



# Central Clinical School News

Creating the health professionals and researchers of tomorrow

CCS News Jan/Feb 2011

## The Monash Alliance working for eHealth



John Wilson with Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

Professor John Wilson, Department of Medicine, CCS and Prime Minister Julia Gillard, November 2010 at Monash University, where Ms Gillard announced \$466M for PCEHR implementation and \$400M for telemedicine consultations.

In a collaboration called the Monash Alliance, Monash faculties, Monash affiliated hospitals, the Division of General Practice, government and various research and health delivery organisations will be translating research in ehealth for practical solutions and better health outcomes.

The Prime Minister and Victorian Premier visited the Alfred Centre late 2010 for a presentation of the eHealth initiative; and the Alliance was invited to appear at the National eHealth Summit in November 2010. A tender has been submitted to the Department of Health and Ageing early in 2011 to perform national studies in telemedicine and ultimately, deliver telehealth programs. Monash Alliance continues with industry engagement (e.g. IBM, Cisco, Macquarie Bank) for which a breakfast was held 24 February 2011.

For more information contact [John.Wilson@monash.edu](mailto:John.Wilson@monash.edu)

### Editorial

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the CCS newsletter, planned to be monthly and to profile research and teaching developments and news for the whole school. The School has had major changes this year, in particular the retiring of Professor Nip Thomson, the School's inaugural Head and the appointment of Professor Steve Jane, from the University of Melbourne. Professor Jane is also the new Head of the Department of Medicine. We've also farewelled Gillian Holley, the School's Manager from its inception, and welcome Gavin Horrigan, whose title is Precinct Manager, as he is looking after both our School and the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. See more detail in the Staff news section below. This is your news service, and your feedback on content and presentation is welcomed. Please email [Julia.Veitch@monash.edu](mailto:Julia.Veitch@monash.edu) or Telephone 9903 0026.

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# Staff Profile



## Get To Know....

Gavin Horrigan, AMREP Precinct Manager

**Campus:** Alfred

## Where did you work prior to your current position?

My most recent role was managing the faculty's Southern Clinical School. Prior to that, I was the Chief Operating Officer of the Monash Institute of Health Services

Research. Before making the transition to higher education I spent 15 years working in the pharmaceutical industry in a variety of roles including manufacturing, research and development and sales and marketing.

## What do you like best about your role?

The challenge of managing two highly performing schools within the complexity of an off-campus site. Access to good food and coffee was a great secondary incentive to make the move west from Clayton!

## Why did you choose your current career path?

In 1989 I was managing a small group of laboratory technicians running CSL's cell bank. Interaction with other parts of the organisation at that time made me aware that I really enjoyed working in a business rather than a technical role. I applied to the University of Melbourne to enter their MBA program and was accepted into the 1990 intake. The rest is history – see above!

## What did you want to do as a career when you were young?

As a small child I always dreamed of being a dentist. I'm not sure why because my teeth were terrible and I spent many hours in the dentist's chair getting yet another

filling. Sticking your hands into other people's mouths is not that appealing to me now so I don't regret my decision to do a science degree majoring in microbiology and then postgraduate business studies.

## Tell us something about yourself that colleagues wouldn't know?

My parents bought a farm in Flowerdale in 1974. I got my first gun when I was eleven (you could do this then with a 'farm permit') and that kindled a life long interest in guns and shooting. The vision in my right eye started to deteriorate about ten years ago so most of my current shooting activities relate to shotguns rather than rifles – I'm right handed and therefore find it difficult to sight a rifle with my right eye – shotguns are best shot with both eyes open so my good left eye compensates for its poorer brother to the right. I am a keen competitive clay target shooter and a member of Melbourne Gun Club in Lilydale. I shoot trap and simulated field and game at A Grade level and skeet at B Grade. Most Saturdays are spent out at the club much to the frustration of my wife Bronwyn!

PS. My guns are securely locked up!!

# Student Services

**Gladys Britto** is the inaugural Student Services Manager for CCS. Gladys has extensive experience in student administration, most recently for undergraduates in the School of Psychology and Psychiatry. She is currently working towards her MBA.

In CCS, Gladys is responsible for:

- Organisation of post-graduate confirmation of candidature
- Implementing and overseeing Higher Degree by Research (HDR) and Honours seminars in conjunction with the program coordinators
- Facilitate all aspects of admissions and candidature/enrolment from School's perspective
- Advise prospective students on eligibility criteria, selection and admission process
- Provide advice to current students on enrolment, travel grants, scholarships, deferments, IT access and any student services questions
- Manage the school's student induction process and orientation of new staff
- Provide advice to students and supervisors on availability and eligibility of scholarship.

Gladys is based at The Alfred Centre, 6th floor. Telephone: 03 9903 0027  
Email: [Gladys.britto@monash.edu.au](mailto:Gladys.britto@monash.edu.au)

# Staff news



Nip Thomson



Stephen Jane

The **Women's Health Group** have now moved (administratively) to the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM), effective 1 January 2011. They are still physically located in the same place on the 6th floor. We will stay friends with them.

Professor **Nip Thomson** (pictured) has stepped down as Head of School and continues to pursue his research interests.

Our new Head of School and Head of Medicine is Professor **Stephen Jane**, (pictured) who will also fill the role of Director of Research at the Alfred Hospital, and be a member of the Clinical Hematology Service. Professor Jane's research group of 30 people will be moving over from the University of Melbourne in early June. Professor Jane has a range of research interests investigating both malignant and non-malignant disorders of the blood using mouse models. At a basic level, this involves the study of gene transcription. He currently holds a number of NH&MRC and other competitive grants.

**Gillian Holley** finished as School Manager, going to her new position in the Research Office at Melbourne University, and **Gavin Horrigan** (see feature, above) came on as Precinct Manager, looking after both CCS and SPHPM.

# PhD News

Congratulations to the CCS postgraduate students recently awarded scholarships:

<b>Michael Cangkrama</b>	Monash Graduate Scholarship	Medicine
<b>Kathryn Hackman</b>	Faculty of Medicine Postgraduate Research Scholarship	Medicine
<b>Miriell Ho</b>	Australian Stem Cell Supplementary Scholarship	ACBD
<b>Elisha Horat</b>	Australian Postgraduate Award (APA)	Immunology
<b>Kirk Keh Huat Kee</b>	Australian Postgraduate Award (APA)	Medicine
<b>Matthew Kitson</b>	NH&MRC scholarship	Medicine
<b>Jeremy Wrobel</b>	NH&MRC scholarship	Medicine



**Aislin Meehan** is a PhD student within the Department of Medicine, Monash at AMREP. In January 2011 she was awarded the Dora Lush Postgraduate Research Scholarship from the NHMRC, to fund the next 2 years of her PhD. The first year of her PhD was funded with a Faculty Postgraduate Research Scholarship. The title of her thesis is Investigating the function of natural killer cells during immunological responses following human lung transplantation. Aislin's main supervisor is Dr Glen Westall, a respiratory/transplant physician from the Alfred Hospital. Her other supervisors are Associate Professor Tom Kotsimbos and Dr Nicole Mifsud. Congratulations, Aislin!

# Honours 2011



4th (back) row, L-R: Louise Rowntree, Tom Sidwell, Dean Talia, Andrew Nguyen, Aaron McClelland, Stefanos Kelepouris, Robert Williams. 3rd row, L-R: Kirsty Wilson, Haoyao Guo, Tahlia Gadowski, Julie Nguyen, Amy Young, Kylie Yong, Mariel Bartley, Angela Morgan. 2nd row, L-R: Sze Yee Beh, Charlene Mackenzie, Elise De Marco, Ebtesam Muhamed, Jodie Abramovitch, LiSang Lay, Maria Petrou. Front row, L-R: Dr Kim Murphy (Honours co-Coordinator), Associate Professor Robyn Slattery (Honours Coordinator), Gladys Britto (Student Services Coordinator).

# NH&MRC Project Grant successes

CCS researchers were very successful with National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) project grant applications, announced late 2010 for funding to start this year. Most grant periods are 3–5 years. For details of NHMRC grant funding outcomes see [www.nhmrc.gov.au/\\_files\\_nhmrc/file/grants/funding/funded/funding\\_recommendations\\_2010\\_project\\_grants.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/file/grants/funding/funded/funding_recommendations_2010_project_grants.pdf).

Congratulations to all grant recipients!



Pre-op patient with Professor Paul Myles, CIA for the ATACAS trial, and nurse Heidi Harrosh.

CIA	Department	Project title	Amount (\$)
Sharon Lewin	Medicine	Histone deacetylase inhibitors and HIV latency	593,416
Sharon Lewin	Medicine	The role of chemokines in establishing HIV latency	359,208
Shaun Jackson	ACBD	Investigating biomechanical platelet activation mechanisms	496,706
Shaun Jackson	ACBD	Investigation of the role of Type II PI 3-kinases in platelet function	429,615
Magdalena Plebanski	Immunology	Mechanisms of nanoparticle-mediated inhibition of asthma	615,903
Fabienne Mackay	Immunology	The role of BAFF, its receptor TACI and Toll-like receptors in autoimmunity and tolerance	470,022
Paul Myles	Anaesthesia & Perioperative Medicine.	Completion of the ATACAS trial	3,328,614
Frank Alderuccio	Immunology	Immune tolerance in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis following transplant of bone marrow cells encoding autoantigen	327,524
Jennifer Wilkinson-Berka	Immunology	Prorenin and the prorenin receptor in diabetic retinopathy: involvement in the Wnt pathway and inflammation	560,022
Jennifer Wilkinson-Berka	Immunology	Evaluating the link between the GPR91 receptor and renin in the pathogenesis of diabetic retinopathy	470,022
Robyn O'Hehir	Medicine & Immunology	Human CD4+ T-cell epitope-based therapeutic for peanut allergy	389,208
Di Yu (based at Clayton)	Immunology	Cytokine structure and mechanisms of a superagonist antibody	337,524
Jun-Ping Liu (now moved to Murdoch Childrens Research Institute)	Immunology	Studies of a novel manganese transporter in lysosomes and its implications in Niemann-Pick type-C disease	506,706

# Media Mentions

Media coverage for an issue is helpful for raising the profile of both your area of research and the School, and this will help in:

- recruitment of undergraduate, Honours, postgraduate, PhD students and postdocs
- letting philanthropic organisations know about your work – familiarity helps the selection process when applying for philanthropic grant money
- knowledge transfer (by participating in public dialogue through the media and thereby contributing to community education and awareness)

If you would like to sign up for *Monash Expertline*, please fill in the *Expertline listing request form* and email to [emily.walker@monash.edu](mailto:emily.walker@monash.edu). To find out more about what it might mean for you to be 'on call' to the media, please contact Emily Walker 9905 34840 or email: [emily.walker@monash.edu](mailto:emily.walker@monash.edu) at Monash's Media Communications.

## Recent media mentions

**Professor Robyn O'Hehir**, Alfred Hospital/ Department of Immunology and Prof Jennifer Rolland, Department of Immunology, on key components for a safe and effective vaccine for peanut allergy

10/12/2010 <http://www.monash.edu.au/news/newsline/story/1732>

10/12/2010 <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/break-for-nut-allergy-sufferers/story-e6frf7kx-1225968535801>

10/12/2010 <http://au.news.yahoo.com/video/national/watch/23403125/Channel-7-news>

01/03/2011 <http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/is-there-a-vaccine-for-peanut-allergy-20110228-1bbjg.html>

**Professor Frank Rosenfeldt**, Department of Surgery re keeping donor hearts healthy

31/12/2010 <http://www.smh.com.au/national/organ-donor-numbers-increase-by-75-in-a-decade-to-hit-record-20101230-19b7a.html>

04/01/2011 <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/simple-device-gives-heart-to-those-awaiting-transplant-20110103-19duk.html>

05/01/2011 Interview with Matt Parker, Radio 774

**Professor Sharon Lewin**, Department Medicine and Dr Paul Cameron, Department Immunology, Therapeutic potential of 'voicing' latent HIV. 05/01/2011 *Queensland Pride*, p.21

**Professor Hatem Salem**, ACBD and Clinical Associate Professor Gregory Snell, Department of Medicine, Australia Day awards – see detail under Awards. 26/01/2011 <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/academics-in-the-australia-day-2011-honours-list/story-e6frgcjx-1225994448454>

Emeritus Professor Adrian Polglase, Department of Surgery re Faecal occult blood (FOB) testing for early detection of bowel cancer:

13/02/2011 3AW (Melbourne) Talking Health

21/02/2011 *Melbourne Weekly – Eastern* p.5



Research nurse Karen Symons, part of the Allergy research team, doing a skin prick test.

## Awards



**Professor Hatem Salem** has been appointed a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for "service to medicine in the field of haematology as a clinician, educator and researcher and through the establishment of the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases (ACBD)" in the 2011 Australia Day Honours. Professor Salem is Head of ACBD and is involved with the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Registry and Early Coagulopathy in Trauma project.

Clinical Associate Professor Gregory Snell, Department of Medicine, has been awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division in the 2011 Australia Day Honours for service to medicine in the field of respiratory science, to education, and to professional organisations.

# Forthcoming Events

All welcome to the following CCS based events, table of dates for March below.

- PhD confirmations: coordinated by Gladys Britto, [Gladys.britto@monash.edu](mailto:Gladys.britto@monash.edu) Telephone: 9903 0027
- Early Career Researcher seminars: The Central Clinical School Early Career Researcher (ECR) 2011 seminar series kicks off this Thursday 3 March from 1.00–2.00 pm (lunch provided) in the Level 5 lecture theatre, Alfred Centre. This fortnightly seminar series aims to showcase the research of post docs and final year PhD students within the school,

and we're currently recruiting speakers for this year's program. This is a great opportunity not only to present your work to the AMREP community, but also to practise talks for conferences or meetings. If you would like to participate in the seminar series, please e-mail [ecr.amrep@monash.edu](mailto:ecr.amrep@monash.edu) and let ECR know approximately when in the year you would like to talk, and we will match you with an available 20–25min time slot.

- Department of Immunology seminars: Fridays 4–5pm, 2nd floor Immunology seminar room

Date	Time	Venue	Speaker	Topic
7 March	4.00 pm	Lecture Theatre, Level 5, Alfred Court	Dr Gabrielle Belz, WEHI	Deciphering the dendritic cell transcriptional program by Id2 mapping. Dr Belz is in the Molecular Immunology Division at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
9 March	1.15–2.15 pm	2nd floor Seminar Room, Department of Immunology	PhD confirmation	Maria Demaria, Understanding the cellular and molecular basis of the poor adaptive immunity and t cell responsiveness in tetraspanin-deficient mice with a focus on the tetraspanin, cd37
10 March	10.00–11.00 am 2.00–3.00 pm	Seminar Room 1, Level 5 Alfred Court	PhD confirmation	Aislin Meehan, Investigating the function of natural killer cells during Immunological responses following lung transplantation (10 am); Amber Moore, Philosophical and professional aspects of Chinese medicine (2 pm)
16 March	9.00 am – 1.45 pm	AMREP seminar room	various	OH and S Orientation for new students. Enquiries: Adrian Quintarelli, Email: <a href="mailto:Adrian.quintarelli@bakeridi.edu.au">Adrian.quintarelli@bakeridi.edu.au</a> Telephone: +61 3 85321123
16 March	1.15 – 2.15 pm	2nd flr Seminar Room, Department Imm	PhD confirmation	Jie Yu Chung, Mechanisms of tolerance following ectopic autoantigen expression
17 March	10.30 – 11.30 am 11.30 – 12.30 am	Seminar Rm 2, Level 5 Alfred Court	PhD confirmation	Fiona Wightman, The use of Histone Deacetylase inhibitors to reverse HIV-1 latency (10.30); Nitasha Kumar, Dendritic Cell (DC) induced HIV latency in Resting CD4 T-Cells (11.30)
23 March	1.15 – 2.15 pm	2nd flr Seminar Rm, Dept Immunology	PhD confirmation	Devi Deliyanti, An evaluation of aldosterone's pathogenic role in the ischemic and diabetic retina
24 March	10.00 am	Firkin Room, ACBD	PhD confirmation	Miriell Ho, The bone and bone marrow interface and its relationship to haematopoiesis
30 March	1.15 – 2.15 pm	2nd flr Seminar Room, Department Immunology	PhD confirmation	Chindu Govindaraj, Investigation of CD25hi TNFR2hi T cells and their role in ovarian cancer

# Useful links and contacts

## CCS Departmental and Special Interest Newsletters

Department of Immunology:

<http://med.monash.edu.au/med/immunology/newsletters.html>

Department of Surgery:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/surgery/alfred/newsletters/index.html>

CCS Early Career Researchers (ECR)

<http://ebulletin.med.monash.edu.au/newsletter.cfm?issueNo=406#8>

## Grant opportunities

Biomedical and medical grant schemes:

<http://www.alfredresearch.org/funding/calendar.htm>

Monash Research Office Funding:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/funding.php>

Monash Research Office GrantsWatch:

<http://monash.edu/researchoffice/grantswatch/>

Faculty eBulletin

<http://ebulletin.med.monash.edu.au/index.cfm>

## Admin information

Photos of CCS staff and students are stored in the V drive, at: V:\school\Photos\Staff-individual and groups.

See sample pictured left to right: Natangaline Naidu, Tara Bull, Mona Khoury, John Mills, Mark Wright.



# Publications

Publications are given in alpha order by first author.

CCS academics and affiliates' names are bolded.

Carroll KE, Dean MM, Heatley SL, **Meehan AC**, **Mifsud NA**, **Kotsimbos TC**, Snell GI, **Westall GP**. High levels of mannose-binding lectin are associated with poor outcomes following lung transplantation. *Transplantation* 2011, in press.

Chambers AJ, Liston P, Reade MC, Courtenay BG, Higgs A, **Rosenfeld JV**. Surgery for Blast Injuries: Experiences of an Australian Surgical Team in Afghanistan. *ANZ Journal of Surgery* 81:110-113, 2011.

Davies JM, Dang TD, **Voskamp A**, Drew AC, Biondo M, Phung M, Upham JW, **Rolland JM**, **O'Hehir RE**. Functional immunoglobulin E cross-reactivity between Pas n 1 of Bahia grass pollen and other group 1 grass pollen allergens. *Clin Exp Allergy*. 2011 Feb;41(2):281-91

Fitzgerald M, Cameron P, Mackenzie C, Farrow N, Scicluna P, Gocentas R, Bystrzycki A, Phil GLM, O'Reilly G, Andrianopoulos N, Dziukas L, Cooper DJ, Silvers A, Mori A, Smith S, Xiao Y, Stub D, **Rosenfeld JV**. Trauma resuscitation errors and computer assisted decision support. *Arch Surg* 146(2):218-225, 2011.

**Goldschlager T**, Ghosh P, Zannettino A, Williamson M, **Rosenfeld JV**, Itescu S, Jenkin G. A comparison of Mesenchymal precursor cells with amnion epithelial cells for enhancing cervical interbody fusion in an ovine model. *Neurosurgery* (doi: 10.1227/NEU.0b013e31820d5375), 2011.

Seifman M, **Lewis P**, **Rosenfeld JV**, Hwang P. Postoperative intracranial haemorrhage: A review *Neurosurgical Review* (DOI 10.1007/s10143-010-0304-3), 2011

**Rosenfeld JV**. The evolution of treatment for hypothalamic hamartoma: a personal odyssey. *Neurosurg Focus* 30(2):E1,1-5, 2011.

Bossen C, Tardivel A, Willen L, Fletcher CA, Perroud M, Beermann F, Rolink AG, Scott ML, **Mackay F**, Schneider P. Mutation of the BAFF furin cleavage site impairs B cell homeostasis and antibody responses. *In press European Journal of Immunology*.

Sánchez-Alcañiz JA, Haeger S, Mueller W, Pla R, **Mackay F**, Schulz S, Bendito GL, Stumm R, Marín O. Cxcr7 controls neuronal migration by regulating chemokine responsiveness. *In press Neuron*.

# Snippets

Ben Goldacre's **Bad Science** is a great read, and you discover that on any given topic, "I think you'll find it's a bit more complicated than that...". It's a reasoned diatribe, if that's not an oxymoron, on how not to succumb to the temptation of simple solutions, and why simplistic solutions are harmful. The chapter 'Bad Stats' put the reader straight about natural frequencies, relative risk and absolute risk increases. And the chapter on "How the media promote the public misunderstanding of science" is frightening.

See more at [www.badsience.net/](http://www.badsience.net/)

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