Nepean Clinical School is moving forward into another busy and exciting year. This year, we have 48 Year 1 students joining Nepean. To our new students we all hope that you find your time at Nepean to be a rewarding time on your path to a career in Medicine. To the students returning moving into Years 2, 3 and 4, nothing changes, 2008 will be a busy and hopefully fun year for everyone.

Sadly, Professor James Wiley has resigned as Sub-Dean of Research. Professor Wiley has contributed greatly to the growth of research at Nepean. His research experience has been one of the building blocks for the Clinical School. We wish him well for the future. He is not actually going anyway but reducing his time to concentrate on his own research. Our new Sub-Dean of Research is Professor Ralph Nanan. He is also an experienced researcher, having completed research in both Germany and Australia. I know that Professor Nanan will build on the excellent foundations laid by Professor Wiley.

I would like to welcome Professor Michael Cox joining the Nepean Clinical School as Professor of Surgery. Professor Cox is known to Nepean Hospital and will bring great expertise and experience to the Discipline of Surgery at Nepean Clinical School.

Mr John Bateman the Deputy Chairman of the Nepean Medical Research Foundation has recently received the award of Penrith Citizen of the Year for his contributions in many areas to our region. John has been instrumental in raising funds for our Foundation and promoting local research. Well done and well deserved.

Nepean Clinical School is growing and moving forward. This cannot be achieved without hard work of the Clinical School staff and tutors. I would like to thank everyone for their commitment and effort in helping to make Nepean Clinical School an excellent teaching school for students from the University of Sydney Medical Program.

Professor Michael Peek
Associate Dean and Head of School
NEPEAN CLINICAL SCHOOL
Med 1 Orientation

Nepean Clinical School held orientation for 45 enthusiastic Med 1 students on Wednesday February 13 2008.

Following a brief introduction by Professor Michael Peek (Associate Dean) and Clinical School Staff, students were provided with a series of introductory lectures & practical sessions that gave an overview of OHS (Manual handling), Fire safety and Infection Control (Hand washing with Glitter Bug and applying the N95 ‘Duckbill’ mask), Hospital Security and the Hospital Library as well a session revising & practising Basic Life Support.

A delicious lunch sponsored by Medical Defence Association and Welch Allyn was catered by Eden’s caf_. During lunch, Professor Ralph Nanan introduced the students to some of our head’s of discipline, academic staff and tutors. Students were provided with a brief overview of most of the disciplines and the some of the research opportunities available.

Students were addressed by Professor Michael Peek (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), Professor Ralph Nanan (Paediatrics), Professor Jack Wall (Medicine / Endocrinology), Professor James Wiley (Haematology), Professor Tony McLean (Critical Care), Associate Professor Peter Dietz (Urogynaecology), Associate Professor Martin Krause (Neurology), and Dr Bill Brakoulas (Psychiatric Medicine). Students were also introduced to some of the Senior Lecturers and Clinical tutors including Dr Stephen Fuller, Dr Sally Poulton, Dr Jeffrey Fletcher, Dr Tony Liu, Dr Mark Graydon, Dr Ian Tait and Dr Sharon Wong.

Following lunch Med 3 students (Brandon Baraty & Alison Care) spoke with Med 1 about their experiences of life as medical students at Nepean.

Positive feedback from students & staff suggested that the orientation day was a success and this was attributable to the contributions made by everyone involved.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff from Sydney West Area Health service who willingly gave their time to assist in orientation of Med 1 students. Thank you to Colin Anlezark, Tony Lawson, Sheila Hamm, Rachel Oliffe, Robert Robinson, Dunko Grubisic, Carl Gladwell, Jo Trunzo-Raphael, Sue Grimes & the library staff. A thankyou to our Med 3 students Alex Georges and Alison Care (both trained physiotherapists) who ran the manual handling practical session for the students.

Marilyn Reed (Clinical Educator / Med 1 Coordinator)
“My Beginnings at Nepean”

After two months at Nepean, the sense of novelty - jarring culture shock - is already beginning to fade as I settle down into a comfortable routine. I’ve almost forgotten what it felt like to step through the admission doors of my very first clinical day and a very new medical student.

Almost forgotten... but not quite. Some things remain salient, still: after all, who could forget that hectic race for the train at 6:45 in the morning? That first-day-at-school sense of trepidation as I entered the hospital admission doors for the very first time? The unfamiliar weight of my as-yet-unused stethoscope, casually (but in actual fact very deliberately) slung around my neck? The irrational fear of having a patient -- god forbid! -- speak to me? The complete and total confusion of having to find my way across the wards!

Luckily, my sense of petrification didn’t last long. As I huddled in closer to the other medical students, Maz swooped in and welcomed us in the true Nepean fashion. Suddenly, we were herded along a whirlwind tour of the hospital: we saw the wards, the lecture theater, the library, the computer room, the administration staff, the cafeteria, the wards again, before finally settling down, exhausted, in the education building.

From then on the real fun and games began: morning tea served alongside hospital trollies and prac. dummies, mask and hand washing demonstrations, and, last but not least, surgical smarties! Once we had finished running around for Maz’s general amusement, we were introduced to the team of health care professionals at Nepean.

I was blown away by the approachability of the staff at Nepean. They seemed genuinely thrilled to have us in their hospital, blundering about and disrupting their patients. They remembered our names, and despite their hectic schedule, always seemed to have the time to stop and explain to us what they were doing and why they were doing it. Moreover, they offered us truly unique opportunities: should a student exhibit interest in, say surgery, they would be able to receive a one-on-one scrubbing tutorial and sit in the theatre.

Now, two months later, I’ve become a true blue Nepeanite. I feel at ease lurking around the common room, begging the nursing staff for patients, or walking down corridors with my flashy Sydney West badge. One day I may even walk the walk as well as talk the talk!

Victoria Bond

Yr 1 Educator, Marilyn Reed, Yr 2 Educator Sarah Wherrett

Yr 3 Educator Biren Singh

Dr. Louise Cole Sub-Dean of Education
This year the event was special because the person wielding the clippers was hair dressing student Jade Murray. Jade, from the Lower Blue Mountains, was in her early teens when she was diagnosed with lymphoma. She has just recently been given a clean bill of health following her five year cancer-free check. Jade is now attending college and is on the path to becoming a hairdresser. She is the proud mum of 2 year old Ava.

“It’s nice that members of the medical profession support the cause. Having lost my hair, it’s great to be the only one with a full head of hair.”

The World’s Greatest Shave is one of the biggest fundraising events in the country. In ten years it has raised $67 million, with funds used to support people suffering from blood cancers including leukaemia, myeloma and lymphoma. Nearly 10,000 people each year are diagnosed with either leukaemia, myeloma or lymphoma.

Professor Michael Peek, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney, and head of the Nepean Clinical School, said he was heartened to see the numbers of doctors and students participating in the valuable community event. ‘Although all of us from Nepean Clinical School involved do not look after patients with leukaemia directly we all know people who have suffered from leukaemia and the impact this can have on those people and their families.’

Also participating from Nepean Clinical School was Professor and Head of Paediatrics and Child Health, Ralph Nanan; Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology George Condous; Dr Bernard Champion and Dr Tomasso Bignardi. Jan Kokavec, a Year Two medical student, lined up with his lecturers, while Susan Dowd and Lera van Der Wal dyed their hair red in the spirit of the event. Tracy Mockford helped shave participants. The event was supported by local business, Eden’s Café.

Michael Cox graduated from University of Melbourne in 1982. He worked as a resident at St. Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne. In 1986 he was a Masters of Surgery research student investigating the mechanisms of gastro-oesophageal reflux using a canine model under the guidance of Chris Martin. In 1987 he commenced his training as a general surgeon with the RACS. In 1989 he and his young family went to Belfast where Michael worked as a senior registrar in the Belfast City Hospital, returning to Melbourne in 1990 where he successfully sat the RACS fellowship examination. Michael and family returned to the UK in 1991 to work as a senior registrar in General Surgery at Colchester General Hospital in Essex. Whilst in Colchester he began training in laparoscopic surgery and ERCP. They returned to Australia in 1992 where Michael was the fellow in Hepato- Biliary Unit at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide. He continued his clinical interests here and completing training in ERCP and further training in the management of Hepato-Biliary and pancreatic conditions. During this time he wrote over 10 papers and was also heavily involved in laboratory work investigating the factors that control the motility of the sphincter of Oddi.

In 1994 Michael came to Nepean Hospital with a joint appointment as Senior Lecturer and Staff Specialist. Along with Professor Chris Martin he established the upper gastro-intestinal unit at Nepean Hospital. During the last 14 years the unit has increased the number and complexity of cases performed and has developed a strong clinical practice in Upper GI surgery and interventional upper GI endoscopy. The unit has changed from managing patients from the Nepean area to being a tertiary referral unit managing patients from western Sydney and Western NSW. Michael has had a key role in training of registrars, working as the surgical supervisor for 7 years, he left this role to become the chairman of the NSW Board in General Surgery for 4 years and then was the chairman of the Board in General Surgery for the RACS. In 2004 he was elected to the court of examiners in general surgery. In 2006 Michael became a Visiting Medical Officer to Nepean. After the untimely illness and subsequent death of his long term colleague Professor Chris Martin he was encouraged to apply and was subsequently appointed as Professor of Surgery at Nepean Hospital. Michael’s current interests include; Research into complicated biliary stone disease, establishment and improvement of a new model for acute surgical care, training and assessment of surgical trainees, improvement of the management of elective surgical conditions in the public sector, surgical management of morbid obesity and changing the surgical paradigm to encourage new graduates into a career in general surgery.

Michael sees his role as Professor to function as a surgical leader both within and beyond Nepean hospital, to foster clinical research with in Nepean, to maintain a strong clinical presence in elective upper GI surgery and acute general surgery and to inspire and mentor students and graduates into the fulfilling and satisfying career offered by surgery and general surgery in particular.
Lynette Gallaty

Before starting my employment at Nepean Hospital, I worked for a number of years with Barratt & Smith, Pathology and a number of private specialist rooms. Working in these positions gave me the opportunity to gain a strong strong medical administrative background. I applied to work at Nepean Hospital and started there with the Department of Surgery, working for Professor Christopher Martin (deceased), Dr Michael Cox and Dr Bertram Canagasingham in March 2000. Dr Kevin Seex later joined our Department and I found myself working for four doctors. It was a very busy role which became busier when Dr Justin Pik, Neurosurgeon joined the Department (who later left and was replaced by Dr Suresh Nair), and a little further down the track a third neurosurgeon, Dr Casikar joined the Department. The Department of Neurosurgery was established and I became the Departmental Secretary for Neurosurgery. Over the ensuing years, I gained a wealth of experience working in Haematology for Professor James Wiley, Endocrinology working for Professor Jack Wall, where I found myself organising Nepean Scientific Day, and finally working for the Nepean Medical Research Foundation and the Nepean Clinical School. I found this work very rewarding, but felt that I still needed a challenge. I have since taken a position as Research Personal Assistant to Professor Paul Mitchell, Director of Vision Research at Westmead Eye Clinic, Westmead Hospital. This position is a new position and brings new challenges with it every day. I am still very busy as I am also undertaking study in Business Administration. I miss the friends I made and the colleagues I worked with at Nepean and I wish them all well in the future. Lynne Gallaty

Bao Nguyen

Bao spent two years with me doing research in the Thyroid Research Laboratory. His studies concerned the role of T-lymphocytes and their reactivity against calasequestrin and flavoprotein in patients with Thyroid Eye Disease or ‘poppy eyes’. Some of Bao’s data was presented at the first Swiss Symposium of Thyroid Eye Disease in December of 2007 and all of his data has been written up in a paper submitted to the journal Autoimmunity which is in press and will be published within the next two months. This work was done as a University of Sydney Masters’ of Science Degree which Bao is presently in the process of writing up for submission to the University. Bao was considering staying on to do a PhD but finally decided to accept an offer at the Wollongong University Dentistry programme. He really wanted to enter into medicine, but decided that dentistry was a better second choice than doing a PhD.

Bao has a very cheerful personality, is energetic, hardworking and intelligent and it was a very pleasant two years that he spent in my laboratory. He was very co-operative and a good team member who helped others establish techniques and indeed, I am very sorry that he decided to move on.

Prof. Jack Wall

Colleen Maree-Cook

“Twas a dark and stormy when I first ventured through the portals of Clinical Sciences – heart pounding as I entered into the unknown….. Enough frivolity!! Actually, it was a pleasant winter morning in early June, 1993, and I knew I would be doing perinatal research under the aegis of A/Professor David Elwood (he of the beautiful voice!). Several months later, in the post Master’s Graduation euphoria, I enrolled in a PhD (Medicine) at the University of Sydney. The work was to explore the relationship of the uterine cervix and spontaneous preterm birth.

David had the audacity to move to Canberra and Brian Spurrett kindly agreed to become the A/Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. The RCT of Misoprostol versus Syntocinon/ Syntometrine in the management of the third stage of labour was one of a number of projects I did with Brian. He was passionate about improving the health of women in the Asia Oceania region, especially our Pacific neighbours. During this time, as part of my PhD, I was spending extended periods of time in Perinatal Ultrasound assessing cervices with ultrasound and had dubious honour of being bestowed with the title of ‘cervix queen’ by my sonographer colleagues! In 1999, we moved into the new South Block, but sadly Brian was unable to move with us. The building was later named the Spurrett Building to honour his memory.

We were again very fortunate when Michael Peek was appointed our Professor, and during his beneficent reign, I was awarded my PhD in 2002. Michael volunteered me as a member of the WAHS (later SWAHS) Human Research & Ethics Committee. Somewhat to my amazement, I thoroughly enjoyed it to the extent that a couple of years later I became Chair. I have also been involved in the GMP, mainly 4th year, and look forward to continuing this.

In all the research I have carried out at Nepean Hospital, I was continually surprised at the generosity of the pregnant women in the Penrith area. They were willing to participate in a wide variety of research, including invasive studies, with little or no personal benefit. They have my admiration and sincere gratitude.

My plans for my semi-retirement include reading and lazing around (I’m very good at both!), hopefully do some more travelling, drawing and painting (not quite so good at this - yet!), and continue taking art classes. So, the science world’s loss is the art world’s gain!!

Colleen
**Hooshang Lahooti**

Hooshang Lahooti was born in Iran and educated in United Kingdom and Norway. He received BSc in Medical Laboratory Sciences from the University of Wales Institutes, Cardiff, South Wales in 1978, MSc in Biochemistry and PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology (Molecular Endocrinology) from the University of Bergen, Norway in 1986 and 1991 respectively. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship with the Department of Molecular Endocrinology, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, in London, then was employed by Norwegian Cancer Research Society as Research Fellow. In 1996, moved to the University of Kentucky in Lexington as a visiting scientist and than in 1997 moved to Australia. He was employed as a Research Officer with the department of endocrinology, Sir Charles Gairdner hospital, Western Australia, then with the Discipline of Pathology, the University of Tasmania, and then as a Senior Research Officer with the department of haematology and blood diseases, St. Vincent Hospital, Sydney (Garvan Institute of Medical Research). In 2002, took up a Senior Research Officer/Research Fellow position with the Department of Genetic & Metabolic Research Unit, the Children's Hospital at Westmead and received a Conjoint Lecturer title with the University of Sydney, Faculty of Medicine, Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health, the Children’s Hospital at Westmead. In Nepean Hospital, he is working with Professor Jack Wall in Department of Medicine as a research scientist. He is member of Australian Institute of Medical Scientist, Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists, Human Genetic Society of Australasia, and Molecular Genetic society of Australia.

**Daralyn Hodgson**

I started work in the late 80's and worked my way from a word processor officer to a PA within the corporate division of a large financial institution, where I gained experience dealing with a range of people from corporate high flyers to cotton farmers. The highlight of this job was while checking on the quality of the corporate box at the Sydney Cricket Ground, U2 were rehearsing in the Football stadium next door, so I enjoyed a U2 concert whilst sipping champagne.

I decided to change my path and decided to embark on a psychology degree at Macquarie University. Having completed second year psych in all but two subjects I answered the call of the ‘biological clock’ and had my two gorgeous boys, with the intention to return to study. It was at this time I ran a small business from home. Then during 2004 I had to return to full-time work where I began working in Blue Mountains Hospital as a ward clerk, followed by the position of secretary to the Director of the new Mental Health Unit at Blue Mountains Hospital, where I was instrumental in helping to set up this new unit. I came to Academic Medicine on a temporary contract as relief and loved the challenges that came along with working with the two distinct systems of Sydney West Area Health Services and the University. Now that I have this position officially I am looking forward to keeping up with all of these challenges and more!

**Leigh Bambury**

Since completing a legal traineeship in 1990 I have predominantly worked as a Paralegal / P.A. in City and local law firms.

In 2004 I opted for a change and joined Nepean Hospital's Aged Care Ward as their Ward Clerk for 18 months. Although I enjoyed this position, I was enticed back to law, but only for two short years!

I have recently commenced working as P.A. to Associate Professors Martin Krause and Gustavo Duque. I look forward to new challenges and learning experiences, and contributing to the successful running of Martin and Gustavo's many projects.

**Liz Welch**

I am the new Research Assistant working with A/Prof. Martin Weltman and his team in Drug and Alcohol Services. I have previously worked in the pharmaceutical industry in various roles including Clinical Trials Project Manager and Safety Associate in Pharmacovigilance. I am also studying towards a Graduate Diploma in Psychology. I am looking forward to the new challenges which lie ahead and in being involved in some really interesting research projects.

**Tegan Bellamy**

I recently started my position as Administration Officer at the Nepean Clinical School Education Centre. Prior to this position, I worked as a medical receptionist at a GP clinic at Rouse Hill and was also a university student completing a Bachelor of Speech and Hearing Sciences and a Master in Cultural Heritage. As part of Masters degree I was lucky enough to spend six months last year studying in Belgium. As well as travelling, I also enjoy reading, playing the piano and painting.

My position as Administration Officer involves an array of tasks which focus around assisting with the organisation of teaching events for students and providing administration support for education staff. I am involved with organising room bookings and catering, sending information packages to lecturers and patients, and also meeting and greeting participants.
My name is Will Kovacevic and I'm doing my Honours year of my BMEdSc degree. I decided to take the opportunity to apply the truckloads of theory that I learned in my classes in the lab and get a real taste of what life as a scientist is like. This year I am studying the effect of polymorphisms of the P2Y2 receptor on its function in human monocytes, under the...er, expert tutelage of Dr Leanne Stokes. We both hope the project yields some valuable results. She has done a great job in putting up with my amateurish errors in the first couple of weeks!

Nonetheless, it’s been a really enjoyable experience so far, and very nice to get away from the rather cut-throat, medicine-hungry competition that is Medical Science at Sydney Uni....not to mention the 8am lectures last year (5am starts for us Mountains folk)! Sure, there’s a lot of pressure this year with the short time frame, but its positive pressure that will hopefully hold me in good stead. Ever since 2nd year, I’ve grown rather fond of immunology and see a potential career for myself in this area. Outside of the lab, I’m a total nutter for football (soccer) and tennis. Everyone here at Nepean has been really helpful and welcoming and I hope to get to know everyone better as the year goes on.

Bridget Honan.

After spending nine months at the gateway to the Greater West, Dubbo Base Hospital (which incidentally is soon to be featured on prime time television in a show called Bush Doctors), I was itching to return to the gateway to the Blue Mountains, my old stomping ground, Nepean Hospital. Final year medical students have a unique opportunity to pursue their own clinical or research interests during the eight-week elective period held over December-February every year, so I used half of my allotted time to undertake a research project with Professor Wall in the field of thyroid eye disease.

The first part of my project was a retrospective study on the effects of radioiodine therapy on thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy. Some studies have suggested that radioiodine may exacerbate thyroid eye disease, however Professor Wall's own research does not necessarily support that conclusion and no mechanism has been proven yet. Unfortunately, there wasn’t enough data available to draw any firm conclusions on this topic. However, the challenge now will be to design a prospective study to investigate the relationship between radioiodine therapy and clinical eye signs, as well as serum antibody levels that are known to be related to specific eye signs. There is also a need to develop a standardised technique for assessing eye signs, using photography so changes can be objectively documented over time.

These are things I will be working on after my return from the USA. I am going over there next to do the second half of my elective at Yale (George Bush’s alma mater) and New Haven Hospital with the renal team. I’m also spending two weeks holidaying in New York and attending rallies, before returning “home” to final year rotations and more research!
Local Nepean medical specialist Associate Professor George Condous recently performed to a crowd of 260 supporters at the 10th Anniversary Ozwac Carnivale Ball held at the Panthers Pavilion on Saturday 29th March 2008. Tara Dennis from Better Homes & Gardens along with Jason Bouman from Kick FM acted as MCs for the evening. Entertainment ‘X Parte’ a fantastic band from the southern suburbs of Sydney donated their services for the night and had everyone on the dance floor enjoying a wonderful night of fun and fundraising.

The evening was an outstanding success with over $50,000 being raised on the night and a great announcement by Sydney University – Faculty of Medicine offering to match the amount of money raised. Entertainment included a recital by St Paul’s Grammar School band and the organisers were greatly assisted with entertainment by students from St Columbus High School who helped decorate and set up the venue in a Carnivale Theme. The design for Carnivale theme for the night was organised by Mary Donnelly and Alyce La Rosa of “Events by Mary” and the wonderful OZWAC Fundraising Committee.

The Board and Fundraising Committee would like to thank all those individuals and businesses who supported the night and provide ongoing support of the Foundation.

Photos Courtesy of “Photo123”
OZWAC – Australian Women & Children’s Research Foundation founded over 10 years ago by the late Professor Brian Spurret and the late Dr Christopher Kohlberg is based at Nepean Hospital and was established to improve the health of women and children through research and education. Mr Bruce Williams, Chairman of Ozwac said at the Ball that the support of the community and local businesses had assisted Ozwac to raise nearly a million dollars over the past 10 years to fund important research and research equipment at Nepean Hospital. Mr Williams explained that research allowed Nepean Hospital to attract highly skilled Doctors and Nurses to our local area.

Proceeds from the night will be used to expand the Education Programmes for Nurses, GPs and Specialist involved in peri-natal care.

The new “Nepean Centre for Perinatal Care”

Nepean Centre for Perinatal Care held its first education event for 2008 on Thursday 6 March entitled ‘Legal & Illegal Drugs in Pregnancy’. This event was held in Nepean Clinical School’s Education Centre premises and was attended by 55 people from the local GP community, and hospital and community health staff from across Sydney West Area Health Service.

Presentations included:
Dr Henry Murray - Illegal drugs in pregnancy: the obstetric side
Professor Michael Peek - Prescribing in pregnancy for common medical conditions
Dr Tony Liu - The Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Professor Ralph Nanan - The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Upcoming Education Event

Early Pregnancy in the 21st Century’
Sunday 4 May 2008
Lecture Theatre, Nepean Hospital
Cost: $200

A full day program facilitated by A/Prof George Condous focusing on principles of management of early pregnancy.

Upcoming OZWAC Fundraising Event*

Nine and Dine’ Golf Evening

Friday 24 October 2008 at Leonay Golf Club
followed by a Dinner at Emu Plains Sporting & Recreation Club, Leonay Parade, Leonay. The golf event will commence at 4 pm with a Shotgun start, Ambrose, teams of 4 (mixed, ladies and men).
Cost to be advised.
Please visit the Ozwac Web site at www.ozwac.com.au or ring the Ozwac office on 4734 1003.
or
Contact Jasmine Lynden, Administration Officer, Ozwac on 4734 3205 for bookings and any further information.
Councillor Ross Fowler one of our Nepean Philanthropist was awarded Order of Australia in this year’s Australia Days Honours List. Ross has been a long time Philanthropist of the area and has generously supported Community Events for a long time.

Mr John Bateman Vice President of NMRF was Honoured as Penrith Citizen of the Year. John is also one of the Foundation’s 55 Philanthropists.

This year’s Pollie Pedal with Tony Abbott and his honourary members of Parliament have pledged $25,000.00 to the NMRF.

The annual Nepean Philanthropist Dinner is planned for Saturday October 25, 2008 at the Great Hall, University of Sydney.

The Foundation farewelled our Manager, Mrs Lynne Gallary, who has moved onto the Division of Vision Research at Westmead Eye Clinic.

We wish Lynne well in her new appointment. Lynne was a tremendous asset to the foundation in her time with us consolidating and co-ordinating the Foundation in a particularly busy time.

The Council wishes to express their sincere thanks to Lynne and look forward to continuing watching her progress and her ongoing interaction with our Foundation.

We would like to welcome Lydia Fuhrmann who will continue Lynne’s work.

With 7 major grants been given last year and the upgrading of their facilities and equipment in the Nepean Research Laboratories, we look forward to some great research. They have now received the final piece of large equipment from the $100,000 grant for the Nepean Clinical School Laboratories, a -80 Degree C Freezer for specimen storage

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**2007 NMRF GRANT APPLICANTS**

Successful Applicants:

- **Brakoulias/Starcevic - Psychological Medicine Nepean Campus:** Study of symptom-based subtypes of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)
- **Brakoulias/Starcevic - Psychological Medicine Nepean Campus:** Preliminary Validation of the Nepean Dysphoria Scale
- **Starcevic/Berle -**: Identification of the toxic effect of adipose tissue within the bone marrow
- **A/Professor Gustavo Duque - Geriatric Medicine Nepean Campus:** Identification of the toxic effect of adipose tissue within the bone marrow
- **Dr Sally Poulton - Paediatric Medicine Nepean Campus:** Investigation of the effect of a single dose of stimulant medication on appetite and on fasting and postprandial levels of insulin, glucose, leptin and ghrelin in healthy adult volunteers.
- **Wall/Gopinath - Endocrinology Nepean Campus:** Significance of new anti-bodies associated with thyroid eye disease
- **Nanan/Nanan - Nepean Centre for Perinatal Care:** Analysis of the effects of human T regulatory cells on B lymphocytes
- **Dr Leanne Stokes-Haematology Nepean Campus:** Investigating genetic polymorphisms in the human P2X4 and P2X7 receptors using patch-clamp electrophysiology

Gwen McMaster-Fay
President - NMRF

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**THE NEPEAN MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

**President - NMRF**

Article courtesy of The Western Week-ender

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Coming good
LOCAL businessman John Bateman has been announced as our Penrith Citizen of the Year, recognising his dedication, commitment and service to the local area over almost three decades.

A partner in Bateman Battersby Lawyers Penrith, Mr Bateman has clocked up some incredible achievements over his 27 years in the area, through numerous positions on community and business boards and committees.

"I was surprised but I feel very privileged to receive the recognition," Mr Bateman said.

"I have to thank my wife and kids, to be involved with the various boards and committees takes a lot of time out of working hours and my family's been fantastic.

"My staff and partner Michael Battersby have been a great support for me over the years and also the people I've been involved with in the numerous committees and boards have been incredible to meet and deal with and should be just as much recognised for their involvement."

Penrith City Mayor Greg Davies said the Penrith Citizen of the Year award was the community’s chance to recognise the outstanding achievements and services that have been made in the community.

Such outstanding service is evident with Mr Bateman, who is currently the Chairman of the Penrith Valley Economic Development Corporation. He has been involved with the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre board, Penrith Rugby League and Football Clubs board, the Western Sydney Academy of Sport Advisory Board and also the Nepean Medical Research Foundation.

Mr Bateman has further put his business talents to use as the former President and Secretary of the Nepean Hawkesbury Regional Law Society, former Secretary of Penrith Legal Aid Advisory Committee, Coach of Penrith High School in the NSW Law Society Mock Trial Competition, and Honorary Solicitor to the NSW Netball Association, Penrith Netball Association, Penrith District Historical Society, Penrith Youth Football Association and Penrith RSL Club.

Between 1995-2004 he served as a Penrith City Councillor, including Deputy Mayor in 1995-1996, and was the unopposed elected Mayor in 1996-1997 and 1998-2000, when Penrith hosted the rowing, slalom and sprint canoe/kayak events during the Olympics.

"Anything we've been able to achieve in the numerous committees and boards have been highlights, as was my time as mayor, especially with the Olympics coming to our city - it was a sensational time for our city," Mr Bateman said.

"What we've been able to do with the Nepean Philanthropists has been nothing short of amazing and is indicative of the type of people we have in the community."

Mr Bateman's community efforts also include being a Patron of Penrith Police and Citizens Youth Club (PCYC), Foundation for Creative Enterprises, Nepean District Historical Society, Patron of Red Cross Callina and Chairman of Penrith's Olympic Torch Relay Committee.

By EMMA GRODZICKI
New Titles:
Professor Ralph Nanan - Sub-Dean of Research

New Faces:
Professor Michael Cox – Head of Surgery
Ms Daralyn Hodgson - Medicine
Mrs Leigh Bambury - Medicine
Ms Liz Welch - Gastroenterology

Departures:
Ms Colleen Maree-Cook
Mrs Lynne Gallary
Mr. Bao Luan Nguyen

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