



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you enjoy reading about our research updates from the Centre for Kidney Research and we wish you all the very best for 2011!

School's out for summer!

Medical students and other students from around Australia and the world join us at CKR each summer to be involved in some of our various research projects and to learn about the world of kidney research! We have recently had an influx of Dutch medical students with an interest in kidney disease who applied to come and work with us for the summer! Our numerous supervisors give the students all the guidance they need to gain some skills and knowledge about how to conduct quality research.

"Part of the medical course at the University of Amsterdam involves a research internship. As this is an excellent opportunity to get some experience abroad, and children and kidneys are in the topic of my personal interest I applied for a place at CKR, which I was kindly granted.

Under the supervision of Dr Allison Tong, I had the chance to research the quality of life of adolescents following kidney transplantation. The project involved a literature study, interviewing participants, analysis of the collected data and a written and oral report. Due to the very supportive and inspiring environment I was able to get much more acquainted and build up more experience with medical research than I had dreamt of! Completing an internship at CKR is a fantastic experience and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in pursuing quality research in their careers! "

Lidwien Tjaden



"Throughout the year, I am a fourth year medical student from James Cook University, in Queensland. However, over the last two summers I have had the opportunity to work at the Centre for Kidney Research thanks to consecutive Summer Research Scholarships from the University of Sydney.

Under the supervision of Dr Angela Webster, I have been researching the quality of diagnostic test literature in nephrology and updating a review of antifungal medications in transplant recipients. Throughout the two years that I have worked here, I have met several inspirational clinicians and researchers who have influenced what kind of career in medicine and research I would like to pursue. My ongoing aspiration is to become a nephrologist and continue research here at CKR and overseas."

Brendon Nguyen



DETECT Study

Detecting Bowel Cancer through Screening in Chronic Kidney Disease

The researchers involved in the DETECT Study have invited patients of Westmead, Blacktown, Nepean and Auburn Hospitals to participate in screening for early detection of bowel cancer.

Over 250 people have been enrolled in the study over the past six months. We have invited people with kidney disease to perform a simple stool test at home. This test is designed to detect early signs of bowel cancer. We have had an encouraging response from people with kidney disease, enthusiastic to be involved in bowel cancer screening.

The information we gather from the results of the tests will allow us to evaluate the benefits and costs of early detection of bowel cancer, specifically for those with kidney disease. For more information, please contact one of our researchers on (02) 9845 1493.



NEAT Study

“Nocturnal Enuresis Alarm Therapy”

The NEAT study finished recruitment in December, achieving the desired target of 350 participants. These children will be monitored for the duration of their alarm treatment, and then followed up every two months for a total of 12 months. The study will finish at the end of 2011. At this time all data collection will be complete and we will have the opportunity to analyse the results. We wish to thank all the children and families who have been involved in the study and the doctors who have referred their patients to us. If you have any questions about the study please contact Marianne on 9845 1481. Wishing you all a Happy 2011 from the NEAT Team!

ARDAC Study

Antecedents of Renal Disease in Aboriginal Children

The ARDAC Study team had a busy year in 2010, screening 857 participants and visiting communities from across NSW including Kempsey, Nowra, Mt Druitt, Dubbo, Orange, Condobolin and Armidale. The study participants are visited by the ARDAC screening team every 2 years for a kidney health check. We are looking to see if there are any differences in the kidney health between our Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants as they become young adults. We will be continuing to recruit new ARDAC participants in 2011, but many of our participants have now been part of the study for more than 8 years! The ARDAC team would like to thank all the participants, schools and health workers who have supported the study in 2010. We are looking forward to another busy year of screening in 2011.

Antecedent of Renal Disease in Aboriginal Children (ARDAC) Study.....The Journeys Begins with a Senior Aboriginal Health Education Officer

“In the late 1970’s as an Aboriginal person living in a small community on the mid north coast I had the opportunity to read research journals about Aboriginal people and the status of their health. I wanted to know why all Aboriginal people were depicted as living in overcrowded housing and their children who were at risk of ending up with end stage kidney disease. I wanted to know how they collected this information. Were Aboriginal people involved in assisting these researchers?”

In 1989 I was employed as the Aboriginal Health Education Officer (AHEO) at the Children’s Hospital at Camperdown. I worked with Aboriginal families and listened carefully to their narrative stories about where they were living, why they were living there and their background history like the forced removal of their children or if they themselves were removed from their parents. Whilst in this role as the AHEO I took on a challenge of always being concerned about the well-being of Aboriginal children. My experience with one particular family encouraged me to challenge the hospital and researchers to look at the human rights issues involved in Aboriginal health and closing the 20 year gap.

My experience in Aboriginal research over the past 12 years has led me to question how Aboriginal participants and communities are engaged and acknowledged for their contributions. It is important that we improve the feedback given to communities and conduct research in ways that show respect and understanding.

Aboriginal people must be involved in studies like ARDAC as they have the knowledge as to how to access and engage the community and to explore with Aboriginal people their history, beliefs and myths. Aboriginal people themselves believe they are the most researched people on the planet and never ever give up asking ‘why’ and this is my reason for staying so long on the ARDAC study.”

Rita Williams SAHEO



Rita (centre), pictured with some of the study participants

For more details about our work or how to get involved, please feel free to contact Narelle Williams on 02 9845 1473 or visit our website at: www.kidney-research.org