Congratulations to our Westmead colleagues who recently received awards in the 2014 Queen’s Birthday Honours List:-

- **Emeritus Professor Miles Little AM**, awarded an AO for distinguished service to medicine through the development and promotion of public policy on medical values, ethics and law; and

- **Professor Tania Sorrell**, awarded an AM for significant service to medicine and the community as an infectious diseases researcher and adviser; and

Congratulations to our Class of 2014 students, who attended their graduation ceremony at the Great Hall on Friday, 9 May 2014, and who have commenced internship placements this year, with many choosing to stay at Westmead!

A special mention should be made of our Year 4 student, **Cassanne Eccleston**, who also graduated with a Masters of International Public Health (MIPH), on 9 May 2014, while continuing final year studies for her MBBS.
Christmas in July Tutor Luncheon...

We will be hosting a luncheon in the Clinical School Conference Room on Thursday, 17 July 2014, from 12 noon, to thank our tutors and teachers for their valuable support for our teaching program with our students.

Please RSVP by Friday, 11 July 2014 to wcs.admin@sydney.edu.au or 9845 8938 and confirm if you have any special dietary requirements.

Awards...

Congratulations to Dr Justine Gatt who has received the 2014 Commonwealth Health Minister’s Award for Excellence in Health & Medical Research and the NHMRC Excellence Award for being the top-ranked Career Development Fellowship scheme applicant in the industry category.

Congratulations to A/Prof Wayne Hawthorne who has been presented with the Kidney Health Australia “Best Research in the Field of Laboratory Research” award for 2014, at the Annual Scientific meeting of the Transplantation Society of Australia & New Zealand held in Canberra.

Sydney Medical School Foundation (SMSF) Grants...

We are pleased to confirm that SMSF grants have been successful for:-

- Prof Jenny Gunton for “The role of Vitamin D in muscle function”;
- Dr James Chong for “Human Cardiac Stem Cells for Cardiac Repair & Regeneration”

Clinical Academic Titles /Promotions...

Congratulations also to the following appointments which have been conferred recently:

- Clinical Professor Paul Hamett;
- Clinical Senior Lecturer Sylva Lim-Tio;
- Clinical Senior Lecturer Jin-Gun Cho;
- Clinical Senior Lecturer Jim Poulipoulos;
- Clinical Lecturer Jennifer Kim;
- Clinical Lecturer Yichao Liang;
- Clinical Lecturer Urvasi Doolabh;
- Clinical Lecturer Manoji Gunathillake;
- Clinical Lecturer Robert Adam;
- Clinical Lecturer Shalini Narchal;
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Vikas Gupta;
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Kavita Siprakash;
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Richard Blennerhassett;
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Jennifer Li;
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Briony Hazelton;
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Elias Nehme;
- Senior Research Fellow Monica Miranda-Saksena;
- Senior Research Fellow Min Kim;
- Research Fellow David Liuwantara;
- Honorary Postdoctoral Fellow Giuliana Rostere Carlos Minano;
- Honorary Associate Flavia Senetiner
Teacher of the Quarter...

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

We are pleased to announce that, from a competitive field of nominations, Dr Farid Meybodi from the Westmead Breast Cancer Institute has been nominated as the Teacher of the Quarter for June 2014.

Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMIG)....

The EMIG held its second annual “Not-So-Grand-Rounds” on 21 May 2014 in the Education Block. Students and doctors came together to consider two separate cases: an acute presentation of pulmonary embolus and an aggressive psychiatric patient. The afternoon was a great success, with strong interest from the junior medical students.

EMIG is a student-run and led group supported by Dr Andrew Coggins to facilitate interest and learning in the field of emergency medicine. It is open to medical students from Sydney University as well as other interested students.

CareFlight will be helping to run the next EMIG event, which is a pre-hospital afternoon on June 30 and July 1. EMIG will explore:

- Scene safety
- Extraction
- Ambulance transportation
- Pre-hospital management

Please RSVP with your name and preferred date to contactemig@gmail.com to secure a place.

See you there!

Westmead Student Surgical Association (WSSA)...

The Westmead Student Surgical Association (WSSA) is an active, student-run group at Westmead Hospital. Following on from an exciting resurgence in 2013, and a change in organisational structure, including the writing of a new constitution and the election of a Chair, the WSSA boasts a 2014 committee of eleven with members across all years of the Sydney Medical Program.

With more events and greater engagement than ever, the WSSA has grown to become an important part of the clinical experience for medical students at the Westmead Clinical School.

To date in 2014, the WSSA has been exceptionally active, staging several events including:
- an introductory ‘Face to Face with Westmead Surgeons’ event;
- two basic suturing workshops; and
- two surgically-related PBL ‘Capstone Seminars’ covering the surgical management of fractured neck of femur as well as pituitary adenoma.
Most recently, the WSSA held a surgical knot-tying event where Head of Surgery, Prof Henry Pleass was on hand to teach students, predominantly in Stages 2 and 3, the essentials of single-handed surgical knot-tying technique.

The aim of the WSSA is to enrich the clinical experience at Westmead and to represent a real value-add for students by providing them a set of skills and knowledge over and above that of the traditional SMP Curriculum. To this end, the student-run group has been very successful this year in engaging students across all year levels and fostering an enthusiasm within the student body for surgery as a possible career.

While proud to have hosted a number of quality events to date, the WSSA Team is very thankful of the ongoing support of Westmead Clinical School staff, including Amanda Burke, Dr Amanda Harrison and Angela Wallace. In addition, the continued support and assistance of expert clinicians within the Department of Surgery at Westmead Hospital, including Prof Henry Pleass, A/Prof Vincent Lam, Prof Danny Cass, Dr Elisabeth Elder, Dr Mauro Vicaretti, Dr Louis Shidiak and Dr Ruth Mitchell, and their respective teams, who have all been an important part of events in 2014.

In turning our attention to the second half of 2014 the WSSA is pleased to announce a number of upcoming events including:

- an advanced suturing workshop (Mid-July);
- further PBL ‘Capstone Seminars’ in Upper Gastrointestinal and Cardiothoracic surgery; and the ever-popular
- WSSA signature event: ‘The Surgical Olympics.’

If you would like further information on these upcoming events or learn more about the WSSA Team, please visit www.wssa.org.au and add them on Facebook.

With all these opportunities, it is no surprise that students at the Westmead Clinical School affectionately call this place, ‘Bestmead.’

Congratulations...

Congratulations to our Y4 student, Apama Morgan and her husband, Chris who were married on 7 December 2013.

Ray Stuart, the Westmead Clinical School “fix-it” man, recently became a Great Grandfather to Ilana Valentine Stuart, born on 12 April 2014.

Jerome Fernandez, Stage 2 Co-ordinator recently became a Grandfather following the recent arrival of Rahul Jerome Fernandez, on 5 June 2014 at the Mater Hospital.
Hospital Week: Medical Students Symposium...

This year’s symposium is titled “Medicine of the Future – 10 years from now” and will be held in the Education Block on Friday, 29 August 2014, from 8.30am.

The symposium will include panel discussions and the following Westmead presenters:

- Dr Ian Nicholson (Cardiothoracic Surgery);
- Prof Henry Pleass (Prof of Surgery); and
- Dr James Chong (Cardiologist)

Please RSVP to Georgette Hanna by 15 August 2014 via georgette.hanna@sydney.edu.au or 9845 7983

Sydney Medical School Events...

Please see the Sydney Medical School website for 2014 Events which may be of interest to you.

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 at the clinical school to discuss possibilities further.

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

This quarter, we particularly require tutors for:-

- Communication skills and history taking (Med 1 & 2) for the upcoming Respiratory Sciences, Renal/Urology & Gastroenterology blocks;
- Clinical Reasoning Sessions (CRS); and
- Summative long case examiners (August 2014).

We greatly appreciate your ongoing teaching support for our students.

Teaching on the Run...

The next clinical teaching workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, 22 July 2014, from 5.00pm for 5.15pm start, in the Simulation Area, Level 3, WECC.

Please RSVP to Amanda Harrison via amanda.harrison@sydney.edu.au or 9845 6403 if you would like to attend.

Other sessions coming soon include:-

- Skills Teaching – Tuesday, 29 July 2014; and
- Assessment – Tuesday, 5 August 2014

International Medical Student Elective Report...

Timo Bullmann, Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, Germany
Elective Term: Emergency Medicine
On my first day in the Emergency Department, I found out that now every piece of medical knowledge I gained in the last years of studying would be helpful.

Soon taking the history of an incoming Emergency patient, putting in cannulas and collecting blood samples became
routine for me. We always discussed the cases together and no matter what kind of emergency or how much amount of work, there was always time for a short teaching and I always enjoyed thinking about the tricky medical questions from the registrars.

Many days in the ED, I totally lost track of time because there were so many interesting cases and I improved my diagnostic and practical skills every day.

It has been amazing four weeks in the Emergency Department. Finally Medicine became real and now I can go back to Germany and prepare for my final exam with the aim to come back one day.

Thanks to everyone who made that experience a great one!

Stephanie Herold, Johannes-Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

Elective Term: Emergency Medicine & Toxicology

My first day was an orientation day. The ED consisted of four areas: acute care unit; resuscitation bay; urgent care unit; and triage unit.

I was encouraged to rotate freely between these units as well as between the morning and late shift.

My job consisted of taking histories from patients in the triage, acute and urgent care unit; doing the appropriate clinical examinations, taking bloods including arterial blood gas and putting cannulas in. Then I went on presenting the patient to the doctor in charge. They often asked question about what I assume it is and what kind of further investigations were to be ordered. I had a look when the imaging was done and when the blood results came back.

In the end I can say I have seen and learned a lot. I gained a lot of knowledge in emergency medicine regarding the approach towards all different types of major complaints or towards an undifferentiated patient.

I feel more confident now in handling an emergency situation and making myself useful in a hospital setting.

Sydney University Alumni...

Don’t forget to visit the Alumni & Friends website for latest news and information, events, the SAM magazine and more.

Postgraduate Student News....

PG Research Seminars
Congratulations to our PG Research Seminar Winners!! They will join our previous winners from February and March to compete for the ‘Young Investigator Awards’ to be held in November.

- April – David Lilly, Medical Entomology
- May – Michelle Ta, Centre for Transplantation and Renal Research
- June – Kaitlin Tagg (Centre for Infectious Diseases) & Hanh Tran (Surgery) - 2 winners!!!!

And a special mention to our Lucky Door Prize winners:

- April – Dave Lilly (Medical Entomology), Nim Geevasinga (Neurology)
- May – Ye Zhao (Renal), Clara Lee (Medical Oncology)
- June – Korri El Khobar (Storr Liver), Vi Nguyen (Storr Liver)
PRSS
Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS) applications closed on 6 June. We had a great response with 42 applications lodged. The PGC’s recommendations have been sent to USYD, and we await their reply regarding our allocation of funds for our students.

PG Career Development Seminars
During the latter part of the year we will be introducing a series of seminars for all students to enhance their writing, communication, and conference skills. These seminars will be given by experienced researchers, doctors, professors, supervisors of our postgraduate research students. We currently have 4 seminars in mind – being delivered by Dr Cameron Webb. Cameron completed his PhD here at Westmead as a PG Student, and is currently a USYD PG Supervisor in our Medical Entomology department in the ICPMR. The topics Cameron will be covering in the seminars include:
- Writing a Scientific Paper: from first draft to publication
- Preparing a Presentation for a Scientific Conference
- Can Social Media Help Promote Your Scientific Research?
- Promoting Your Science: Dealing with the Media

We are looking for more volunteers who are willing to share their expertise with the PG Students in further seminars. If you have any suggestions, or ideas for further seminars and would like to pass on your knowledge to our Postgraduate Students, please contact Naomi (naomi.muir@sydney.edu.au, or x 56303) to discuss this.

WRS – Westmead Researchers Society
WRS & KRISS (CHW) Afternoon Tea
On Thursday 8 May, the WRS along with the Children’s Hospital PG Student Society (KRISS) held an Afternoon Tea event at the Kids Research Cafe. Home-made baked goods, tea & coffee, and good company were enjoyed by all who attended.

Welcome BBQ
To welcome all of the new students, and to ensure the old ones are still sane, the Westmead Researchers’ Society (WRS) and the Kid’s Research Institute Student Society (KRISS) held a Welcome BBQ lunch on Friday 21 March at the Kid’s Research Institute Café. It was great to see all the
Westmead institutes - Main Hospital, Kid's Hospital, WMI, CMRI - come together to welcome our new students!

**Quick Note from WRS**

Keep an eye out for emails from WRS and KRISS about the next social event. A lot of labs are currently shifting to the new WMI building and so social activities are on hold. But don't be alarmed, we will host an event in July to welcome the new second semester students. Coming events may be held over in the new WMI building. See you all soon!

**Congratulations**

Megan Cromer has recently received her PhD qualification in Magnetic Resonance Imaging entitled “Evaluating structural disease progression in knee osteoarthritis with MRI”. Megan is the first Radiographer at Westmead to obtain this qualification. Well done!

**Publications/Conferences**

Amit Lalwani (Endocrinology) had his first PhD paper accepted in PLoS ONE journal – ‘Deletion of ARNT (Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Nuclear Translocator) in 6-Cells Causes Islet Transplant Failure with Impaired 6-Cell Function.’

The link to the manuscript is: [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24878748](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24878748)

Matloob Khushi’s (Institute for Cancer Research) abstract titled ‘Bioinformatic analysis of cis-regulatory interactions between progesterone and estrogen receptors in breast cancer’ has been accepted in International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCoB 2014) program as an Oral Presentation. The conference will be held in Sydney between 31 July-2 August 2014. This is the second time in a row his abstract was selected as an oral presentation in an international conference. Last year, 3 October 2013, he delivered a talk on ‘Development of a genomic region database and analysis tool for the Galaxy platform’ at Beyond the Genome international conference in San Francisco USA. He has also recently published an article describing his bioinformatics software. Here is the full citation: Khushi M, Liddle C, Clarke CL, Graham JD (2014) Binding Sites Analyser (BiSA): Software for Genomic Binding Sites Archiving and Overlap Analysis. PLoS ONE 9(2): e87301. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0087301

Kaitlin Tagg (Centre for Infectious Diseases) recently had her publication ‘Complete sequencing of Inc1 ST2 plasmid pJIE512b indicates mobilisation of bla<sub>CMY-2</sub> from an IncA/C plasmid’ - Kaitlin Tagg, Jonathan Iredell and Sally Partridge, published in the American Society for Microbiology. The link to the manuscript is: [http://aac.asm.org/content/early/2014/05/30/AAC.02773-14.abstract](http://aac.asm.org/content/early/2014/05/30/AAC.02773-14.abstract)


Victoria Sublette (Storr Liver Unit) recently had her paper, ‘Instrumental support to facilitate hepatitis C treatment adherence: Working around shortfalls in shared-care’ accepted for publication in Psychology, Health and Medicine. ‘Instrumental support to facilitate hepatitis C treatment adherence: Working around shortfalls in shared-care ’ – Victoria Anne Sublette<sup>1,3</sup>, Max Hopwood<sup>2</sup>, Jacob George<sup>3</sup>, Sian K. Smith<sup>4</sup>, Kathryn
Nicholson Perry³, Kirsten McCaffery⁶, Mark W. Douglas³,⁷

Abstract
Adherence to treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is associated with the successful eradication of infection. However patients often have difficulty adhering to HCV treatment because of factors such as the psychiatric side effects of regimens and social disadvantage. Commonly, health professionals including specialist physicians, nurses, social workers and psychologists work together under a multidisciplinary model of shared-care to support patients’ adherence to HCV treatment. In some HCV treatment clinics, shared-care is not always available, or only partially implemented and this has implications for patient adherence.

To explore the facilitators of adherence, an interview-based study was conducted in 2012 with a purposive sample of Australian physicians and nurses (N=20). The findings reveal that when comprehensive shared-care was limited or unavailable, physicians and nurses filled in the gaps by assuming roles outside of their expertise to help patients adhere to HCV treatment. Physicians and nurses applied instrumental support strategies based on psychosocial interventions, namely patient advocacy, pragmatic problem solving, treatment engagement and emotional support. These strategies were provided by dedicated physicians and nurses to address shortfalls in multidisciplinary shared-care. Although these interventions were reported to assist adherence, there is an increased risk of complications when physicians and nurses move beyond the bounds of their disciplinary training, for example to assess and manage patients’ psychiatric side-effects or advocate on their behalf for social services. Future research should measure the effectiveness of instrumental support strategies on HCV treatment adherence, and explore the costs associated with physicians and nurses providing instrumental support in the absence of comprehensive multidisciplinary shared-care.


Anna Watters (Brain Dynamics Unit) recently gave oral presentations at 2 conferences - Society for Biological Society in May, and International Society for Affective Disorders in April. She is currently awaiting news on papers that have been submitted.

Awards
Congratulations to Ming-Celine Dubosq (Haematology) who has been awarded a Westmead Medical Research Foundation Early Career Initiating Grant - or as they’ve apparently renamed it a "MyWestmead Unearthed Scholarship" for 2014.
Congratulations to **Nimeshan Geevasinga (Neurology)** who has been awarded the Nina Buscombe Award 2014 from the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Victoria INC. This award will facilitate presentation of my work at international meetings/conferences.

**Baby News**
Congratulations to Mary Wong from Rheumatology who had a little boy, Jayden, in March.

**Weddings**
Congratulations to Amit Lalwani who got married on 25 January 2014. He and his gorgeous bride, Arlyn, chose the beautiful Sydney Harbour for their location, and Amit describes it as the best day of his life.

Congratulations to Nichole Joachim (Centre for Vision Research) who married Nuwan Dhamararatne on Thursday, 24 April 2014, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Seven Hills. Photo courtesy of Thomas Stewart Photography.

Dave Lilly (PhD Candidate, Medical Entomology) married his partner of 6 years, Cassandra De Boick, on the 2 November last year in a small, casual ceremony in Camperdown Memorial Park, Newtown and afterwards celebrated long into the night with family and friends at Corridor Bar on King St.

They bought a round the world ticket for their honeymoon and spent part of late December and all of January working their way around New York, Portland, San Francisco, London, Paris, and Tromso before finishing with an arctic dog-sledding expedition in Svalbard, Norway. Their highlights included spending Christmas and New Year’s Eve in New York City, seeing the aurora borealis (northern lights) in Norway, and Dave not being killed by his newlywed wife for taking her to the high-arctic. In winter. For their honeymoon.

**Siberia Masterchef – ‘My Siberia Rules’**
A few weeks ago student room Siberia held a ‘Siberian Masterchef’ competition (also known as ‘My Siberia Rules’). Foods from the student’s ethnically diverse backgrounds were represented: Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Thai, Chilean, Indian, Malay, French, Mongolian/European, and Polish.
The best dish (as voted for by all) was Chinese Style Pipis – created by recent PhD graduate, Jing Jing Wu. This dish earned Jing Jing the highly coveted title of Siberian Masterchef!

Unfortunately our Siberia Room students will soon become separated due to the move to the new building in June/July. However, we hope they will still foster good friendships with good food from time to time.

**Other Student News**

A big CONGRATULATIONS to Andrea Lawrence – Medical Entomology PhD Student 2014, on her achievement below!

I have recently been accepted to partake in the III Parasitology Summer Course (IIIParSCo) in Parco Regionale di Gallipoli Cognato, Basilicata, Italy. The intensive one week residency course focuses on arthropod vectors and transmitted pathogens in the Mediterranean area. Particular emphasis is given to imparting practical skills in the ecology, biology, collection and identification of important vector species (such as ticks, fleas and sand flies) in the Mediterranean region and diagnosing the pathogens they carry of economic and public health concern (such as Leishmania infantum, Thelazia callipaeda, Cercopithifilaria bainae and Troglostrongylus spp.).

The IIIParSCo is held once a year in Italy and takes only 10 candidates internationally. Preference is given to members of the European Veterinary Parasitology College, with limited spaces available for international applicants. The course is run by Prof. Dr. Domenico Otranto and Dr Filipe Dantas-Torres, who are on the editorial board of the international journal Medical and Veterinary Entomology, and who recently published my paper ‘High phylogenetic diversity of the cat flea (Ctenocephalides felis) at two mitochondrial DNA markers.’

My PhD project focuses on vector-borne zoonotic disease in urban and peri-urban environments, where the human-wildlife-pet interface is closest, and consequently where the overlap of pathogens is common and problematic. I will be characterising urban arthropod vectors and the zoonoses they carry as well as assessing the extent to which these organisms are affecting pets, humans and wildlife in these environments. Currently I am working on using the microbiome of vector species to elucidate vector potential.

Knowledge of the vectors and pathogens presented in this course is essential in extrapolating the possibility of these pathogens entering and becoming endemic in Australia. As well as this, the contacts I will gain during the course are essential in providing expert advice and material (such as vector specimens) for my project as well as opportunities for collaboration and further networking, which will enhance the quality and impact of my PhD research. The skills I acquire from the course will be long-standing and essential to my future career as a researcher in the field of medical and veterinary entomology, and will allow me work competently as part of the international scientific community.

I’ve been awarded the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) National Taxonomy Research Travel Grant to attend the workshop.