



## WISHING YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

*Please enjoy reading about some of our recent academic achievements and our study updates!*

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### **ARDAC Study**

*The ARDAC (Antecedents of Renal Disease in Aboriginal Children) Study began in 2002 and hopes to discover why Australia's Aboriginal population experience such a high burden of chronic kidney disease.*



The ARDAC Study has been awarded a 5 year grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to continue research into the early markers of kidney disease in adolescents and young adults. The next phase will follow all the participants we have previously screened and recruit new participants aged 16 to 21 years on to the study. The study will now be able to continue until 2017!

The team have started planning their screening trips for 2013 to places across NSW including Dubbo, Newcastle, Ballina and Bateman's Bay. For more information, you may like to visit the new ARDAC Study website at: [www.ardac.org.au](http://www.ardac.org.au)

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### **The DETECT Study**

*"Detecting Bowel Cancer through Screening in Chronic Kidney Disease" (DETECT) Study aims to assess the test performance, the costs, benefits and outcomes of screening for the kidney disease population.*

The DETECT Study team have commenced recruitment successfully at their first international site through their collaboration with the Hospital Clinic in Barcelona, Spain! Some of the other new sites to become involved in the study include Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth, Western Australia and Concord Hospital. The team are looking forward to working with researchers at Royal North Shore Hospital shortly too!

Over 1000 participants have been involved in undergoing bowel cancer screening for the DETECT Study since its commencement more than two years ago. Our researchers have commenced contacting all

the participants as part of the study two year follow up process.

We thank all the participants and physicians involved in the study, as their encouragement and support is really important for the continued success of the study.

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### **Contenance Research**

In October this year, the continence research team at CKR presented the results of the NEAT trial at the ICCS (International Children's Contenance Society) conference in London. This trial showed that children were woken up more easily and more became dry using the bedwetting alarm designed by The Children's Hospital at Westmead compared to the conventional bedwetting alarm.

We are currently conducting the WATCH study which aims to help children with daytime wetting who are on a timed voiding program by using a personalised alarm watch to remind them to go to the toilet at regular intervals. We hope to enrol 360 children, with 71 children enrolled so far. To be eligible for the study, children need to be aged between 5 - 13 years, wetting at least two days per week for the last 6 months or more, and be able to self-toilet. Please refer any children who may benefit from being involved in this trial by contacting the trial coordinator on 0429 468 883.

Other projects in the pipeline include the eADVICE study (an interactive computer program for treating wetting problems in children), and the Potty Monkey study (for toilet training children with cerebral palsy). Hopefully, when we receive funding we will be able to commence these projects in 2013.

In 2012, the continence research team have published 6 articles on childhood continence, including updating some of the Cochrane systematic reviews on nocturnal enuresis, and an article on nocturnal enuresis in children and adolescents in Australian Doctor, due to come out on 7th December.

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# CKR NEWS

## **CKR Laboratory**

Our laboratory team has recently published three papers on Tregs as therapies for kidney disease in some premier journals including the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology. One of the most recent articles was entitled **“Regulatory T cells participate in CD39-mediated protection from renal injury”** in the European Journal of Immunology.

Through their research they have also recently identified a number of new mutations causing kidney disease in some families at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

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## **CKR ACHIEVEMENTS**

Congratulations go to some of our staff with some amazing academic achievements due to their hard work and their passion for kidney research!

**Dr Maleeka Ladhani** (pictured below), a trainee nephrologist, and one of the more recent additions to the CKR Team, has been awarded the **Jacquot Foundation PhD scholarship** to undertake study on diagnostic test accuracy in coronary artery disease in people with end stage kidney disease.



**Dr Yuan Min Wang** from the CKR laboratory was promoted to Senior Lecturer at Sydney University.

**Tania Polhill** has submitted her PhD thesis on Tregs in Renal disease.

**Dr Jeff Fletcher** has just had his PhD on the Genetics of Renal Disease and Transplantation awarded by the University of Sydney.

One of our young researchers, **Tom Rogerson** (pictured below) has recently been working on *“Tests for Latent Tuberculosis in Potential Transplant Recipients: A Systematic Review”*. The abstract for this research was selected as one of the **Top 10 abstracts by a Young Investigator** at the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of The Transplantation Society in Berlin, Germany. His achievements at the CKR have inspired him to commence his PhD under the supervision of Dr Angela Webster next year.



Our continence team also won the best paper prize for the NEAT alarm trial at the ICCS (International Children’s Continence Society) conference in London.



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## **Further information**

For any questions regarding this newsletter, please contact Narelle Williams on 02 98451473 or email [narelle.williams@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:narelle.williams@health.nsw.gov.au)

For further information about CKR you may like to visit our website:

**[www.kidney-research.org](http://www.kidney-research.org)**

**Thank you to everyone who supports our work at the Centre for Kidney Research!**