Welcome
We welcome Dr Anthony Santella who recently joined CIDM Sexual Health as Lecturer and Course Coordinator for the Sex and Society and Public Health aspects of STDs and HIV/AIDS units of study for the Masters in HIV, STIs and Sexual Health Degree Program. Anthony's prior work experience includes as Health Scientist at the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Director of HIV Policy, Program Planning and Technical Assistance at the New York City Department of Health and Assistant Professor of Public Health at Long Island University. His research interests are in expanded rapid HIV testing initiatives, health promotion research, translating research and policy into public health practice, and community-based participatory research.

 Congratulations
Discipline of General Practice
Dr Casey Maddren has been awarded the 2012 APHCRI Robert Graham Centre Visiting Fellowship. As the Fellow Casey will visit the Robert Graham Center in Washington DC in late 2012 to undertake research relevant to the Center, the Australian primary health care scene and the work of APHCRI. Casey plans to do a comparison of primary health care funding models in Australia and the USA, and to explore the implications of the feminising workforce and of Australian health reforms.
One of our Stage 3 Medical students, Ania Lucewicz was the first author for a paper published in the July edition of Transplantation, The Official Journal for Transplantation Society.


Other publications of Ania’s include an article in the ANZ Journal of Surgery:


and published 3 editorials:

Indraratna PL, Lucewicz A. Impact of the 4-hour emergency department target on medical student education. Emergency Medicine Australasia. 2011;23(6):784


WMI

In the news - body clock genes
Professor Chris Liddle was in the news recently following publication of his work on the discovery of receptors that are the core elements of the circadian clock. He worked with a team from the Salk Institute, based in California, and their findings were published in the journal Nature on 3 May.

Professor Liddle said the team was able to show the receptors were important in controlling the liver metabolism of fats and gene expression relating to diet, nutrition, digestion and energy expenditure.

“This is a very exciting discovery. These receptors are core elements of the clock that we can potentially use drugs on,” said Professor Liddle.

Work can now focus on developing drugs to target the two receptors identified in this study, and provide relief for those affected by disrupted circadian rhythms.

Also in the news - promising new melanoma drug
Professor Rick Kefford and Dr Georgina Long were also in the news not so long ago, after promising results with a new drug that shrinks brain tumors in melanoma patients were published in the The Lancet.

Most patients with brain metastases die within four
months. The trial’s results, however, showed brain tumors in nine of the 10 patients shrank within the first six weeks. All 10 patients survived beyond five months, two patients survived beyond 12 months. One patient was alive at 19 months. WMI senior researcher Dr Helen Rizos is leading a team working on the next steps for these drugs, which stop working after a time. Her team is defining mechanisms used by melanoma tumours to survive in the presence of these drugs. “With this information we can design treatment strategies that can be used, often in combination with the initial drugs, to overcome resistance.

**Sydney Medical Students “take over” AMSA**

In 2013 the Executive of the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) will be based in New South Wales, with seven of the 15 team members coming from Sydney Medical School. This is a real achievement for our students who will be part of a team representing nearly 17,000 medical students across the country. The successful Westmead student was:

- Steve Bartnik, Vice-President (Internal) and Director (Stage 3)

Congratulations to all the students involved but particularly to Steve!

**International Union of Angiology**

Professor John Fletcher

You may have already read that John Fletcher has been elected as the next President of the International Union of Angiology. This is a deserving accolade for his internationally recognised expertise in this field. He will be President-elect until the next world congress of the society which will be held here in Sydney in 2014. John will then be President from 2014 until 2016. This is a fabulous appointment for John. Congratulations!

**Commendations**

Recently, ten applications were considered for the Dean’s research Student Publication Prize 2012. A further four applications were of such high merit that they deserved written commendations by the Dean. Amongst those four to be commended, was a publication by Jin-Gun Cho from Westmead – Jin-Gun Cho, Paul K Witting, Manisha Verma, Ben J Wu, Anu Shanu, Kristina Kairaitis, Terence C Amis, and John R Wheatley. (2011), Tissue Vibration Induces Carotid Artery Endothelial Dysfunction: A Mechanism Linking Snoring and Carotid Atherosclerosis? Sleep, 34(6), 751-757.

In July an award submission for the 2012 Australian Museum Eureka Prize was submitted in the category of Medical Research Translation. These awards are presented annually and reward excellence in the fields of research & innovation, leadership & commercialisation, school science and science journalism & communication. A/Prof David Booth, Prof Jacob George, Prof Graeme Stewart and Dr Vijay Suppiah were worthy finalists in the Medical Research & Innovation category. Well done!


- **Thank you, Farewell and Welcome**
- **Adrian Mindel - STIRC**
  - The University is saying goodbye to one of its long-serving academics, Professor Adrian Mindel, Professor of Sexual Health Medicine. Adrian was appointed in 1992 as the first Chair of Venereology (later renamed Sexual Health Medicine) in Australia. His academic unit was initially located at Sydney Hospital but relocated to Westmead Hospital in 2000 as the Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Unit (STIRC).
  - Professor Mindel has overseen the development of the STIRC into an academic unit known nationally and internationally for its postgraduate education courses (Masters in STI and HIV) which have attracted substantial numbers of international students and for its AusAID funded leadership program in HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) attracting doctors, other
healthcare workers, educators and public health practitioners from India, South Africa, Zambia, Botswana and Cambodia.

- Professor Mindel’s research contributions include multicentre clinical trials for the treatment and prevention of Herpes simplex virus and Human papillomavirus infections, studies on the epidemiology of herpesvirus infections, the use of condoms and male circumcision for STI and HIV prevention, and on the management of STI and HIV in general practice in Australia. During this time he published 83 peer-reviewed manuscripts, numerous book chapters and was the editor of a book on condoms. Professor Mindel has provided expert advice to government through membership of NSW HIV and Sexual Health Advisory Committees and was involved in setting up and running the Australian Herpes Management Forum, a non-profit organisation providing information and education about herpes virus infections to patients and health workers. We acknowledge his long-term contribution to the University and to Sexual Health in Australia and NSW in particular.

- John Sargan
  It was a sad occasion when we farewelled John in July after 11 years of loyal and highly respected service. I believe John has settled quickly into retirement, and is as busy as ever enjoying things other than spreadsheets, tight deadlines and multiple requests from numerous people. Rumour has it he is learning to play the ukulele!

- Michelle Wypych
  We welcome Michelle, who initially worked as a registered nurse before studying accounting, and now keeps John’s chair warm. Following her accounting degree Michelle completed a two-year management traineeship taking postings in both rural and metropolitan areas. Post traineeship she was employed as a business manager with RNS where she stayed for several years before joining the University.

- Long Case Exams
  We have survived the recent Long Case exam period. A special thank you to those who supported us during this time. We couldn’t do it without you! Our students did us proud really, with very few re-sitting in a couple of weeks.

- Hospital Week
  Once again we have experienced another fabulous Hospital Week. Enormous energy and effort was put in to making this a really successful week and the hard work paid off. The annual Trivia Quiz was high on the list of fun things to do and the corridors were constantly filled with interested participants. Congratulations to Georgette Hanna and her team who never fail to deliver bigger and better!

  A special thank you to Dr Andrew Coggins who spoke at the Student Symposium on life as a new intern and beyond. The talk was professional, inspirational and the audience was able to enjoy a chuckle at the tales of a fresh-faced doctor finding his way in an ED. One of our own interns George Pappas who is currently placed at Gosford took time off especially to come and talk about his very new experiences and how he is managing the new challenge post study. Another intern of the Clinical School family Charbel Bejjani was to talk as well but ED was short staffed, over populated and he couldn’t be spared. Ah, the life of a doctor!!!

If you would like to contribute to this bulletin or have any feedback, please contact amanda.burke@sydney.edu.au

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