

Newsletter

Waikato Clinical School

Te Kura Rata o Waikato

Mid Year Newsletter

June 2011



Professor Ross Lawrenson

Welcome Address by Professor Ross Lawrenson

This is our first mid-year newsletter. Thank you to all the contributors, and of course to all of the teaching staff who have made such a great contribution this year. Of note was the graduation ceremony on 4th May when it was great to catch up with last years TI's as they received their degrees. Also congratulations to Kahu McClintock on receiving her doctorate and Wayne de Beer who received a Masters in Medical Education. We are looking forward to the rest of 2011 and are already planning for 2012 when medical student numbers will again be increasing following the announcement in the budget. Once again thank you to all our staff and supporters for everything that they do for us.



Raewyn Wooderson and Wilma Watson supporting
graduating Waikato Clinical School students

Waikato Clinical School Office

2011 has arrived with various changes taking place in administration both locally and in Auckland. Congratulations to Sarah Alloway, Ross' secretary, who celebrated her wedding earlier this year. Wilma Watson has decided to increase her leisure time with family commencing in January, but fortunately for us is still available each Wednesday and Thursday. This has meant we have been able to re-allocate some tasks and Wilma will now be able to assist Ross with an upgrade of the website which has been a long term "work in progress". In the interim we have been assisted in covering the vacancy by Robyn Fenneman and Marie Brown and very much appreciate their flexibility with cover. We welcome Liz Richards to the permanent position assisting with student and general administration. Liz will be working alongside Karen Davies, student administrator, also on reception.

We have had a busy year with the increased number of Trainee Interns on site and our second 5th Year cohort group consisting of 40 students. Year 4 students are again rotating through Lakes DHB in Locomotor and Medicine attachments with the very much appreciated assistance of Irene Warren and Lynda Cantel, who also take fantastic care of our Year 5 and 6 students.

A great big thank you to all clinical staff who have continued their involvement and commitment to undergraduate teaching -

your enthusiasm and support given to administration is what makes the wheels go round!

Raewyn Wooderson
Manager

Skills and Simulation Centre

The Skills and Simulation Centre is proud to announce the delivery of a fine bouncing boy weighing in at 69 kg – SimMan 3G is doing well and proving to be a fine new asset for the centre. After a few wireless technical issues he is now functioning reliably and the extra realism features and portability are proving to be well worth the effort and expense. The web cam and built-in debriefing programme is a real bonus and adding to the value of the sessions.



New Sim Man helping doctors orientate to the new emergency dept.

He has been extensively used already with St John - training paramedics in the back of an ambulance at the new Emergency Department, as well as our Resus CORE courses and simulation sessions with Anaesthetics, CCU, Wintech, PACU and 4th Year Medical Students.

A training day was held in April with all the key users and department instructors/educators. This was facilitated Laerdal's simulation hi-fidelity trainer from Melbourne.

Purchase of our new SimMan 3G was assisted by the generous contributions from Waikato DHB,



Paramedics taking advantage of the wireless portability of the new Sim Man

Braemar Charitable Trust, Souter Trust, Dept of Anaesthetics and individual anaesthetists, ICU Trust Fund and the University of

Auckland. This is much appreciated and has enabled our Skills Centre to continue to be one of the leading centres in New Zealand.

Rob Sinclair
Director, Skills Centre

Primary Care

This year is flying by. The department have been awarded an HRC grant to investigate the cost and complications of prostate cancer. A new team is being built around this project which includes a Project Manager, Charis Brown, previously a Senior Research Analyst at Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, a PhD candidate, Zuzana Obertova, and Fraser Hodgson, our very own Senior Lecturer in General Practice who will be completing a Masters degree looking at Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) testing in General Practice.

An HRC grant investigating the impact of a new heart failure service in the Waikato, "Can an Integrated Heart failure service improve diagnosis and management of heart failure?", led by Dr Anita Bell, Medical Officer of Health, is drawing to a close with both Ross Lawrenson and Veronique Gibbons, Research Fellow, involved with this project. A total of 404 patients were identified from general practices with a diagnosis of heart failure. Data were analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. A final report has been sent to the HRC.

The department continues to work in collaboration with Waikato DHB the HRC/FoRST-funded project "Oranga Tane Māori" with Te Puna Oranga (Māori Health Service). The development of a framework "Te

Korowai", which has been piloted and used in several aspects of the study, has been well-received, and this framework was used to evaluate the Maori Community Health Worker Service. Te Korowai will also be used in the analysis of 62 interviews with

Maori men who have a chronic condition or cancer. Along with Ross Lawrenson and Veronique Gibbons, Jacquie Kidd, School of Nursing at WCS, is also involved.

Stephen Lillis successfully completed his doctoral studies "The utility of diagnostic schema when making a diagnosis of mental illness in general practice" and will graduate later this year. Veronique Gibbons submitted her thesis "The Epidemiology and Management of Hypothyroidism in General Practice" and awaits further news.

Veronique Gibbons
Waikato Clinical School Research Manager

Postgraduate Studies

Monday April 18th saw the coming together of PhD and MD candidates from the Waikato Clinical School and wider Midlands region, and their supervisors for the second biennial postgraduate meeting. The guest scholar, Associate Professor Peter Adams, provided a critical discussion of the place of theory in a thesis. His presentation used the metaphor of a puppet theatre, with floor, walls, puppeteers and puppets all represented by different forms of theorising in order to produce the final performance of a doctoral thesis. The session was



Associate Professor
Peter Adams

challenging and thought provoking, and prompted some interesting discussion on the day, and in the weeks since. Dr Nathaniel Chiang then provided a synopsis of his PhD entitled "Tissue Oxygenation in Wound Healing in Vascular Surgery".



Dr Nathaniel Chiang

The postgraduate meetings are held in April and October of each year, and are open to any students and supervisors from the Midland region. The next meeting will be held in October. Please contact Dr Jacquie Kidd if you would like to be placed on the mailing list and kept informed about future dates.

Dr Jacquie Kidd
Head of Postgraduate Studies

Surgery

We have continued with the Research Forums this year giving our junior staff and colleagues an opportunity to present their concepts and presentations. We have had some interesting material and are working on beefing up attendance. Meetings are held in the Bryant Education Centre and those wishing to be on the mailing list should contact Julie Wilson on the email address: Julie.Wilson2@waikatodhb.health.nz.

Mohammed Asim got first prize at the March 2011 NZ Association of General Surgeons Meeting for his presentation of our work on arm lymphoedema following axillary dissection here. A full paper has been submitted for publication.

We have had top NZ accrual to our clinical trials including the IBIS II breast cancer prevention study, 2 studies of late endocrine therapy, the Tailor X Study examining the usefulness of a microarray to predict response to adjuvant chemotherapy in women with hormone receptor positive breast cancer, and to my own baby – SNAC2 – testing the safety of a sentinel node based approach to women with larger, multifocal and more aggressive biology breast cancers. We ran a workshop for the SNAC2 Trial at the combined Breast Surgeons of ANZ and COSA (Clinical Oncology Society of Australia) Meeting in November last year and have produced an DVD of this. I have also been involved with Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition, to produce a DVD for women with

newly diagnosed breast cancer – about to be released!

The Waikato Breast Cancer Register has had a number of presentations and we are seeking two PhD students to take on projects: one to look at the reasons behind worse breast cancer outcomes amongst Maori women; and a second to look at local recurrence rates after mastectomy for breast cancer, with a view to finding Waikato's position in the world literature and formulating Guidelines for appropriate use of postmastectomy radiotherapy, which has dramatically increased in the last few years.

Mr Ian Campbell
Clinical Director of Surgery

Growing up in New Zealand

New Zealand's 21st century longitudinal study, Growing Up in New Zealand has successfully recruited approximately 7000 children and their families. These families were all first interviewed in pregnancy, and the report of these findings (*Growing Up in New Zealand: Before we are Born* available at www.growingup.co.nz) highlights the increasing diversity of families having children in New Zealand today.



Snapshot of the Growing Up in New Zealand website

We have recruited 1,815 families from the Waikato region who have all been interviewed when their children are 9 months old, and over the year the 2-year data collection wave will be completed. A longitudinal report detailing the first year of our children's development as well as a number of papers providing in-depth analysis

of findings will be prepared this year by the Growing Up in New Zealand team which includes Associate Director Dr Polly Atatoa Carr at the Waikato Clinical School.

Academic Psychiatry

Waikato Clinical School psychiatrists have taken on new challenges while continuing their commitments to teaching, research and service.

Wayne de Beer completed his Masterate in medical education while continuing to serve as the Director of Clinical Training for the Waikato Hospital and convenor of the 4th year medical student programme. His research activities focus predominantly on workforce and education; a new project addresses the teaching of clinical formulation skills to psychiatric trainees.

David Menkes' continued involvement with various Waikato District Health Board committees, including the Medicines & Therapeutics committee and the Waikato Postgraduate Medical Society, has enabled to pursue revision of the Board's sponsorship policy, with a view to progressively eliminating commercial sponsorship of education across the DHB. This initiative fits with his recent activity with the International Society of Drug Bulletins, for which he convenes a working party on conflicts of interest. David is also continuing his research into metabolic abnormalities in antipsychotic-treated patients, assisted by recent grants from the Waikato Medical Research Foundation and the Waikato Mental Health Research Trust.

Graham Mellsop continues to contribute to a number of "Public Good" activities, including Ministerial and service reviews, HRC and DHB committees. His contributions to psychiatry were recognised by a College Citation from the RANZCP earlier this month; his consistent research output continues to address psychiatric classification, Maori Mental Health and Outcomes, in collaboration with a number of co-workers.

Kahu McClintock, had her PhD thesis accepted in close to record time. It was on Te Tomokanga, exploring ways of collecting and using whanau feedback to improve services for children. She is continuing to work with Graham on other research projects aimed at improving services to Maori.

David Menkes, Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Locomotor Medicine: Change Afoot?

For as long as anyone can remember, the locomotor medicine module at the Auckland School of Medicine has combined orthopaedics with rheumatology (heavily dominated by orthopaedics). This was seen as a natural combination for teaching, as both disciplines emphasise a similar approach to history taking and examination of the joints and soft tissues. On a clinical level orthopaedic surgeons and rheumatologists worked quite closely together, holding joint clinics (pun intended) and sharing care of many patients. Although students often noted the different approaches to assessment of the musculoskeletal system used by the two different specialties, commonalities were more frequent.

Rheumatology has diverged from orthopaedics however, with the development of new, highly effective biological immunosuppressive drugs that now offer the prospect of 'cure' for inflammatory arthritis and improved control in systemic vasculitis. Many rheumatologists are now focussed on inflammatory diseases and the monitoring of patients on these drugs, at the expense of non-inflammatory, degenerative or functional syndromes. Rheumatology is re-aligning itself more closely with internal medicine.

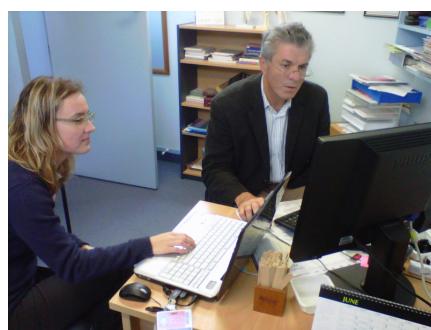
As a consequence, rheumatology teaching may move to be a part of specialty medicine and away from orthopaedics. This would reflect the cognitive, rather than procedural skill set required, and emphasise the need

for physicians to be able to assess the locomotor system as a part of internal medicine. This would mean however that only some fortunate students would be immersed in the arcane ways of rheumatologists, whereas at present all students are exposed during the orthopaedic attachment.

Peter Jones, Associate Professor of Medicine

The Midlands Prostate Cancer Research Project

Welcome to Project Manager Dr Charis Brown and PhD student Dr Zuzana Obertova who have recently started at the Waikato Clinical School. Charis who previously completed her PhD in Pacific Consumer Acculturation through Waikato University, came to the project from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs where she was a Senior Research Analyst. Charis's previous experience with indigenous issues, minority populations and project management provided a seamless transition into running the project. Zuzana was born and raised in Slovakia and has only recently migrated to New Zealand. She has a PhD in biological anthropology and was previously employed



Dr Zuzana Obertova and Dr Fraser Hodgson work together on the prostate cancer project

as a research fellow at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Düsseldorf (Germany). Her interest in researching disease patterns in past and present populations motivated Zuzana to aspire towards a PhD in Epidemiology (Community Health) at Auckland University.

As the project now enters its third month we continue in the data collection stage. Dr Fraser Hodgson is working with GP's in the region to collect data on the number of PSA tests undertaken and why they are sought. Questionnaires have been developed to send to all men with positive a PSA test. It is anticipated this part of the study will continue to the end of 2011.

If you would like to know more about the study please contact the Project Manager: Charis Brown charis.brown@auckland.ac.nz.

Student Social Events



A TI BBQ for both the Waikato and Rotorua cohorts was held on the 7th of January at

Professor Lawrenson's home. With a great turn out to the first social event of the year, the evening provided a great opportunity to get to know the staff and also to catch up on the happenings over the summer holidays for everyone. Also on the agenda was also getting to meet Prof Lawrenson's two dogs (Lily and Merlin), doves, chooks, pony and peacocks! A big thank you to Professor Lawrenson and his wife for opening their home for the wonderful evening.



A 5th year and TI get together event was also organised earlier this year on the 11th of February, at the Bank Bar & Brasserie on the Corner of Victoria and Hood streets. This event offered a chance for everyone to get to know each other across both year groups, considering the relatively large

number of students we have this year. The night was a big success (with free food served



on platters and also a free drink on arrival!) and a turnout of 17 TIs and 15 5th years in addition to a few elective students. A number of students also travelled considerable distances from placements outside of Waikato to make it to the mix and mingle event, the most impressive being Pulasthi coming from New Plymouth! The night continued on with a large number exploring the Hamilton nightlife to top off a memorable night. Thanks again to the staff at WCS for their help in organising the evening.

Aaron Ooi
Trainee Intern

