GRADUATION

Congratulations to the students whose Higher Degrees by Research were conferred at the Graduation ceremony on 21 April 2017 and also in absentia.

A wonderful day shared with family, friends & supervisors.

More photographs page 3

Yoon Hi Cho, PhD
Autonomic Dysfunction, obesity and puberty in Type 1 Diabetes
Supervisors: Prof Kim Donaghue, Prof Maria Craig, A/Prof Hiran Selvadurai, Prof Alicia Jenkins

Nikita Deo, PhD
Evaluating preclinical therapies for the treatment of tibial pseudarthrosis in neurofibromatosis type 1
Supervisors: A/Prof Aaron Schindeler, Prof David Little

Mariam Farid, MPhil
A Life Worth Smiling About: Experiences of Young People with Neuromuscular Disease Participating in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
Supervisors: Dr Paula Bray, Prof Kathryn North, Dr Nicola Hancock

Roula Ghaoui, PhD
The application of whole exome sequencing for the diagnosis of limb-girdle muscular dystrophies
Supervisors: A/Prof Sandra Cooper, A/Prof Carolyn Sue, Prof Kathryn North

Gina O’Grady, PhD
Improving The Diagnosis Of Congenital Muscular Dystrophy With Next Generation Sequencing Technology
Supervisors: Prof Kathryn North, A/Prof Sandra Cooper

Nancy Martin La Rotta, PhD
Comparative analysis of chromosomes copy number in paediatric solid tumours
Supervisors: Prof Jennifer Byrne, Dr Greg Peters

Le Myo Thwe, PhD
Biomarker analysis in paediatric tumours diagnosed with a single institution
Supervisors: Prof Jennifer Byrne, Dr Daniel Catchpoole, Dr Loretta Lau

Uet Yu, PhD
Effects of Herpes Simplex Virus on cutaneous γδT cells in mice and men
Supervisors: Prof Cheryl Jones, Dr Marian Fernandez, Prof Steve Alexander

Jianheng Jimmy Zhou, PhD
Limiting macrophages through blocking chemokines and studying vascular disease as potential therapies for CKD
Supervisors: Prof Stephen Alexander, Dr Yuan Min Wang, Dr Anne Durkan, Dr Vincent Lee

William Ziaziaris, MPhil
Pediatric Liver Transplantation: Improvement in Outcomes
Supervisors: Prof Andrew Holland, Prof Danny Cass
2017 Premier’s Woman of the Year Award - Congratulations to Catherine Birman -

Associate Professor Catherine Birman has taken home the 2017 Premier’s Woman of the Year Award.

Premier Gladys Bereijiklian and Minister for Women Tanya Davies presented the award to Catherine at the 2017 NSW Women of the Year awards at a reception held at the International Convention Centre Sydney.

“Now in their sixth year, these awards support the NSW Government’s commitment to building an equitable, inclusive and safe society where all women are valued and respected, can contribute meaningfully, and can enjoy the rights, freedoms and protections to which everyone in NSW is entitled,” Mrs Davies said.

“As one of the most experienced cochlear implant surgeons in the world, Associate Professor Catherine Birman has helped almost 1000 NSW residents through life-changing procedures,” Ms Berejiklian said.

As the third female Ear Nose and Throat Surgeon to qualify in New South Wales, Catherine’s career and charitable works have made her a trail-blazer and inspiring role model for all women.

For further information on Catherine's win https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/?a=407151

Source SCHN intranet 08 March 2017

Catherine is also a PhD student in the Discipline researching Paediatric cochlear implantation: outcomes and informed consent.

Congratulations to alumna Peta Bradbury, PhD 2016 (now post-doc at UTS/Woolcock Institute of Medical Research) on her publication in the Journal of Cell Science. A/Prof Geraldine O’Neill, Group Leader, Children’s Cancer Research Unit at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead.


The focal adhesion targeting (FAT) domain of p130 Crk associated substrate (p130Cas) confers mechanosensing function. Journal of Cell Science. 130:1263-1273

http://jcs.biologists.org/content/early/2017/02/17/jcs.192930.article-info

From the editors:
A mechanosensory role for p130Cas FAT

Focal adhesions (FAs) are important in sensing the extracellular environment and transmitting this information to the cell. Cas family protein members, including NEDD9 and p130Cas (BCAR1), are recruited to FAs through their FA-targeting (FAT) domain and regulate cell migration. In this context, p130Cas acts as a mechanosensor; in response to force and FA association through the SH3 domain, the substrate-binding domain (SD) is stretched and phosphorylated, which results in its displacement from the FA and increased cell migration.

Geraldine O’Neill and colleagues now (p. 1263) investigate whether the FAT domain also has a role in mechanosensing by analysing fusion proteins, in which the NEDD9 FAT domain was exchanged for that of p130Cas (NEDD9::CasFAT).

They observe that, although the CasFAT domain is able to recruit the hybrid protein to FAs, NEDD9::CasFAT, turnover is reduced compared with wild-type NEDD9. Furthermore, cells expressing the hybrid protein exhibit a significantly slower migration in 2D, which was not due to a change in the adhesive force. Instead, the authors demonstrate an increase in rigidity induces phosphorylation of the SD domain of NEDD9::CasFAT, which leads to reduced post-translational cleavage of NEDD9. This results in impaired cell migration.

The data presented here, thus, establish a unique mechanosensory function for the FAT domain of p130Cas that is not shared with other Cas proteins.
This month introducing: Rosalie Power

My previous degrees were: Bachelor of Applied Science (Leisure & Health); Master of Public Health (Sexology)

My PhD project will be researching: Health related quality of life of adolescents with cerebral palsy in rural Bangladesh and the psychological wellbeing of their primary caregivers. My supervisors are Dr Gulam Khandaker, and Profs Nadia Badawi, Mohammed Muhit & Cheryl Jones.

If I had a spare 30 minutes every day: (and a spare bath tub) I would learn how to make clothing out of kombucha. With a bit of perfecting it is a sustainable material, essentially vegan leather, made out of bacteria.

Three people I would invite for dinner: Dr Who, Sally Morgan and Ellen Degenerous.

If I could travel back in time I would love to meet: Julia Gillard as an 8 year old. She was almost definitely cute as chips!

I often wonder: Will it ever be possible to teleport?

The best decision I ever made: Was to let go and fall in love. Lumka Emma Liwela I will write your name in the stars.

Bithi Roy, MPhil student, presented posters at the April 2017 PSANZ Annual Conference – the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) - a multidisciplinary society dedicated to improving the health and long term outcomes for mothers.

Her poster, The role of the Placenta in Perinatal Stroke – A 16 Year Systematic Review is part of Bithi’s HDR.

Bithi was also co-author on a poster Management of Neonatal Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) in a Special Care Nursery poster which won “best poster award”.

The third poster which Bithi presented was A Case report of a Challenging case of In-utero Diarrhoea.

Photograph: Bithi (centre) & supervisors (left to right) Prof Iona Novak, Prof Nadia Badawi, Dr Catherine Morgan & A/Prof Karen Walker.