



Please enjoy this update of some of the exciting research in the Centre for Kidney Research!

CKR Laboratory!

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!

Our lab has recently been awarded the
AMGEN-TSANZ RESEARCH GRANT AWARD
and the prestigious
***IAN MCKENZIE PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTIONS IN TRANSPLANTATION***

Our award-winning CKR laboratory team is conducting some long term research relating to transplantation and kidney diseases. The laboratory researchers continue to work on transplant issues relating to kidney, islet and heart transplants. Some more recent research includes exploring the role of DNA vaccines in kidney disease with DNA vaccines targeted against self-proteins.

DETECT Study

“Detecting Bowel Cancer through Screening in Chronic Kidney Disease”

We have had a good response from people who have chronic kidney disease who are willing to undergo screening tests for the early detection of bowel cancer. Of those we have approached across western Sydney, over 450 have agreed to participate. We have plans to roll out this study to other areas across Sydney and will soon be recruiting at Royal Prince Alfred and Royal North Shore Hospitals. We are very excited also to be including NZ patients at Christchurch Hospital in the future. Any questions about the study can be directed to Narelle on 9845 1493.

NEAT Study

“Nocturnal Enuresis Alarm Therapy”

We are pleased to report that all NEAT study participants have now finished their alarm treatment, with nearly two thirds having also completed their annual follow up. We will continue to follow up the remaining children every two months for a total of 12 months until completion of the study in January 2012. Once finished, the results can be analysed and the findings used to inform the way we treat children with nocturnal enuresis in the future.

ARDAC Study

“Antecedents of Renal Disease in Aboriginal Children”

This year the ARDAC Study team will be visiting communities from Ballina to Eden, west to Dubbo and everywhere in between! We have already screened more than 500 participants in 2011 and we plan to see almost 1000 participants by the end of the year. The ARDAC team also participated in the **Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health** Conference held in Sydney in May. This conference provides an opportunity to share information and showcase health research projects like ARDAC that are working towards improving Aboriginal health.

WATCH Study

“Watch with Alarm for Timed-voiding in Children”

This is a new study that is aimed at treating children aged 5 – 13 years with daytime urinary incontinence (DUI) using a personal alarm watch to assist them to void at regular times during the day. Using the watch should hopefully minimise the number of ‘accidents’ they are likely to have. As well as the psychological benefit to the child from reducing their wetting episodes, it is possible that it will improve their ability to completely empty their bladder when they go to the toilet, and therefore reduce the likelihood of them developing a urinary tract infection. This project will go ahead in August 2011, thanks to a research grant of \$164,000 from the Foundation for Children.



CARI is a guidelines group housed within the Centre for Kidney Research. This group has been developing evidence-based guidelines for Australasian clinicians and health workers since 1999.

The aims of these guidelines are to enhance the quality of care and improve health outcomes for people with kidney disease. These guidelines are developed from available evidence by clinicians, nurses and other specialists in these areas.

NEW GUIDELINES under development:

- Cardiovascular risk factors
- Assessment of recipients for transplantation
- Diagnosis and treatment of urinary tract infection in children



STUDENT UPDATE

We have recently had two Public Health students from Ireland visit for University placement and we were lucky enough for them to spend three months with us in the Centre for Kidney Research. They had a great opportunity to learn about the world of research, contribute some of their skills and knowledge to our work with involvement in numerous projects and also to do some sightseeing in and around Sydney!!

“For my 3 months in the CKR I worked on a research project titled ‘The experiences and perspectives of living kidney donors: a systematic review and thematic synthesis of qualitative studies’. There were a lot of different sections to this project so I learnt new skills and put to use what I learnt in university.”

Grace McCarthy

“I was working on a mixed methods study that was focused on patient perspectives on organ allocation. This involved ... analysing both quantitative and qualitative results. This experience will help in my final year when I have to develop my own research project.

Thanks to everyone in CKR for making us feel welcome, especially Allison Tong who gave us the opportunity to work here.” **Niamh Marren**



Niamh and Grace enjoying the winter sunshine in Sydney!! Good luck with your studies back home in Ireland.

THE SUPER SUPERVISOR

Dr Allison Tong is a research fellow and lecturer in the School of Public Health, University of Sydney. Her research interest is in the area of patient, professional and public perspectives in chronic kidney disease, transplantation and organ donation. She has expertise in social research methods and methodology and has a particular interest in systematic reviews and synthesis of qualitative research. Currently, she is conducting research on treatment adherence, illness experiences, barriers and facilitators to implementing evidence, social dilemmas and complexities in transplantation and organ donation, patient-important outcomes in nephrology research, and patient priorities for health research. Allison has recently been awarded the Mark Cocks Award by the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand for a project she will undertake to look at quality of life of children and adolescents who are waiting for a transplant.



Above: Allison Tong (on left), with a fellow researcher, on a recent trip to Italy to present her research.

FEEDBACK FROM YOU!!

We would like your feedback about what information you want to see in our newsletter or perhaps you may have a story to add!

If you have something to add or would like more details about our work, please feel free to contact Narelle Williams on 02 9845 1473 or by email narellw4@chw.edu.au or visit our website at: www.kidney-research.org