As 2015 draws to a close, we would like to congratulate Westmead’s Class of 2015 medical and post-graduate students who attended their Graduation Ceremony at the Great Hall on Thursday, 10 December 2015.

It will be great to see many of our students returning as Westmead’s new interns from mid-January 2016, and wish our students all the best as they embark on their medical careers.

Our Year 3 students are about to begin their eight week electives at placements around the world. Students who are successful in being awarded Third World/Rural Australian Medicine Scholarships will present their experiences at Medical Student Grand Rounds to be held early in 2016.

We wish all our students and readers a very happy and safe Christmas break.

We look forward to catching up with you again in 2016, which is shaping up to be an exciting one as we will be welcoming the new Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry) Program students in early 2016 (see article on page 2 for further news).

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY....**

**University Close**
COB Thursday, 17 December 2015

**University Re-open**
Monday, 4 January 2016

**Sydney Festival**

**Masters of Nursing (GE) Welcome**
Early 2016 - TBA
Westmead Student Integration....

The university is committed to its partnership with the Westmead Precinct (the Precinct) and has plans to significantly increase its activity at Westmead. The increased activity intends to support the Precinct partners in transforming healthcare delivery and redeveloping Westmead into a globally significant health, academic and knowledge industries precinct, with the ultimate goal of improving Western Sydney’s health and wellbeing.

There is a proposal to grow from 1200 (current - 2015) to 6000 students (target for 2030) and invest in the order of $500m over the next 20 years in people, programs and supporting infrastructure. Initially, the university has committed $55m in capital funding to provide facilities required to support the increased number of students and staff. New facilities will create a multidisciplinary ‘Westmead campus’ and staff and students of different disciplines will be integrated to enable interprofessional learning and socialising opportunities.

In the short term, there are plans for the redevelopment of the Level 1 ‘undercroft’ area, which will provide us with contemporary library space, informal learning areas and break-out space. Planning for this area has commenced and it is expected to be opened in early 2017.

The first new students will arrive in early 2016. The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery (Sydney Nursing School) are commencing a Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry) program in Semester 1 of 2016 and 40 new students will have their permanent base at the Westmead Precinct. To support this program, a simulation facility and additional tutorial space is under construction in the Clinical Sciences corridor and there will be opportunities for the Westmead Clinical School to share these new facilities.

We are planning a social event early next year as a ‘meet and greet’ for Westmead students from the different university faculties. Watch this space.

Welcome....

Sophie Cher has recently joined the clinical school team as Project Officer.

Farewell....

After 11½ years managing and guiding the medical students during their Perinatal & Womens Health specialty block, Penny Bernard recently retired.

Penny was farewelled with a morning tea attended by colleagues on Wednesday, 9 December 2015, and we wish Penny all the best for her retirement.
2015 Teacher of the Year..

Each quarter, Westmead Clinical School students, from Years 1-4, were asked to nominate their favourite teacher in recognition of their contribution to student teaching.

We are pleased to announce that, from a competitive field of nominations, Dr Mauro Vicaretti has been nominated as the 2015 Teacher of the Year, having received the highest number of nominations, including nominations in every quarter of 2015.

Although there can be only one recipient of this award, we greatly appreciate the ongoing teaching support from many doctors, nurses and allied health workers each year and look forward to a continued association next year.

Alumni Awards...

Congratulations to Kerry Chen (academic tutor, Sydney School of Public Health and Year 2 medical student) who received the Edmund Barton Medal for master's by coursework achievement.

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2016 Gottschalk Medal....

Congratulations to Professor Steve Vucic, who has been awarded the 2016 Gottschalk Medal by the Australian Academy of Science, for his pioneering research which has uncovered novel mechanisms that underlie the development of neurodegeneration in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

He has also identified important processes that contribute to the triggering of ALS, invented a much needed diagnostic technique for ALS, and made significant research contributions in the understanding of molecular and genetic processes underlying relapsing and progressive forms of multiple sclerosis.

Westmead Association / SMS Westmead Awards Day..

The annual awards day held on 22 October 2015, was enjoyed by all who attended, with the following final year students receiving awards:
**Highest Achieving Student** (Discipline selected):-
- Medicine: Harry Constantin
- Surgery: Kit Rowe
- Critical Care/Surgery: Anubhav Saxena;
- Child & Adolescent Health: Nathan Wong;
- Psychological Medicine: Nathan Wong;
- Perinatal & Women’s Health: Briony Copelin;
- Community Medicine: Jason Kwok

**Top Ranked Student Y4 Banier Exams:**
- Critical Care/Surgery: Ricky Harjanto;
- Medicine, Surgery, Child & Adolescent Health, Psychological Medicine, Perinatal & Women’s Health, and Community: Nathan Wong

**Dominique Clancey & Andrew Donald Memorial Award 2015**: Stasio Ulaszyn

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**Student Prizes & Scholarships...**

Congratulations to the following students who received prizes and scholarships this year:-
- Yiming Cao;
- Jayson Jeganathan;
- Shibalik Mira;
- Minh Anh Nguyen;
- Rohan Dalal;
- Daniel Guilfoyle; and
- Daniel Scheman

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**Appointments & Promotions...**

Congratulations also to the following colleagues on their recent appointments:-
- Conjoint Professor Lyn Gilbert;
- Clinical Associate Professor Timothy Tan;
- Clinical Senior Lecturer Chong Wong;
- Clinical Lecturer Joshua Ryan;
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Priya Archarya (alumna);
- Research Fellow Mahsa Shahidi;
- Honorary Associate Loyola McLean;
- Honorary Associate (Research) Dale Dominey-Howes; and
- Honorary Senior Lecturer Christian Girgis

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**Clinical School Thank You Luncheon.....**

Our annual thank you luncheon was held Thursday, 10 December 2015, and it was pleasing to see many of you join us to celebrate and acknowledge your ongoing support of the clinical school.
There is no doubt that our students and staff greatly appreciate your contributions to our teaching program.

**Teaching Opportunities...**

As you may know, we are continually seeking tutors for all stages of the course.

If you are interested in teaching, please contact Dr Amanda Harrison on 9845 6403 or email amanda.harrison@sydney.edu.au to discuss possibilities further.

We are happy to provide letters recognising your teaching contribution which can be included with your CV.

**SALSA (Students as Lifestyle Activists)....**

See the latest news from the SALSA program at:


Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StudentsAsLifestyleActivists](http://www.facebook.com/StudentsAsLifestyleActivists) or

Instagram: @studentsaslifestyleactivists

**Congratulations...**

Congratulations to Harry Constantin, who married Renee on 24 October 2015, at Burwood, followed by a reception in the Great Hall and a honeymoon in the Maldives.
Sydney Medical School Events...

Please see the Sydney Medical School website for 2015 Events which may be of interest to you.

Postgraduate Student Unit...

**Post-Graduate Research Seminars**

Congratulations to our all of our PG Research Seminar winners for 2015, with our finals held on Thursday 26 November 2015. Of our nine finalists, seven presented their work to Prof Stephen Leader and Dr Cameron Webb. With only 2 points between first and third place, our winners were:

- Winner of ‘Jerry Koutts Young Investigator’ Award - **David Bishop** (CCR);
- 2nd Place - **Rachel Botting** (CVR); and
- 3rd Place - **Naomi Truong** (CVR)

Congratulations to all our 2015 winners, both presentation and lucky door, and thank you to those students & supervisors who have supported the seminars this year.

**Graduation**

Congratulations to our graduates for the 10 December 2015, Graduation Ceremony:

- Moseh Abomughaid
- Samuel Kim
- Matteo Carlino
- Prashanth M Mayur
- So Young Cha
- Stephanie Obeid
- William Chik
- Monica Robotin
- Helen Crowther
- Jean Starling
- Claire Day
- Kirsten Stuart
- Katie Eager
- Sieu Tran
- Bo Gao
- Hanh Minh Tran
- Christian Girgis
- Jubelle Valenzuela
- Rodney Henriquez
- Mary Wong
- Eleanor Hitchen
- Jacky Wong
- Bronte Holt
- Constance Yap
- Thomas Hong
- Sue-Ching Yeoh
- Melissa Kang
- Ye (Tommy) Zhao

**Awards**

*Vyoma Patel* (Surgery) won Best Student Poster Prize at 3rd position, The 23rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Vascular Biology Society (AVBS), Kiama, NSW - Nov 2015.

*Adam Cristaudo* (Surgery) recently had his Masters of Surgery dissertation and first paper of his PhD accepted for poster presentations at the following conferences:

"Prognostic Factors in the Management of the Open Abdomen: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis" Joint Meetings of the Section of Academic Surgery (SAS), the Surgical Research Society of
Australasia (SRS) and the Academy of Surgical Educators (ASE) Forum, Sydney College Rooms, Sydney, Australia.

"Complications and Mortality Associated with Temporary Abdominal Closure Techniques: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis." General Surgeons Australia Annual Scientific Meeting, Cairns, QLD, Australia; Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Conference, Washington, DC, United States of America; and Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress, Perth, WA, Australia. Adam won ‘Best Poster Award’ for this poster in Cairns, QLD.

Both are now awaiting consideration for publication in The American Surgeon journal (Masters) and the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery (PhD).

Rachel Botting (CVR) received a Keystone Symposia Scholarship to attend the meeting on Immunity in Skin Development, Homeostasis and Disease in Tahoe, California in February 2016. There were 9 scholarships awarded for this conference, with each being awarded $1200US to cover flights and accommodation. Rachel is also awaiting confirmation of whether her abstract has been selected for an oral presentation or poster.

Presentations - International & Local
Ghazal Alipour (Storr Liver Centre) will be doing an oral presentation "The effect of atherogenic diet on hepatocellular carcinoma" at The Postgraduate Cancer Research Symposium on Friday, 4 December 2015, at New Law Building, The University of Sydney.

Vyoma Patel (Surgery) was invited to present an Oral Presentation “Monocyte inflammatory profile differs between individuals, and altered lipids may partly contribute to these differences” at Australian Atherosclerosis Society (AAS) Annual Scientific Meeting, Fremantle, October 2015.

Tom (Yixiong) Tan and Yi Wen Qian (C TRR) attended the IPITA/CTSI/IXA International Congress in Melbourne during 15-19 November 2015, where Tom received a travel grant, and Yi Wen a scientific award for her abstract, in addition to a travel grant from TSANZ.

Publications
Karen Burton (Brain Dynamics Unit) for her recent publication in the Journal of Affective Disorders.


Kaitlin Tagg (CIDM) on her recent publication in PLoS ONE.

**Other News**

Kaitlin Tagg (CIDM) has been selected to complete The Integrated Training Program in Infectious Diseases, Food Safety and Public Policy (ITraP) in Canada. Kaitlin was selected to participate following a competitive selection process and interview. The on-line course, from January to July includes a summer school during February in India. 

https://www.usask.ca/wcvm/graduate_programs/ITraP_program/index.php

November started with our inaugural Wellness Week for Postgraduate Students. Each day of the week included an activity designed to improve mental and physical well-being, as well as delicious healthy snacks to keep students fuelled for the remainder of the day.

Meditation, Tai Chi and core yoga were among the activities, topped off with a "healthy" barbecue at the end of the week.

Thank you to all of our generous volunteers who led sessions and to all of the students who participated.

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We wish everyone a healthy and relaxing break, and we hope to see you all re-energised in the coming year. Happy Holidays from the StResS team!