction of two new operating theatres, upgrade of existing theatres, new Day of Surgery Admissions (DOSA) and construction of ancillary support space.

The increase in capacity requires the upgrade of central plant systems, to cope with this expansion, as well as providing an opportunity to update existing infrastructure. Epworth received heritage and planning approval for these works in August.

The project team is currently preparing a business case for the Epworth Board to be presented this month, following three months of master plan design work. This process included user groups, site investigations, preparation of staging diagrams and project programs leading to the refinement of the cost plan by the Quantity Surveyor.

If approved, the first stage of construction works is anticipated to commence in March or April 2014, with the bulk of works to be completed over the next two years. The project plan emphasises maintaining day-to-day hospital operations with minimal disruption to patients, staff and visitors during works.
Earlier this year, the Epworth Medical Foundation made an urgent plea asking for support to help purchase a critical care ultrasound machine for one of its intensive care units.

The machine cost $100,000 and the Foundation was overwhelmed with the support it received. Thanks to the generosity of donors, it was able to purchase not one but two critical care ultrasound machines for Intensive Care Units at both Epworth Eastern and Epworth Freemasons. What an amazing response!

Using the most advanced ultrasound technology at the bedside in the intensive care unit, means patients are diagnosed and treated faster, avoiding transfer to other parts of the hospital and providing better outcomes for patients.

“This new technology will help us diagnose and treat a broad range of conditions such as trauma, shock, heart attack and deep vein thrombosis,” said Co-Director of the Intensive Care Unit at Epworth Eastern, Dr Stephen Warrilow. “We really appreciate the support from each and every donor.”

Above Staff members in the Intensive Care Unit at Epworth Eastern are delighted with the new critical care ultrasound machine made possible through donations to the Epworth Medical Foundation

In November 2013 Epworth HealthCare participated in its third Staff Engagement Survey, conducted by Best Practice Australia (BPA).

High levels of employee engagement are necessary to underpin Epworth Excellence and are critical to delivering pre-eminent patient care and safety and attracting and retaining top talent.

Thank you to all of the staff who took the time to complete the Staff Engagement Survey. It is through your feedback that we can continue to shape our future and continue on our journey in becoming an Employer of Choice and to provide an outstanding customer service experience to the community in which we serve.

The results will be provided by Best Practice Australia to Epworth in February 2014 and the process for communicating results will commence within a month of Epworth receiving them.

On 12 September Epworth HealthCare held its seventh Twilight Leadership Series, in which a prominent leader shares their experiences with senior leaders from across the organisation.

On this occasion the guest speaker was the highly engaging Dr Ziggy Switkowski who drew on his wealth of experience as Chancellor of RMIT and Chair of the Suncorp Group, and his time serving as CEO of Optus, Telstra and Kodak, to provide fascinating insights into a broad range of business and community topics. Discussion centred around technology and its future in the workplace and society, the environment and diversity in the workplace.

Above (left to right) Mr Alan Kinkade (Group Chief Executive), Dr Ziggy Switkowski, Mrs Janet Latchford (President, Board of Management) and Mr Rod Fitzroy (Deputy President, Board of Management)
Epworth HealthCheck

The earlier health problems are diagnosed and assessed, the better the outcome. The Epworth HealthCheck assessment service is a comprehensive check of physical wellbeing.

Every year, out of the 400–500 patients who have undergone a thorough Epworth HealthCheck, almost half have discovered a previously unknown medical condition. These conditions include diagnosis of prostate, kidney and bowel cancer, high blood pressure, depression and diabetes. Numerous patients have also been identified as having cardiac disease and have been subsequently admitted to an Epworth hospital for life-saving interventional cardiac procedures.

These outstanding results continue to highlight the importance of this program and the overall positive impact that it has on patient lives through proactive testing and thorough examination.

The service includes:

- Tests for liver and kidney functioning
- Comprehensive pathology
- Stress echocardiogram to predict heart disease
- Bone densitometry test
- Mammogram and breast ultrasound (for women)
- Abdominal and pelvic ultrasound
- A lifestyle assessment including review of nutrition, stress management, alcohol, tobacco, and other indicators of disease

- A full report of your test results and where a result requires intervention, immediate access to Epworth specialists is coordinated.

Epworth HealthCheck is available to Epworth staff at a cost of $2,800 (normally $3,135).

To book your appointment, please call Melinda or Pippa on (03) 9426 8888.

For more information visit www.epworth.org.au/healthcheck