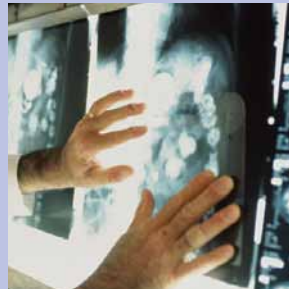




St Vincent's Clinic Foundation

Supporting Excellence in Clinical Research



May 2010

Good news has been rare over the last few months – but despite the Global Financial Crisis the St Vincent's Clinic Foundation has continued to be able to provide vital research funding on the St Vincent's Campus. Too often it seems that research is one of those things seen as an 'optional extra' which can be cut when finances are tight.



The Trustees of St Vincent's Clinic Foundation believe that the contribution that research makes to the reputation of the St Vincent's Campus is significant and that support for research is essential in developing excellence in evidence-based clinical care.

In late 2009, the Ladies' Committee of the St Vincent's Private Hospital and Clinic Foundation voted to disband and to become part of the soon to be established Friends of St Vincent's Private Hospital. The Ladies' Committee has worked tirelessly to support the Ladies' Committee Sr Mary Bernice Research Grant and on behalf of the Trustees and all the recipients of the grant, we thank them. More details on the support of the Committee can be found in the newsletter. In honour of the work of the Ladies' Committee the research grant will continue to be called the Ladies' Committee Sr Mary Bernice Research Grant.

The Foundation relies on the generosity of our donors and supporters. We hope that you can help us continue to support vital research that has implications for our present and future treatments and cures.

Thank you for supporting St Vincent's Clinic Foundation and playing a part in our search for better treatments and cures for those illnesses and diseases that touch so many in our society.

Yours sincerely

MR A E HARRIS AC
President
St Vincent's Clinic Foundation

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ST VINCENT'S CLINIC FOUNDATION

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ST VINCENT'S CLINIC FOUNDATION

St Vincent's Clinic Foundation provides support for research and education.

The Foundation's grants are aimed at:

- assisting our researchers to develop research programmes to be eligible for external grants (eg. NH & MRC grants)
- supporting research on St Vincent's Campus
- underpinning clinical excellence with research
- providing assistance to 'up and coming' researchers

The support of our donors allows us to fund Australian scientists to make their discoveries in Australia and to offer their skills to Australians. Most critically, the donations you make will support ambitious research that is essential to understanding and curing diseases.



THE 2010 ST VINCENT'S CLINIC FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Ladies' Committee Sr Mary Bernice Research Grant \$100,000

A/Prof Reginald VN Lord (St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research)
"Pharmacogenetic studies of cancer of the oesophagus"

Adult Stem Cell Research Grant \$100,000

Dr John Moore (St Vincent's Hospital)
"T-lymphocyte developmental restrictions of Adult Haematopoietic Stem Cells – relevance to transplantation and autoimmune disease"

K&A Collins Cancer Research Grant \$50,000

Prof David Ma (St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research)
"Prognostic value of novel biomarkers in the treatment of P_h+ leukaemia with tyrosine kinase inhibitors"

Tancred Trust Research Grant \$50,000

Prof Bruce Brew (St Vincent's Hospital)
"Tryptophan metabolism in adult stem cell biology"

Di Boyd Cancer Research Grant \$30,000

Dr David Williams (St Vincent's Hospital)
"Multi-disciplinary Pancreatic Cancer Screening Program of High Risk Groups"

Froulop Vascular Research Grant \$30,000

A/Prof Diane Fatkin (Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute)
"Zebrafish Models of Atrial Fibrillation"

Annual Grant 1 \$30,000

A/Prof Anthony Dodds (St Vincent's Hospital)
"The use of ultraviolet light photochemotherapy (PUVA) in the oral cavity in conjunction with an oral photo-sensitiser for oral graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) in allogeneic bone marrow transplant patients (ABMT)."

Annual Grant 2 \$30,000

Dr Mark Danta (St Vincent's Clinical School)
"Liver Elastography in Cardiac Disease (LECD) study"

Annual Grant 3 \$30,000

Prof Terry Campbell (Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute)
"The human-ether-a-go-go related gene K⁺ channel, a potential drug target for the treatment of schizophrenia"

Annual Grant 4 \$30,000

Prof Ken Ho (Garvan Institute of Medical Research)
"Significance of brown fat in humans"

Annual Grant 5 \$30,000

A/Prof Jane McCrohon (St Vincent's Hospital)
"Prospective evaluation of cardiovascular biomarkers and the prognostic value of computer tomography coronary angiography"

Annual Grant 6 \$30,000

Dr Jerry Greenfield (Garvan Institute of Medical Research)
"Role of the autonomic nervous system in the development of obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus"

Annual Grant 7 \$15,000

Dr Gonzalo Aguirrebarrena (St Vincent's Hospital)
"Diagnosis of penicillin allergy in the Emergency Department"

Travelling Fellowship 1 \$10,000

Dr Mark Winder (Department of Neurosurgery)
*Complex Spine Fellowship, University of Calgary Canada & Skull Base Fellowship,
Swedish Centre Seattle Washington USA*

Travelling Fellowship 2 \$10,000

Dr Andrew Jabbour (Department of Cardiology)
Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Clinical Research Fellowship at the Royal Brompton Hospital, London

Travelling Fellowship 3 \$10,000

Dr Mark Perrin (Department of Cardiology)
Electrophysiology Research Fellowship at Ottawa Heart Institute in Ottawa Ontario Canada

Travelling Fellowship 4 \$10,000

Dr David Roy (Department of Cardiology)
Interventional Cardiology Fellowship 2010-2011 at St Georges Hospital London

Multi-disciplinary Patient Focused Grant 1 \$25,000

Mr Jed Duff (St Vincent's Private Hospital)
"The PaMP VTE Trial (Patient Medicated Prevention of VTE Trial)"

Multi-disciplinary Patient Focused Grant 2 \$25,000

Ms Melissa Brunner (St Vincent's Hospital)
"Coordinated Multidisciplinary Circuit Therapy Class"

Multi-disciplinary Patient Focused Grant 3 \$25,000

Ms Fiona Bailey (St Vincent's Hospital)
"Examining the Management of Reported Medication Incidents in an Acute Care Hospital"

Multi-disciplinary Patient Focused Grant 4 \$13,000

Dr Steven Faux (St Vincent's Hospital)
*"Patient outcomes from a group program for chronic pain at St Vincent's Campus Pain Service.
How do they benchmark with those from an established intensive program at North Shore Hospital
Pain Clinic?"*

THE INAUGURAL CLINICAL RESEARCHER EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In 2009 St Vincent's Clinic Foundation sponsored the inaugural Clinical Researcher Excellence Awards. The St Vincent's Campus Excellence Awards for Clinical Researchers acknowledges the outstanding contribution of individual clinical researchers to the reputation of the St Vincent's Campus. The Awards recognise and encourage outstanding clinical researchers undertaking research in their field although the focus is on the attributes of the individual rather than a specific research project.



Dr O'Sullivan reviewing the Research Week.

OESOPHAGEAL CANCER RESEARCH by A/Prof Reg Lord

The 2010 Ladies' Committee Sr Mary Bernice Research Grant has been awarded to A/Prof Reginald VN. Lord for his work on oesophageal adenocarcinoma. This cancer, having previously been very uncommon, has increased in incidence more than any other cancer, with a six-fold increase over the past several decades.

The cancer arises as a result of severe gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, the main symptoms of which are heartburn and regurgitation. The reflux of gastric contents into the oesophagus causes a change in cell type (Barrett's oesophagus) in a minority of patients. A very small minority of patients with Barrett's oesophagus then progress to developing cancer. Those most at risk are males,

especially if overweight or obese. This cancer is highly lethal, with fewer than one in five patients cured.

A/Prof Lord's laboratory is investigating the role of genetic factors in determining which patients with oesophageal adenocarcinoma respond to chemotherapy. "This research field is likely to provide the greatest improvement in survival for patients with this cancer. Only those who respond to the drug treatments benefit, so it is important to increase our understanding of this clinical problem."

A/Prof Lord and his team are based in the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research in the new Lowy Packer Building on the St Vincent's Campus.



From Left - A/Prof Reg Lord with Research Scientists Natalia Botelho, Angelique Levert-Mignon and Araluen Freeman

2009 EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR CLINICAL RESEARCHERS

Medical – \$2,000

Dr Andrew Jabbour

Cardiology Fellow/Senior Registrar, Cardiology – St Vincent's Hospital to be used for professional development whilst undertaking his Fellowship at the Royal Brompton Hospital, UK

Nursing – \$2,000

John McAllister

Clinical Nurse Consultant – HIV, IBAC/CAMR – St Vincent's Hospital to be used to attend the World HIV/AIDS conference, Vienna

Allied Health – \$2,000

Susan Welch

Senior Pharmacist – Research, Pharmacy – St Vincent's Hospital

Scientist – \$2,000

Damien Stark

Senior Hospital Scientist, Microbiology Department – St Vincent's Hospital

Highly Commended Certificates:

Jed Duff

Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nursing & Clinical Services – St Vincent's Private Hospital

Andrea Kilov

Speech Pathologist, Rehabilitation Unit – Sacred Heart Centre

TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP 2009

The 2009 Travelling scholarship was awarded to Dr Andy Higgs: Master of Science (Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Technology).

"During the year I was able to complete two clinical fellowships at the Sport and Orthopaedic Clinic Bristol, United Kingdom and LK Wiener Neustadt Austria. Both fellowships were in Foot and Ankle Surgery.

I would like to thank the St Vincent's Clinic Foundation for its generosity, in giving me the opportunity to gain further international experience. This will directly benefit the patients at the St Vincent's campus."

Dr Higgs has now returned to the St Vincent's Campus and is working as an orthopaedic surgeon at St Vincent's Hospital, St Vincent's Private Hospital & St Vincent's Clinic.

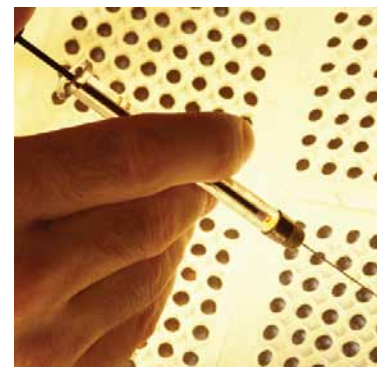


Grant Recipients

ST VINCENT'S CAMPUS RESEARCH WEEK

St Vincent's Clinic Foundation sponsored the St Vincent's Campus Research Week in 2009. The event was held on 14 – 18 September.

The purpose of the Research Week was to raise awareness of the depth and breadth of research amongst students, staff, schools / universities, and possibly industry, government and the wider community.



THE 2009 SANDRA DAVID ORATION

The 2009 Sandra David Oration was held in September and was attended by over 150 people. This year Father Frank Brennan SJ delivered a thought provoking Oration entitled "Patient Autonomy and the doctor's conscience"

A full copy of the Oration can be found on the St Vincent's Clinic website at www.clinic.stvincents.com.au/whats-happening/events.

Following the Oration, the successful 2010 Research Grant recipients were announced.



Prof Frank Brennan, SJ AO



IMPROVING CLINICAL PRACTICE IN ACUTE STROKE CARE

by Prof Sandy Middleton

In Australia, there is a stroke every 10 minutes; stroke is the leading cause of disability and the second largest cause of death after heart disease. Receiving care in a specialised and dedicated stroke unit has been shown to greatly improve recovery. People with stroke who are admitted to a stroke unit are less likely to die or be dependent on others than people with stroke admitted to other non-specialised wards. However, there is limited information about exactly what treatments within the stroke units benefit patients.

There are some well recognised gaps in the implementation of best clinical practice in acute stroke care.

The Quality in Acute Stroke Care (QASC) trial is rigorously testing whether evidence-based treatment protocols for the management of fever, high blood glucose levels and swallowing difficulties can improve patient outcomes (survival; levels of dependency and disability) at 90-days following acute stroke. This project brings together doctors, nurses, allied health professional and health service researchers in a unique partnership to provide multi-disciplinary care to patients. These groups have jointly developed the treatment protocols, but responsibility for initiation of the protocols rests with the nurses in the acute stroke units. This NHMRC-funded



From Left - Members of the project team: Asmara Jammali-Blasi, Sandy Middleton, Liz McLInnes and Simeon Dale (missing: R Markus, G O'Loughlin, S Faux)

study is being conducted in 19 NSW acute stroke units and is being led by Professor Sandy Middleton, Director of the Nursing Research Institute which is a joint initiative between St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney and Australian Catholic University. A large trial such as this is potentially of groundbreaking significance to the nursing care of these acutely ill patients.

In 2009, a group of researchers, namely Prof S Middleton, Dr R Markus, Dr S Faux, Ms G O'Loughlin and Ms S Dale, from St Vincent's Hospital received one of the multidisciplinary grants from the St Vincent's Clinic Foundation to undertake a baseline snapshot of outcomes of care from a group of patients admitted to the acute stroke unit at St Vincent's Hospital, prior to implementation of the new QASC trial treatment protocols.

Data from 54 patients admitted to St Vincent's Hospital acute stroke unit were analysed to identify associations between risk factors pre-stroke, demographics details, stroke characteristics; and death, disability, dependency and health status post-stroke. Two databases were linked in order to perform these analyses. Results showed that a large proportion of patients were alive and independent at 90-days following their stroke. Two factors were shown to significantly result in poorer outcomes, namely, if the stroke was caused by a bleed into the brain (rather than a blockage of the blood flow to the brain) and if the stroke was not the first stroke experienced by the patient. This information may assist with the organisation of appropriate levels of post-hospital care and discharge planning.

Ms Asmara Jammali-Blasi (pictured right) who currently works at the Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Unit undertook her Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) degree at Australian Catholic University and conducted the analyses of these data supervised by Prof S Middleton and Dr E McLInnes. Asmara was awarded a first class Honours degree as a result of this work and a manuscript is in preparation for submission to a peer reviewed journal which report results of this study.



Your support is needed now to continue and to maximise research like this. Please support St Vincent's Clinic Foundation.

HOW YOU CAN PLAY YOUR PART – ST VINCENT'S CLINIC FOUNDATION

All donations are tax deductible and can be made in a number of ways.

- An annual donation of \$200
- An annual donation/one off donation of \$ _____
- St Vincent's Clinic Foundation has also developed the opportunity for donors to nominate the Foundation in their Estate. Please call us for further information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

A cheque made payable to St Vincent's Clinic Foundation for the amount of \$200 or \$ _____

Please debit my Credit Card. Nominate Card: Bankcard / Mastercard / Visa

Name on Card: _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____ Amount: _____

Card number:

Signature: _____

Please send to: St Vincent's Clinic Foundation, 438 Victoria Street Darlinghurst NSW 2010

If you are not already a Friend of St Vincents Clinic Foundation (no charge) and would love to become a Friend please tick the box.

Friends will receive an invitation to the AGM, Foundation functions, copies of "Proceedings" and other material related to the Foundation.

If you do not wish to receive this material, please tick the box.

THANKS TO THE LADIES' COMMITTEE

The Ladies' Committee have worked tirelessly to support the Ladies' Committee Sr Mary Bernice Research Grant and since its inception in 1999 they have provided \$1,102,500 in funding for 14 research projects.

In 1997, a meeting was set up with Dr John Roarty the then Medical Executive Officer of the Clinic, Fay Taylor (President), Angela Isles and Anne Sheridan to establish a Research Grant to honour Sr Mary Bernice, to be awarded annually for specific projects carried out by St Vincent's Doctors.

Mrs Anne Sheridan (Past President) says, "I believe that The Ladies' Committee Sister Mary Bernice Research Grants are

one of the great legacies of The Ladies' Committee and I am very proud to have been part of its establishment."

In late 2009, the Ladies' Committee of the St Vincent's Private Hospital and Clinic Foundation voted to disband and to become part of the soon to be established Friends of St Vincent's Private Hospital.

In recognition of the work of the Ladies' Committee and as a lasting legacy to this work the grant will continue to be known as the Ladies' Committee Sr Mary Bernice Grant. The Trustees have also welcomed the Friends of St Vincent's Private Hospital's commitment to continue to provide funding for the grant.



From Left - Executives - Sadie Daoud, Edwina Holt, Regina Vickery, Anne Knight & John Ross

Year	Researcher	Research Project	Amount	Ladies' Committee Contribution
1999	Prof David Ma	Identification of possible genetic factors for venous clots following hip and knee replacement surgery	\$76,000	\$76,000
2000	Prof Terence Campbell	Possible role for electrical currents in cells triggering heart attacks	\$80,000	\$80,000
2001	Prof Ken Ho	Preventing Obesity During Oestrogen Treatment	\$108,000	\$108,000
2002	A/Prof Robyn Ward	Identification of a new hereditary colorectal and breast cancer syndrome – the methylator phenotype	\$100,000	\$100,000
2003	Prof Bruce Brew	The involvement of quinolinic acid and other tryptophan catabolites in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's Disease	\$100,000	\$100,000
2003	Dr Joanne Joseph	An evaluation of in-vivo platelet and monocyte activation on patients receiving standard compared to drug-elutine (siolimus) stents for stable coronary artery disease	\$30,000	\$30,000
2003	Prof Ken Ho	Anabolic hormones in the therapy of glucocorticoid-induced protein wasting	\$30,000	\$30,000
2004	Prof Michael Feneley	Mechanisms of induction of hypertrophy in left ventricular pressure overload	\$100,000	\$85,000
2005	Dr Diane Fatkin	Identification of disease genes in familial atrial fibrillation	\$100,000	\$85,000
2006	Dr Romesh Markus	Acute ischaemic stroke – imaging viable brain tissue with dynamic perfusion computed tomography	\$100,000	\$85,000
2007	A/Prof Katherine Samaras	The role of adipocyte-derived inflammatory cytokines in the pathogenesis of diabetes, dyslipidaemia, atherosclerosis, non-alcoholic liver disease and gastro-oesophageal reflux – the effects of medical and surgical weight loss	\$100,000	\$100,000
2008	Prof Terence Campbell	The state dependence of drug binding to the human-ether-a-go-go related gene K ⁺ channel	\$100,000	\$75,000
2009	Prof Richard Day	Optimising Metformin dosing regimens in patients with diabetes	\$100,000	\$90,000
2010	A/Prof Reginald Lord	Pharmacogenetic studies of cancer of the oesophagus	\$100,000	\$36,500
TOTAL			\$1,224,000	\$1,080,500