Message from the Epworth Research Institute Chair

At Epworth HealthCare, we are proud to be fostering and supporting a growing capacity to conduct cutting edge nationally and internationally regarded clinical research.

Epworth continues to build momentum, such that we regard ourselves as the leading academic healthcare organisation in the private, not-for-profit sector in Victoria, and possibly Australia. Our motivated clinical researchers are working on new and better ways to treat our patients, unravel disease pathways and facilitate important clinical and healthcare breakthroughs.

The importance of research in how we operate at Epworth is clearly stated in the Epworth Strategic Plan 2013–2017: Epworth aims to improve the health, wellbeing and experience of every patient by integrating clinical practice with education and research. This continues on our traditional basis, as the original act upon which Epworth is based has a similar wording:

“to promote and fund medical and health care research of any kind in Australia that is, or is likely to be, of benefit to the community;” Epworth Foundation Act 1980 (Vic)
There are many highlights to the year, including the vibrant clinical trials unit and other groups performing clinical trials that allow our patients to have access to the latest, cutting edge drugs, devices and treatment modalities. We also support motivated researchers across the spectrum of clinical disciplines and pathways being pursued by our motivated medical, nursing and allied health staff.

Epworth continues to build productive relationships and collaborations with leading medical research institutes, universities and research groups amplifying Epworth’s presence in professional research within the private health sector. We have also been very fortunate to be able to financially support a growing number of research projects being conducted by our own clinical researchers, through the Epworth Research Institute grant funding scheme. We continue to recognise the endeavours of our important collaborators, by appointing them as Honorary Research Affiliates of Epworth. This allows us to build on our research capability and strengthen these critical relationships with our research collaborators and partners.

We are very proud of the integral role research now plays in the daily professional lives of our clinicians and staff and the benefits this provides to Epworth patients. Our researchers are able to see the results of their research being translated into improvements in clinical and healthcare practice of ultimate benefit to our patients. The Epworth Research Institute represents Epworth’s commitment to providing world-class patient care through leading-edge research.

I would like to thank everyone who has so generously supported our research: our patients, our committed staff, clinical practitioners, research affiliates, collaborators, funding bodies and benefactors. This Research supplement highlights a number key areas, including our current research projects, publications and conference presentations, representing the continued dedication and hard work by all those involved in research at Epworth.

Mrs Janet Latchford, Chair
Epworth Research Institute
Overview of research portfolio in Academic & Medical

The Academic & Medical portfolio is a large division within Epworth that integrates clinical medical practice with education and research to improve the quality of care and the patient experience. We support a professional environment that attracts excellent and productive specialists who are committed to Epworth, through implementing a specialist appointment system that aligns scope of practice and allows medical education and professional development within and between disciplines. The portfolio also encourages and supports a learning culture for our staff, and provides professional entry, early career and continuing education across the broad medical, nursing and allied health streams, through face-to-face, simulation and e-learning modalities.

Regarding research, Clinical Trials and Medical Innovation has a role to implement and manage a research strategy for the growth and development of successful and viable research programs at Epworth HealthCare. This strategy encompasses commercially-sponsored and investigator-led trials with the engagement of key national and international stakeholders across the academic, pharmaceutical, medical products, research and clinical disciplines across the private and public sectors. The Unit also provides a full range of clinical development services across all phases of a clinical development lifecycle. Some key achievements in the last 12-24 months include establishing early-phase (Phase I) clinical capabilities at Epworth, with 3 oncology trials underway, significantly increasing the number of commercially-sponsored and investigator-led trials, established a new clinical research area in Mental Health at Epworth Camberwell, and strengthening the resources to support clinical trial growth.

Research Development & Governance supports clinical researchers at Epworth by offering a number of services such as biostatistical analysis and project design, notification of external funding opportunities and advice in putting together funding applications and submitting on behalf of researchers. It supports the administration of the Human Research Ethics Committee, organises speakers for a monthly Research Grand Round, facilitates the annual Epworth Research Institute internal research funding round, and puts together the annual Epworth Research Week, which highlights research being undertaken at Epworth.

Research Development & Governance has in the past 12 months reviewed all policies and protocols relevant to research at Epworth. It has also implemented a more robust research governance framework to assist researchers in conducting research at Epworth of the highest quality and in concordance with the National Statement on Ethics Conduct in Human Research.
Epworth HealthCare, in combination with the Epworth Research Institute, has undertaken an impressive journey to transform into a pre-eminent academic hospital group providing excellence in clinical services, excellence and research. This has reinforced its reputation as a high quality research institute within the private teaching hospital environment. Many of Epworth’s clinicians, staff and patients participate in a wide variety of clinical and translational research programs across a broad range of clinical areas. The greatest marker of success is the integral role research now plays in the professional life of our clinicians and staff and the benefits this provides to Epworth patients.

**Highlights of 2015/16 include:**

- The fourth round of ERI Grants were finalised in June with over $650,000 distributed to support Epworth researchers
- The 2016 ERI Dinner was held during Research Week with over 300 people joining together to celebrate our achievements; our biggest ERI Dinner event to date
- We have continued to be active as a founding member of the Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre
- Significant increase in clinical trial activity with commercially-sponsored and investigator-led trials
- Extending clinical research capability to include early phase trials
- Establishment of new clinical research in Mental Health/Neuro with the commencement of two clinical trials in Alzheimer’s disease
- Appointment of a Director/Professor of Molecular Oncology and Cancer Immunology and recruitment of a Research Project Scientist to coordinate and support the various unique clinical research programs that are planned
- Strengthening of relationships with government bodies and industry partners
- Doubling of clinical research staff to support the expansion in trial activity
Ethical approval of research projects

All research conducted at Epworth must be approved by Epworth’s Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) before it can commence. Led by Reverend Professor Emeritus Christiaan Mostert (Chair, HREC) and Professor Mari Botti (Chair, Low-Risk Subcommittee), the HREC is formed under the auspices of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) which provides leadership and advice regarding research governance in Australia.

Epworth would like to thank the members of HREC for their continued dedication and support with research studies. We particularly acknowledge the work of Ms Marisa Stevens, who stepped down from HREC in 2015/16, and welcome Dr Ken Khamly, Dr Gershon Spitz and the Reverend Tom Rose, who have joined the HREC.

HREC AND LOW RISK SUBCOMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS:

Number of submissions

HREC — 70 new submissions
HREC Sub-Committee (Low and Negligible Risk) — 54 new submissions

HREC COMMITTEE:

Reverend Professor Emeritus Christiaan Mostert (Chair)
Professor Mari Botti AM
Professor Peter Brooks AM
Professor Emeritus John Catford
Professor Jane Fisher
Ms Sarah Pollock
Mr Ian Unwin
The Honourable Peter Young
Ms Marissa Stevens (stepped down in 2015/16)
Dr Ken Khamly (joined in 2015/16)
Dr Gershon Spitz (joined in 2015/16)
Reverend Tom Rose (joined in 2015/16)

LOW RISK SUBCOMMITTEE:

Professor Mari Botti AM (Chair)
Reverend Professor Emeritus Christiaan Mostert
Dr Karin Hammarberg
Ms Tess Lye
Epworth Great Debate: Could research be bad for your health?

To the strains of Queen’s ‘Another one bites the dust’, six of Epworth’s eminent professors and one corporate counsel marched into the auditorium for a comedic Research Grand Round in August 2015.

The Great Debate featured Professor Richard de Steiger, A/Professor Genie Pedagogos (in monkey suit) and legal brain Tess Lye (in chicken costume) on the affirmative team, putting a great case forward about cruelty to animals kept in cages, flown to outer space or used for questionable research. Professor de Steiger outlined the early deaths of researchers such as Henry Gray who died aged 34 after completing his eponymous tome Gray’s Anatomy, as well as lesser-known doctors for whom the filling in of application after application for a research grant is so stressful that the applicant needs to spend more time in a university bar, therefore shortening his lifespan.

The negative team, proposing research is good for you, boasted that research lead the world to discover that cashews help cure headaches, that chocolate is very good for you and that fat people are happier. Professor Richard Gerraty, Professor Mari Botti and Professor John Olver claimed researchers are capital ‘R’ (resilient) due to negative peer reviews, yet small ‘r’ (relaxed) thanks to delivering their findings at conferences held in exotic locations.

From the antique adjudicator’s chair, Professor John Catford sought the vote from a packed audience (many sitting on the floor or standing at the back) via the loudness of their cheering and applause, then declared the negative team — promoting the goodness of research — as clear winners. Given how proud we are of Epworth Research Institute, we knew that was always going to be the result now didn’t we?
Year at a Glance

ERI RESEARCH GRANTS
Every year, the Epworth Research Institute provides competitive grant funding for research projects to be conducted at Epworth. A new category of grant was introduced in the current funding round to complement existing types. Strategic Grants, with a supported budget of up to $100,000, now sit alongside Feasibility Grants with a supported budget of up to $10,000 and Development Grants with a budget of up to $50,000. In 2015/16 there were 15 projects funded to a total of just over $655,000.

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS
All research projects undertaken at Epworth require prior approval from the Epworth Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). One of Epworth’s key attributes is the timely review of research project approvals which contributes to the growing research activity.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS
The ever increasing number of publications in peer-reviewed, international journals, books and book chapters is reflective of the growing research capacity and capability at Epworth.
Epworth has a number of professorial chairs in partnership with the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Deakin University.

**Professor of Nursing**

*Epworth/Deakin Centre for Clinical Nursing Research*

*Professor Mari Botti AM, AM PhD Melbourne RN BA PGDACP MRCNA, Epworth Chair of Nursing, Deakin University*

Professor Mari Botti leads the Epworth Deakin Centre for Clinical Nursing Research the Centre which allows nursing staff and students to gain high quality clinical research training and acquire the skills required to utilise evidence-based paradigms to optimise clinical care. She has an international profile in clinical and health services evaluation. She is a foundation member of the Deakin University research priority centre in Quality and Patient Safety and has a particular interest in postoperative pain management and the investigation of models of care that encourage patient engagement in their care, safety, health and wellbeing. She was awarded the Epworth Research Institute Achievement Award for the 2016 Research Leader of the Year. Professor Botti was the recipient of an AM (Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia) for her significant service to nursing and clinical education, as an academic and author, and to pain management research.
Patient Outcomes after Open and Minimally Invasive Surgery for Prostate Cancer: Longitudinal Study

In Australia, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in males and the second most common cause of cancer deaths in men. The treatment for localised prostate cancer is most often prostatectomy surgery. Prostatectomy surgery includes traditional open radical prostatectomy and minimally invasive surgery including robotic-assisted prostatectomy surgery. The physiological, functional, psychosocial and cognitive outcomes associated with the long term trajectory of recovery have not been investigated adequately, nor has there been a prospective, comparative evaluation of the outcome associated with different surgical modalities. This longitudinal, comparative study of 1100 men examines patient outcomes after open and minimally invasive surgery for localised prostate cancer. This research is significant because little is known of the trajectory of patient recovery after prostatectomy surgery within the setting of an ageing Australia and advances in technology. The findings will address gaps in research, inform patients about their long term recovery, and provide evidence for optimal care of patients who undergo prostatectomy for localised cancer irrespective of the surgical modality.

Translation of Evidence into Pain Management Practices (MAPP) in acute care environments

A major focus of the drive to improve the quality and safety of health care is to standardise care processes to ensure patients receive care based on best available evidence and do not experience variations in the quality of care. Management of post-surgical pain is a care process known to be highly variable and inadequate. In Australia, over 40% of patients experience significant pain and hence, unnecessary suffering and increased associated risk. In partnership with clinicians, the aim is to develop, implement and evaluate an improved method of treating pain using a clinical decision support system based on best available evidence for managing postoperative pain. The method will be tested in three sites to assess external applicability.
Epworth Victor Smorgon Chair of Surgery

Professor Richard de Steiger, MBBS FRACS FAOrthA, Epworth Victor Smorgon Chair of Surgery, The University of Melbourne

Professor de Steiger is an orthopaedic surgeon with a special interest in hip and knee joint replacement, and the management of adult hip disorders. He is Deputy Director of the Australian Orthopaedic Association National Joint Replacement Registry and has been appointed President of the International Society of Arthroplasty Registers (ISAR) and in this role will coordinate all the international registries to achieve the global aim of improving outcomes for patients having joint replacement surgery. In 2013/14, the Epworth Musculoskeletal Research Centre was established in the Hoddle Street Academic Precinct.

Progression to total hip arthroplasty following hip arthroscopy

Hip arthroscopy offers a minimally invasive surgical technique for treating hip pathology and there has been significant expansion in its use in recent years. There is evidence that a proportion of patients require total hip arthroplasty in the years immediately following their arthroscopy, suggesting that they have not derived major benefit from the procedure. This retrospective cohort analysis was conducted on all patients who underwent hip arthroscopy at our institution from 2004-2013. Patients were then matched to the Australian Orthopaedic Association’s National Joint Replacement Registry in 2016 to identify those who subsequently underwent hip arthroplasty.

Many arthroscopies were performed on patients with osteoarthritis, who were older than 50 or obese. Conversion to arthroplasty occurred in greater than 20%, with more than half of these occurring within 2 years. Osteoarthritis and Age, but not Obesity were significant risk factors for early conversion to arthroplasty, and should inform future arthroscopy indications.

Epworth Victor Smorgon Chair of Medicine

Professor Richard Gerraty, MBBS MD FRACP, Epworth Victor Smorgon Chair of Medicine, Monash University

Professor Richard Gerraty is a stroke neurologist conducting stroke and vestibular research at Epworth, including participating in important investigator-initiated multi-centre trials funded by the NHMRC. He is Neurology Co-Editor of the Journal of Clinical Neuroscience. He is a member of the Council of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists, and is a member of the board of the Brain Foundation, Victoria.

Professor of Surgery

Professor Glenn Guest, MBBS BSc(Hons) FRACS, Professor of Surgery

Professor Guest has a joint appointment as Professor of Surgery at Epworth and Deakin University to provide leadership in medical education, research and surgery practice particularly at Epworth Geelong. As a general and colorectal surgeon working in both the private and public sector, Professor Guest has established a strong reputation for high quality clinical practice and will continue his long term commitment to the provision of public healthcare services by maintaining an appointment at Barwon Health and his involvement in international humanitarian aid and development work as the Director of the Australian Timor L’Este Aid for Specialist Services Program (ATLASS). Professor Guest has been strongly involved in teaching medical students and developing a general surgical training program in southwest Victoria. He has strong clinical research links with the Centre for Intelligent Systems Research at Deakin University working on incorporation of haptics and robotics into surgery.
Epworth Victor Smorgon Chair of Rehabilitation Medicine

Epworth Monash Rehabilitation Medicine Unit (EMReM)

Professor John Olver AM, AM MBBS MD FAFRM (RACP), Epworth Victor Smorgon Chair of Rehabilitation Medicine, Monash University

Professor John Olver is Head of EMReM and Director of Rehabilitation at Epworth. The appointment of an inaugural Victor Smorgon Chair of Rehabilitation was made through a collaboration of Epworth HealthCare and Monash University in July 2009. The Epworth Monash Rehabilitation Medicine Unit (EMReM) which has been designated as a research arm of Epworth Rehabilitation, commenced in July 2010. As a world-leader in rehabilitation medicine research, EMReM delivers research findings that can be applied quickly and effectively to improve clinical rehabilitation programs, so that people recovering from injury or illness can maximise their quality of life, restore physical mobility and improve cognitive development. Professor Olver has developed successful national and international partnerships through involvement in various research projects.

The Consequences of Olfactory Impairment following Traumatic Brain Injury

The aims of this study are to:

- To identify the incidence of Olfactory Impairment (OI) (as measured by the Pocket Smell Test – PST and the University of Pennsylvania Smell Identification Test – UPSIT) following traumatic brain injury (TBI) in a consecutive sample of adults admitted to the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program at Epworth Hospital, Richmond Campus in Victoria, Australia
- To identify acute factors that are associated with long term olfactory outcome

This study has received funding from a number of sources.

The influence of adjunctive therapy on outcome following botulinum neurotoxin (BoNTA) injection for focal spasticity in adults with neurological conditions

This project aims to investigate the influence of adjunctive therapy on outcome following BoNTA injection for focal spasticity in adults with neurological conditions. The group of adults will be provided with a prescribed program from an experienced clinician following their injection designed to maximise their outcome. The rate of adherence to the prescribed program will be examined to determine if adherence to therapy improves outcome. This pilot study will contribute to the limited body of evidence for adjunctive therapy following BoNTA injection and more importantly influence the direction of future research studies. More specifically the 3 aims of the study are:

1. To compare adherence rates to a prescribed therapy program between those who achieved their predetermined rehabilitation goals and those who failed to do so 3 months following BoNTA injection
2. To determine if there is a difference between non-functional and functional goal attainment 3 months following BoNTA injection
3. To describe the content and dosage of adjunctive therapies provided and the relationship to the identified goal contribute to the limited body of evidence for adjunctive therapy following BoNTA injection.
Professor of Psychology

Monash Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre (MERRC)

Professor Jennie Ponsford, PhD MA BA, Chair of Psychology, Monash University

Professor Jennie Ponsford is the Director of the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre. MERRC aims to conduct research in trauma rehabilitation with a view to reducing long-term disability. Professor Ponsford and her team collaborate locally, nationally and internationally with other trauma research groups. A world leader in her field, Professor Ponsford has spent more than 30 years as a clinician and researcher characterising and predicting outcomes and developing interventions for these difficulties after mild, moderate and severe TBI. Professor Ponsford serves on the Editorial Board of a number of international journals, and is on the Executive Committee of the International Brain Injury Association and the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment.

The use of light therapy to treat daytime sleepiness and fatigue following traumatic brain injury.

This novel study is the first randomised controlled trial of a non-pharmacological treatment for post-TBI sleepiness and fatigue. It builds on our existing work investigating the prevalence and nature of fatigue and sleepiness post-TBI, and demonstrating the efficacy of light to improve alertness in healthy volunteers. The primary aim of this study is to evaluate, in a randomized controlled trial, the effect of blue light therapy versus yellow light therapy (placebo) and ‘treatment as usual’ on subjective daytime sleepiness and fatigue. It is hypothesized that participants will show reduced daytime sleepiness and fatigue, improved sleep quality, attention, reaction time, and health-related quality of life, and reduced depression following blue light therapy, compared with those receiving yellow light therapy or treatment as usual. If successful in alleviating fatigue and daytime sleepiness and/or their impact on individuals’ lifestyles, blue light therapy could be readily implemented into clinical practice, as it is relatively unobtrusive and inexpensive to deliver.

Safer Roads to Recovery: Assessing Readiness for Driving after Traumatic Brain Injury

More than two-thirds of traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivors return to driving. Despite this, limited research investigating driving performance following TBI has been conducted. The aims of this study have been to examine, objectively, the nature and causes of driving difficulties following TBI as a basis for developing more reliable and valid assessment procedures for readiness to return to driving and thereby improving the safety of drivers with TBI. Key objectives are to examine: [1] which specific driving behaviours are compromised post-TBI; [2] which pre-injury, injury-related, sensori-motor, cognitive, personality factors are associated with these driving difficulties; and [3] to identify the degree to which off-road, simulated and on-road assessment predict naturalistic driving behaviour. Driving performance is being investigated in simulated, on-road and naturalistic driving conditions. This research will guide the development of more sensitive driving evaluation procedures including cognitive screening, simulated and on-road assessment. Findings will also form the basis of more effective driving retraining programs, thereby contributing to improved safety and mobility for those with TBI who return to driving.

Professor/Director of Molecular Oncology and Cancer Immunology

Professor Miles Prince, AM MBBS (Hons) MD FRACP FRCPA MACD AFRACMA, Professor of Medicine, Monash University and The University of Melbourne

Professor Prince is a haematologist and his clinical research in the last 15 years has involved the development of new targeted treatments for blood cancers including monoclonal antibodies, cell-based therapy, gene therapy and new epigenetic agents. Professor Prince holds a number of national and international haematology appointments and is a member of the Australian, America and European Societies of Haematology. He is the Director of the Centre for Blood Cell Therapy at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre as well as the Director of the International Society of Cutaneous Lymphoma and the Myeloma Foundation Australia. He is Chairman of the Medical Scientific Advisory Committee to the Myeloma Foundation Australia and Chairman of the LymphomaHub, an international group of experts providing education to blood and cancer experts around the world. In 2014, Professor Prince was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia (General Division) for significant services to blood cancer research, patient care and philanthropy leadership.
**Professor of Dermatology**

*Professor Rodney Sinclair*, MBBS MD FRACD, Chair of Dermatology, The University of Melbourne

Professor Rodney Sinclair holds a joint appointment with the University of Melbourne and Epworth HealthCare. Professor Sinclair has extensive research experience across a broad range of dermatology conditions, with specific interest in autoimmune diseases of skin and hair, skin cancer, psoriasis, genetic skin disorders and skin stem cell biology. He has further established the Epworth Dermatology research precinct with an increasing number of sponsored clinical trials as well as his own research in psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, skin cancer, actinic keratosis, cellulitis and infection of the skin, alopecia and nail infections (onychomycosis).

**Professor of Health Informatics Management**

*Professor Nilmini Wickramasinghe*, PhD MBA, Professor-Director of Health Informatics Management and Professor of Health Informatics, Deakin University

Professor Nilmini Wickramasinghe works to help define and develop relevant health informatics research projects within the Epworth HealthCare environment in particular, but also conducts research internationally in various aspects of digital health focusing on using technology to facilitate the delivery of high-value, patient-centred care. Research within the health informatics management group at Epworth focuses extensively in successfully moving forward to design, develop, deploy and use technology solutions to deliver superior healthcare and thus enabling Epworth to pursue research in leading areas of health informatics today.

In 2014/15, Professor Wickramasinghe was awarded the prestigious Schoeller Senior Fellowship by the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany. This has resulted in a MoU between Epworth HealthCare’s Health Services Research and Education and the School of Business and Economics at FAU University at Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany. This will enable more joint research to be embarked upon by the Health Informatics Management Unit with key researchers at FAU including expanding projects in big data analytics, 3D printing and sensors.

**Designing and developing pervasive mobile solutions to support chronic disease management**

This project includes concurrent trials being run in Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Sri Lanka and USA. It is a large multi-stage research project that includes the use of smartphones and portals to facilitate better monitoring and management of type 1 diabetic, type 2 diabetic and/or GDM patients. In addition, the team is looking into non-invasive blood glucose detection using smart sensor technology.

**A value-based assessment of the Point-of-Care system at Epworth HealthCare**

The project attempts to quantify the benefits to healthcare value including improved access, quality and cost effective delivery of care afforded by the Point-of-Care solution at Epworth HealthCare. Funding for this project has been received from OneView, Epworth Medical Foundation and Epworth HealthCare. A common feature of both projects is the possibilities to include various predictive analytic capabilities which will assist to identify individual strategies and population health strategies for better management of care.

**HONORARY RESEARCH AFFILIATES SCHEME CONTINUES TO GROW**

In late 2014, Epworth HealthCare established the Epworth Honorary Research Affiliates, recognising the valuable contributions made in collaborative research projects involving external research partners, postgraduate research students, and others. As of June 2016, Epworth has appointed 42 affiliates and the recognition of these important and productive collaborative efforts continues to gather momentum.
EPWORTH PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS INCREASING IN NUMBER

Each year, the research activity at Epworth continues to grow, which is reflected in the number of research publications published in international peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals, book chapters, and presentations made at local, national and international scientific and clinical meetings. This year, the total number of publications reached 253, an increase of 16% over the previous corresponding period. The number of conference presentations was 335, which was similar to the previous year’s result.

Some significant publications included the following examples which were published in high impact scientific and clinical journals:


This article is a review of evidence regarding prediction of the pathological response to chemoradiotherapy in advanced rectal cancer. Four Epworth doctors – Drs Ryan, Warrier, Lynch and Heriot - have published this article in the top journal in the field, Colorectal Disease.


This study looking at a number of aspects following road traffic injury was published in one of the top general medical journals, BMJ Open. The study authors include one of Epworth’s orthopaedic surgeons, Professor Richard de Steiger.


A team of international clinician researchers has published this article in a high impact journal, Gut. The researchers include A/Professor Gregor Brown, who with his colleagues reported on 2000 cases of mucosal resection for large serrated lesions compared with adenomas.


A publication in a prestigious biology journal, Cell, includes three Epworth clinical researchers – Professor Tony Costello and Drs Niall Corcoran and Chris Hovens - who were part of the team reporting on the molecular analysis of prostate cancers.

EPWORTH FEATURES IN 2015 NHMRC FUNDING RESULTS

Several of Epworth’s research groups and research collaborators have featured in the recently announced 2015 national outcomes for research funding through the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Foremost among them is Dr Gavin Williams (Neurological Physiotherapist) who is the lead investigator on a Project Grant using ballistic strength training to improve mobility after traumatic brain injury. Dr Williams was also the recipient of a Translating Research into Practice Fellowship (2016-2017), which offers 50% salary support and is one of only thirteen Fellowships of this nature awarded nationally. Other recipients in the 2015 round with an association with Epworth include A/Professor Chris Hovens, Dr Niall Corcoran and Professor Tony Costello (Epworth Prostate Centre), for their application addressing the origins of metastasis in prostate cancer. Dr Andrew Stephens (Epworth Honorary Senior Research Affiliate) was successful as one of the Chief Investigators on a grant using a novel anti-diabetes drug as a therapeutic for ovarian cancer. Dr Gershon Spitz (Post-doctoral Fellow) was awarded an Early Career Researcher Fellowship for his research in novel approaches to improve cognitive recovery following stroke and traumatic brain injury.
EPWORTH SUBMISSIONS TO THE VICTORIAN AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Victorian Government has recently invited submissions to its Victorian health and medical research strategy: Discussion paper. Submissions were to address 32 questions in the discussion paper. A variety of internal research stakeholders at Epworth were asked to provide relevant viewpoints, including from the Clinical Trials Research Centre, clinical researchers, education, Epworth Medical Foundation, research development, and others.

Epworth has also made a submission to the Federal Government regarding the Medical Research Future Fund, which portrayed Epworth as a significant stakeholder in patient care in the private, not-for-profit healthcare sector, who was also increasingly active in research activity and translation. A total of 330 submissions were received from a variety of respondents such as universities, medical research institutes, clinical specialty organisations and advocacy groups. The number of submissions from hospital and health services was only 5% of the total submissions, emphasising the importance of Epworth’s submission in the wider response to the Medical Research Future Fund and its role in supporting health and medical research and innovation.

EPWORTH RESEARCH LEADERS RECEIVE AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

We congratulate two leading professors with affiliations with Epworth for their award of Member of the Order of Australia in the 2016 Australia Day honours:

- Professor Mari Botti, Chair in Nursing in the Deakin-Epworth partnership and Head of the Epworth/Deakin Centre for Clinical Nursing Research.
  The award recognises Mari’s significant service to nursing and clinical education, as an academic and author, and to pain management research. She was appointed to the first Chair of Nursing at Epworth Healthcare in 2004.

- Professor Mark Frydenberg, Consultant Urologist and President of Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ).
  Mark is a practicing specialist at Epworth, a productive researcher in the Epworth Prostate Centre and was the inaugural Director of the Surgical Specialties Clinical Institute. He also holds a professorial position in the Department of Surgery at Monash University and is Chairman of the Department of Urology, Monash Medical Centre.

Dr John Cunningham, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Epworth, also received an OAM for his work in public advocacy for the benefits of immunisation and the serious risks of not immunising children.
One of the highlights in the Epworth HealthCare calendar is the annual Epworth Research Week, which showcases the many and varied research activities conducted at Epworth. This year was no exception, and had a number of significant aspects emphasising Epworth’s growing research capability and capacity.

Part of the continual improvements in the Research Week was the opportunity for our researchers and attendees to provide feedback on the 2015 Research Week. Very helpful and constructive comments were received from a broad range of respondents that has led to more tailored sessions with internal Epworth speakers, increased publicity of events and active involvement of all Epworth campuses in hosting sessions.

FORUMS AND SYMPOSIA DURING WEEK
The 2016 Epworth Research week featured a variety of forums and symposia and included:

- Opening plenary given by Professor Miles Prince (Epworth Professor/Director of Molecular Oncology and Cancer Immunology) on “How to cure cancer”
- A poster viewing session held in the Epworth Education Centre (Richmond), featuring over 60 posters from Epworth researchers, an increase of around 40% on the previous year
- Research Grand Round, presented by international expert Professor Alan Trounson, on regenerative medicine and cell therapies
- Cardiac Sciences Forum with Professor Stephen Nicholls on plaque imaging
- Point of Care/Digital Health Symposium held at Epworth Eastern
- Nursing Symposium, featuring international guest speaker Debi Boyle talking about nurse compassion fatigue
- Allied Health Symposium held at Epworth Hawthorn on Research about the Road to Recovery
- Mental Health Plenary Presentation by Professor David Castle at Epworth Camberwell
- Prostate Cancer Symposium at Epworth Richmond
SPONSORS

We thank Sanofi and Melbourne Pathology for their significant support of the Epworth Research Week.

EPWORTH RESEARCH WEEK DINNER

A highlight of the 2016 Epworth Research Week was the annual dinner held to celebrate Epworth’s research achievements, honour our Epworth honourees who have made valued professional contributions to Epworth over the years, and make some significant funding announcements. Close to 3000 guests attended the dinner, held at the MCG, with representatives from state government, the Epworth Board and the Epworth Medical Foundation as well as university and research organisation partners.

Professor Anne Kelso AO, CEO of the NHMRC, delivered a compelling speech, Medical research in the 21st century, during the evening. Three new Epworth clinicians — Mr Arthur Day AM, gynaecologist; Mr Campbell Penfold, colorectal surgeon; and Professor Jack Mackay AM, colorectal surgeon — were added to our list of seven Epworth honourees, and had named grants awarded in their honour.

David Phillips, Group Manager, Research Development and Governance, said the night exceeded expectations.

“We have had so much great feedback from attendees about the dinner: celebrating Epworth’s growing research, award announcements, new honourees and a great presentation from our invited speaker, Professor Anne Kelso,” says David. “This will be hard to top next year!”

The Epworth Research Institute grants, posters and awards were announced during the dinner with a total funding of $658,000 awarded.

ERI FUNDING AWARDS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR 2016

This is the sixth year of the Epworth Research Institute (ERI) grant scheme, made possible through a research corpus maintained from funds donated to the Epworth Medical Foundation. In 2015/16, there were a record 36 applications received for funding, up 20% from the number received the previous year. The ERI Research Committee, chaired by Professor John Catford, assessed and ranked all applications. This year saw four categories of applications considered, with Feasibility Grants (a supported budget of up to $10,000), Development Grants with a budget of up to $50,000 and Strategic Grants with a supported budget of up to $100,000. Applications for projects in Gynaecological Cancer were also considered in a separate funding pool. The ERI Board has approved support of a total of 15 applications, to a total of just over $655,000, which is a significant increase on previous years.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS:

Feasibility Grants:

Ms Jemma Keeves - Physiotherapist, Epworth Rehabilitation
Longitudinal prospective study of outcomes following traumatic amputation

Over the last four years Epworth has developed its service to rehabilitate patients following traumatic amputation. This project will undertake preliminary analysis of pilot data in patients following traumatic amputation in order to examine possible trends and patterns to optimise the Epworth amputee rehabilitation service and improve patient outcomes.

Mr John Kenny - Chief Medical Physicist, Radiation Oncology, Epworth Richmond
3D Printing applications in Radiation Oncology

This project explores the feasibility of a hybrid approach to materials used in 3D printing where the customisation benefit of 3D printing is combined with flexible sheets tailored to the patient’s body contours.

Ms Abi Oliver - Chronic Disease Program Coordinator, Epworth Rehabilitation
Feasibility and impact of the New Dimensions Reconditioning Program at Epworth Camberwell

The New Dimension Re-conditioning program is a new initiative being undertaken by Epworth to increase the uptake of healthy lifestyle choices and improve the outcomes of patients following bariatric surgery, with this project evaluating feasibility impact of the program on patient outcomes over a 12 month period.

Mr Samuel Towns - Senior Medical Physicist, Epworth Richmond
Gold Nanoparticles as a Novel Contrast Agent for Radiation Therapy

This project investigates the use of nanoparticles as a novel contrast agent in CT imaging of target area as a means for target delineation for radiation therapy planning and treatment.

Development Grants:

The Dr Murray Johns Research Grant

Ms Michelle Kahn and Ms Megan Banky – Physiotherapists, Epworth Rehabilitation
Better Assessments for Better Outcomes: Revolutionising outcome measurement using innovative technologies in people with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)

This project is expected to improve the care that Acquired Brain Injury patients receive and is likely to have a major international impact, as clinicians will have accessible tools to both assess their patients’ physical function and motivate them.

The Associate Professor Joe Tjandra Research Grant

Dr Felicity Lorains - Clinical Neuropsychologist, Epworth Rehabilitation
Pilot Randomised-Controlled-Trial comparing computer-based memory training and compensatory memory rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury

This project will be the first study to establish which approach to memory rehabilitation is most effective and cost efficient and which approach maximises Acquired Brain Injury survivor functional outcomes and quality of life.

The Professor Pricilla Kinkade-Smith Research Grant

Dr Trisha Peel - Antimicrobial Stewardship Physician, Epworth Richmond
Optimising Antimicrobial Use at Epworth HealthCare

This project will enable detailed auditing of antimicrobial prescriber behaviours at Epworth Healthcare.

The Professor Jack Cade Research Grant

Dr Diane Kelly - Staff Intensive Care Specialist, Epworth Richmond
Critical Care Interventions at the end of life: A Simulation-based study

This project will analyse real-time intensive care trainee and specialist decision-making relating to the provision of critical care interventions for a critically unwell, elderly dying patient.

The Mr Kingsley Mills Research Grant

Mr Brian Devitt - Director of Research OrthoSport Victoria and Fellow, Epworth Richmond
Am I doing it correctly? Optimising knee rehabilitation in the aged population through biofeedback

The purpose of this study is to assess the use of biofeedback to improve the quality and effectiveness of knee rehabilitation in an aged population with moderate to severe osteoarthritis to improve symptoms and function.

The Dr Graeme Sloman Research Grant

Dr Kyle Brooks - Staff Consultant Intensivist, Epworth Richmond
VEREEFY: Validation of Epworth Richmond’s Echo Education Focused Year

This study will assess ICU trainees’ ability to perform echocardiography and the results of this study will critically inform the future direction of echocardiography training in Australian ICUs.
Research at Epworth 2015/16

The Mr Arthur Day Research Grant
Dr Leon Dunn - Medical Physicist, Epworth Richmond
Biofeedback for patient motion management in breast and lung cancer radiation therapy

Custom built software at Epworth will be used to evaluate the clinical impact of patient motion during radiotherapy throughout the patient’s care path (imaging through to treatment) with feedback from the patients complementing the data analysis.

The Mr Campbell Penfold Research Grant
Dr Daniel Croagh - Hepatobiliary Surgeon and Interventional Endoscopist, Epworth Richmond
Personalised chemotherapy in pancreatic cancer: Panitumumab for RAS wild-type pancreatic cancer as determined by EUS FNA

This study using endoscopic ultrasound guided biopsy will enable selection of a small group of patients suitable for a clinical trial examining the efficacy of panitumumab, an EGFR inhibitor.

The Associate Professor Jack Mackay Research Grant
A/Professor Martin Richardson - Dept of Surgery, Orthopaedics, Epworth Eastern and Richmond
Echidna Pin Project: Clavicle Repair

Fractures of the middle third clavicle have traditionally been treated with a sling, commonly resulting in problems that often result in chronic pain. This project will evaluate a new fixation device that has been developed for the repair of middle third clavicle fractures.

Strategic Grant:

The Professor Brian Buxton Research Grant
Ms Jo McDonall - Research Affiliate - Epworth Deakin Centre for Clinical Nursing Research, Epworth
Multimedia (MyStay) Intervention for managing patient experience (MIME) following total hip replacement surgery: a cluster randomised trial.

The purpose of this research is to design, implement and evaluate improvements in postoperative outcomes for patients following total hip replacement surgery and explore the relationships between patient participation, patient experience and patient satisfaction with care.

Gynaecological Cancer:

The Audrey Voss Gynaecological Cancer Research Grant
Dr Rachel Delahunty – Medical Oncologist, Epworth Eastern
Circulating tumour DNA in endometrial cancer

The aim of this study is to assess the utility of molecular genomic profiling as a predictor of relapse in endometrial cancer and in conjunction, assessing its prognostic capabilities.
2016 POSTER AWARDS

This year again saw a judging panel comprised of judges from a number of disciplines who assessed submitted posters both on the abstract and displayed poster around the research question and hypothesis, methodology, results in text, graphs and tables, conclusion(s) and visual presentation. Two new categories of poster awards were made this year to encourage nursing and allied health staff to be involved in research. The winners of the 2016 Research Week Poster awards were:

Experienced Researcher Poster Award to Dr Homayoun Zargar, Urology Fellow at Epworth Eastern. The Impact of United States Preventive Services Task Force [USPTSTF] Recommendations Against PSA Testing on PSA Testing in Australia

New Researcher Poster Award to Mr Nicholas Tan, Monash Medical Student working with A/Professors Ron Dick and Tony Walton. Long-term survival outcome after Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation

Allied Health Research Poster Award to Elizabeth Moore Therapy adherence increases goal achievement following BoNT-A for focal spasticity in adults

Nursing Research Poster Award to Rachel Waugh An observation audit tool for nurse-to-nurse bedside clinical handover

2016 EPWORTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

These awards were instigated in 2015 to recognise the contribution of Epworth research in a variety of categories. Following endorsement by the Board of the Epworth Research Institute, the following three awards were announced at the Epworth Research Week Dinner.

Researcher of the Year

Associate Professor Gavin Williams, Specialist Neurological Physiotherapist at Epworth Rehabilitation. A/Professor Williams was the successful winner of two NHMRC grants in 2015. He is highly productive in terms of publications with approximately 45 publications over the last 6 years plus multiple conference presentations. He has recently been appointed as Associate Professor of Physiotherapy, a joint appointment with The University of Melbourne and Epworth.

Gavin Williams is the lead investigator on a $661,000 Project Grant entitled ‘Improving mobility after traumatic brain injury with ballistic strength training’ which is being administered through The University of Melbourne and is funded to run over the next 3 years. He was also the recipient of a NHMRC Translating Research into Practice [TRIP] Fellowship [2016-2017], which offers 50% salary support and is one of only thirteen Fellowships of this nature awarded nationally
Research Leader of the Year

**Professor Mari Botti**, Professor of Nursing and Head of the Epworth/Deakin Centre for Clinical Nursing Research

Professor Mari Botti is one of the most distinguished and longest serving Nursing Professors in Australia. She was awarded an AM in the 2016 Australia Day Honours for significant contributions to the nursing profession, healthcare, academia and the advancement of knowledge. Her areas of expertise include pain management, quality and safety of care delivery, patient engagement and clinical outcomes in acute care settings.

Mari Botti has been the Director of the Epworth/Deakin Centre for Clinical Nursing Research since 2004. Over this time she has been mentor and supervisor to a large number of nursing researchers and clinicians, including principal supervisor for 6 PhD students. She has contributed to raising a total of $4M in research income, has published 68 papers, has made 37 presentations since 2010, and has submitted 18 research projects for ethics approval since 2008.

Mari Botti has also excelled in serving on a number of Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC) including as a longstanding member of the Epworth HREC. She is Chair of the Epworth’s Low Risk Sub-Committee and has been the Acting Chair of the full HREC on several occasions. This is a demanding task which has been greatly appreciated. Her generous and constructive advice to researchers in study design and ethical research practice has been invaluable.

Research Benefactor of the Year

**The E.J. Whitten Foundation**

The E.J. Whitten Foundation honours the memory of E.J. (Ted) Whitten who was a larger than life character “Mr Football”, and an extraordinary Australian Rules footballer who died of prostate cancer in 1995. He was born and bred in the Western Suburbs and was one of those elite footballers who managed to play over 300 games for his club – Footscray now Western Bulldogs and was truly an inspirational person. In this era, men did not talk openly about ill health yet Ted bravely gave voice to his public battle with prostate cancer, sparking the push for greater awareness and recognition of prostate cancer symptoms and men’s health.

For twenty one years, the Foundation has had a direct impact on the health of thousands of men across the country by increasing awareness of prostate cancer; promoting early detection; and raising funds for research into the disease.

The partnership between the E.J. Whitten Foundation and Epworth has secured radiation oncology trials PROSPER and PINPOINT with funding of $420,000 – without which these trials could not have begun.
Epworth Radiation Oncology is committed to exceptional patient care, and has made significant investment in the technology that we offer the patients in our care. One of our other focuses is on clinical and technological research. With the range of treatment technologies we have on offer, there is a huge opportunity for high quality research with the sole aim of improving patient outcomes.

We have been able to leverage off the strong clinical skills of our oncologists, nurses, radiation therapists and medical physicists and established the Epworth Radiation Oncology Research Centre, have tripled our clinical trial coordinators in the last 6 months supported by a fellow focussed on evidence based research and literature, to ensure we can translate research into meaningful impact on patient outcomes. Our mission of improving the health and quality of life of patients and their families through the development of innovative radiation therapies, continues to drive our focus and research efforts. The growth in research profile at ERORC over the last year is testament to this focus, and a credit to the research team.
Epworth Prostate Centre –
A holistic approach to cancer care

In Australia, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men, with more men dying of prostate cancer than women from breast cancer.* Genetics play a significant role in a patient’s likelihood of developing the disease.

The Epworth Prostate Centre was established in XXX; a research centre aimed at finding new ways to detect the presence of prostate cancer and to differentiate between slow and aggressive forms. The centre also works to develop new therapies targeting the molecular mechanisms that allow prostate cancers to resist drug treatments and to identify accurate markers to help predict a patient’s response to treatment.

“Epworth has a bio-repository of tissue samples from patients who have had their prostate removed because of prostate cancer. Their tissue is frozen and we have through that been able to track the life of a patient,” Operations Manager, Tracy Helman says.

“We may have had a patient who came in 10 years ago and had their prostate removed. We would have all of their PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) results since then. If they have been unfortunate enough for it to turn into an advanced or complex cancer case, we would have all of their imaging, all of their tests, any operations or treatments, we would have the life of that patient on record.”

“From that information, researchers, based at The University of Melbourne, have been able to put together key research projects tracking how metastases occur in prostate patients. We also have pre prostatectomy patient questionnaires, who are surveyed again 10 years on, to see how they are managing the psychosocial issues,” Tracy says.

Even if prostate cancer is successfully eliminated, the location of the prostate means treatment often impacts areas such as bladder control and sexual function. This can mean devastating long-term consequences for patients, and creates a range of issues that need to be addressed beyond the clinical aspects of the disease.

“We have a number of clinical trials underway to examine the unmet needs of men with prostate cancer and how the treatments they are receiving affect their depression, anxiety and masculinity,” Tracy says. “Our psycho-oncology work is receiving interest from a number of high profile research publications.

“A lot of our work is based on filling current gaps in the needs of patients undergoing treatment. The centre’s holistic approach means the disease is looked at from all angles, from microbiology and care pathways, to rehabilitation and the psychosocial consequences of treatment.

This year, the centre developed an online program patients can use to track the treatments they are receiving and how they are coping with those treatments.

Patients can see a psychologist at the centre, to discuss their options; a nurse practitioner who can assist patients with understanding what in treatment and recovery is normal and what isn’t, and a specialised GP. Their case can also be discussed at a multidisciplinary team meeting. Patients also have to access clinical trials.

In the past 12 months, 250 Epworth patients were screened for specialised prostate cancer clinical trials.

“Our allied health work means we are giving immediate assistance to patients with prostate cancer today, while the data we are getting from working with those patients and from taking tissue samples, is actually also hoping to prevent or provide better treatments for prostate cancer patients in the future.”

*Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia
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IAEA Regional Training Course on Basic intensity Modulated Radiotherapy Melbourne 9-13 September 2015

Kenny J
Key requirements when commissioning treatment delivery and treatment planning systems for IMRT/VMAT
IAEA Regional Training Course on Basic intensity Modulated Radiotherapy Melbourne 9-13 September 2015

Khorazoon C & Kovacs G
Does heparin and aspirin improve IVF success rate?
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Utilisation of individualised management plans as part of a multifaceted secondary stroke prevention intervention
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Epworth Research Week Epworth 15-19 June 2015

Lam D
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RACS Annual Scientific Congress ANZCA Annual Scientific Conference Perth 4-8 May 2015

Demographic profile of spinal cord injury
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Ceramicised metal compared to cobalt-chrome in hip replacement

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2nd Prostate Cancer World Congress Cairns 17-21 August 2015

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Wriggly lines & adaptive splines; coloured blocks & density plots: the application of exploratory statistical graphics to rehabilitation data
Epworth Research Week Epworth 15-19 June 2015

McMorran V & Amor G
What’s new in research governance at Epworth
Epworth Grand Round Epworth 30 September 2015

McMorran V & Phillips DJ
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Epworth Grand Round Epworth 11 November 2015

Migliorini C, Sinclair A, New PW, Brown D & Tonge B
RCT of an online intervention treating emotional disturbance in persons with a SCI…and some lessons learnt
21st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society Auckland, New Zealand 19-21 November 2014

Moghim H, Haddad P, de Steiger R, Schaffer J & Wickramsinghe N
Leveraging key aspects of collaborative techniques to assist clinical decision making: the case of hip and knee arthroplasty
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Moghimi H, Schaffer JL & Wickramasinghe N
Intelligent home risk monitoring to enable post acute care surveillance
*American Medical Informations Association Annual Scientific Meeting* San Francisco, CA, USA 14-18 November 2014

Moghimi H, Vaughan S, McConchie S & Wickramasinghe N
How do business analytics and business intelligence contribute to improve care efficiency?
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The effectiveness of therapy on outcome following BoNT-A injection for focal spasticity in adults with neurological conditions – a systematic review
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The role of PSMA PET scanning in the staging of primary and recurrent prostate cancer

Murphy D
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Murphy D
Statements & Guidelines: making sense of it all
*Inaugural John Fitzpatrick Irish Prostate Cancer Conference* Dublin, Ireland 23-24 April 2015

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The role of surgery in oligometastatic disease
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Beyond “Lumpology” - the role of PSMA PET scanning in prostate cancer
*68th USANZ Annual Scientific Meeting* Adelaide 16-19 April 2015

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Robotic radical prostatectomy: posterior reconstruction and anastomosis
*3rd Global Prostate Cancer Congress* Rome, Italy 5-7 February 2015

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Robotic surgery for high-risk prostate cancer. Androgen deprivation therapy for advanced prostate cancer - minimising risk and optimising outcomes
*Urology Frontier Symposium of the Taiwanese Urological Association* Taipei, Taiwan 8 November 2014

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Intraoperative challenges in robotic radical prostatectomy

Murphy D
Intraoperative challenges in robotic radical prostatectomy

Murphy D
Intraoperative challenges in robotic radical prostatectomy
*Novel biomarkers to improve risk stratification for active surveillance* 35th Congress of the Société Internationale D’Urologie Melbourne 15-18 October 2015
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Urinary diversion following radical cystectomy: intracorporeal versus extracorporeal
35th Congress of the Société Internationale D’Urologie Melbourne 15-18 October 2015

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How anatomy instructs the surgeon: nerve-sparing radical prostatectomy
5th Shanghai GU Oncology International Symposium Shanghai, China 12-15 November 2015

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Tailoring therapies for mCRPC with a shifting evidence base
Asian speaker tour Taipei, Taiwan 8-11 December 2015

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Neuronal periprostatic anatomy: new concepts in imaging and surgery
4th Techno-Urology Meeting Turin, Italy 27-29 January 2016

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Controversies in prostate cancer screening
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Active surveillance for prostate cancer - should we do more or less?
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Discussant: TOOKAD Soluble versus active surveillance in men with low-risk prostate cancer: a randomised Phase III clinical trial
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Early experience of robotic salvage pelvic lymph node dissection in the Ga-68 PSMA PET scanning era
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Validation of the novel 5-group Gleason grading system: 3+5 disease risk may be overestimated
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Technique and outcomes of transperineal prostate biopsy: The Victorian Transperineal Biopsy Collaboration
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54th Combined Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Spinal Cord Society and the American Spinal Injury Association Montreal, Canada 14-16 May 2015

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Practical considerations for spinal rehabilitation units when managing people with spinal cord damage due to tumor
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An overview of spinal cord damage and inpatient management: a primer for acute hospital physicians
*General Medicine Advanced Physician Training, Alfred Hospital* 10 March 2015

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Updates in spinal cord rehabilitation
*Rehabilitation Training Day, Royal Melbourne Hospital* 1 March 2015

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*22nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM)* Adelaide 12 September 2014

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*Bi-National Training Program (Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine - AFRM)* Melbourne 20 August 2014

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*21st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society* Auckland, New Zealand 19-21 November 2014

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**Olver J**

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*National Trauma Research Institute (NTRI) Forum* Melbourne 8 July 2015

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*9th World Congress of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* Berlin, Germany 19-23 June 2015

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*Neuro Rehabilitation Team In-service Epworth* 25 May 2015

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Stroke rehabilitation: post stroke review
*Epworth Rehabilitation GP Continuing Professional Development* Epworth 12 March 2015

**Olver J**

Research and design: - developing an idea into a research project
*Epworth HealthCare Camberwell Physiotherapist In-service* Epworth 25 February 2015

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*Epworth HealthCare Occupational Therapy In-service* Epworth 24 September 2014

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*Fellowship Program for Vietnamese Rehabilitation Clinicians* Epworth 28 August 2014
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Advances in multiple sclerosis and rehabilitation
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Melbourne 28 September 2015

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Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM)
Annual Trainees Meeting Melbourne 5-6 March 2016

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Designing a Database to Audit Outcomes within a Spasticity Clinic
Allergan International Expert Meeting
Amsterdam, Netherlands 27 February 2016

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PRM Training in Australasia
REHAB RHYTHMS, the Joint Congress of the 5th Asia-Oceanian Conference of Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine (AOCPRM) and the 26th Annual Convention of the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (PARM)
Cebu, Philippines 18-22 February 2016

The development of a hospital secure messaging & communication platform
Epworth Research Week Epworth 15-19 June 2015

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Fatigue following traumatic brain injury: its nature and treatment
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Sexuality following traumatic brain injury
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Working with families
NeuroRehabilitation Medicine and Innovation Conference Singapore 28 March 2015

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Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences University of Tsukuba, Japan 30 March 2015

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The nature, trajectory and treatment of psychiatric disorders following traumatic brain injury
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DVTect: an innovative screening device for detection of lower limb abnormality
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Skin cancer in Australia, our national cancer
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Risk of subsequent malignant melanoma in patients with melanocytic naevus in England: a national record-linkage study
XV World Congress of Cancers of the Skin Edinburgh, UK 3-6 September 2014

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Trends in residual NMSC treatment
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Alopecia and chronic telogen effluvium
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8th World Congress of Hair Research Jeju Island, South Korea 14-17 May 2015

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Androgenetic alopecia. How it happens
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An ontological health cluster framework
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#AHPRAaction
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PSMA PET-CT: understanding this technology & the latest drugs in managing men with advancing prostate cancer
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Optimal sequencing of treatments in castration-resistant prostate cancer
Tolmar Australia Uro-Oncology Symposium
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Weary Dunlop and Dorrigo Evans: the reality and Richard Flanagan’s fictional portrayal of a surgeon on the Thai-Burma Railway
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Confederates in competency-based learning and assessment for SET trainees
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Patient comfort after cardiac surgery: developing a culturally responsive quality improvement framework

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An investigation into the role for a pervasive technology solution to support gestational diabetes self-care
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American Hospital Association Chicago, IL, USA 10 March 2016

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Introduction to e-health, strategies, tools and techniques
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From volume to value based healthcare delivery
Adeptia Solutions invited presentation Chicago, IL, USA 26 January 2016

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A multi-centred empirical study to measure and validate user satisfaction with hospital information services in Australia and Germany
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Distribution of lower limb spasticity does not influence mobility outcome following traumatic brain injury
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Malignant rectal polyps can be treated with TEMS
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