Welcome to the WCS Spring newsletter! As the weather warms up no doubt the students are looking forward to their well-deserved end of year break. The stage 2 students are currently preparing for their OSCE’s in early November while the Stage 1 and 3 students have finished their barrier exams for the year. The final blocks of the year commence this week for all students.

Professor Tania Sorrell and Professor Richard Allen have been with us for a few months and are settling into their new roles as Head and Deputy Head (respectively) of Westmead Clinical School.

We would also like to welcome to our team Dr Andrew Bleasel as Sub-Dean Education. We are excited to have Dr Bleasel on board and look forward to seeing a positive impact on the students’ education as a result (continues page 2).

A sincere thank you to all those who assisted with the year 4 long cases over the past couple of months. It was a huge effort by many patients, tutors and staff which resulted in well organised and successful exams.

Eleven of our final year students were accepted as Westmead interns next year. We are delighted to hear this news and look forward to seeing these students around the hospital corridors as doctors!

The graduation ceremony of our final year students will be held at the Great Hall, Main campus on Thursday 8th December at 2pm.

**DX dissolve**

Next Issue: December 2016

SMS Westmead is a gold sponsor this year in the Coleman Greig Challenge fundraiser. This will be our first challenge (run, ride or walk) to support My Westmead, the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children & St. Gabriel’s School. The events held in the beautiful Parramatta Park October 21st, and we’re looking for sponsor donations of any amount ASAP. To support this fantastic event, press Donate on this page, then Donate on Sydney Medical School.

**DX dissolve**

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**DX dissolve**

**WEB LINKS**

SMS Westmead

Sydney Medical School

University Events Calendar
http://whatson.sydney.edu.au/events

Westmead Redevelopment
www.westmeadproject.health.nsw.gov.au

Sydney University Alumni & Friends
Welcome New WCS Staff

A warm welcome to Mrs Kelly Partington as our new Elective Officer. Kelly comes to us with a wealth of administration experience.

Welcome to Dr Andrew Bleasel as Sub-Dean Education for WCS. Dr Bleasel is a Neurologist at Westmead Hospital with an honorary appointment at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. He is the Director of the Epilepsy Unit and Head of the Department of Neurology. He teaches Clinical Epilepsy and EEG throughout South East Asia and Australia.

Thank you

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Elizabeth Gordon for all her support in coordinating the PWH teaching. Lilain Bouhadir has taken over the coordination of the PWH teaching for WCS.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Prof Steve Vucic for his new role as Secretary for the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists.

Awards

Congratulations to Dr Andrew Chen (Dermatology Registrar) for receiving the 2016 Rising Star PhD Student Award, at the CINSW Premier’s Awards in August. Well done to Andrew and team!

Congratulations to Dr James Chong from WIMR who received $50,000 Metcalf Prizes from the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia in recognition of his leadership in stem cell research.

James’s research is exploring how to repair a patient’s heart by rejuvenating their own heart stem cells and the potential for transplanted stem cells to regenerate heart tissue.

Student News

Hannah Maree Rayner from year 3 gave birth to a gorgeous boy...

Lawson Steven White was born at 8.27pm on 4th July, weighing 3.24Kg and 51cm long.

“He’s an awesome little man who is bringing us so much joy 😊”
Appointments & Promotions

Congratulations also to the following colleagues on their recent promotions or appointments:

- Clinical Associate Lecturer Dimple Goel
- Clinical Associate Professor Melissa Kang
- Clinical Lecturer Tina Su
- Postdoctoral Fellow Kristi Griffiths
- Clinical Senior Lecturer Andrew Henderson
- Postdoctoral Fellow Anna Watters
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Nathan Lieu
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Eleanor Hitchen
- Clinical Senior Lecturer Jay Chandra
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Sunil Gupta
- Clinical Associate Lecturer Aditi Mahajan
- Clinical Associate Professor Verity Ahern
- Clinical Associate Professor Andrew White
- Conjoint Professor Liza Thomas
- Clinical Associate Professor Gerald Liew

Teacher of the Quarter

Westmead Clinical School students, from Years 1-4, were asked to nominate their favourite teacher 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 Jimmy Chien (Respiratory) has been nominated as the Teacher of the Quarter for September 2016.

Westmead Precinct

Wireless
ICT have collaborated with WSLHD ICT staff to design and install wireless hardware to enable broadcast of the UniSydney Wi-Fi network throughout Westmead Hospital, with areas used by University of Sydney staff and students given priority attention.

New Sim Lab
The University collaborated with WSLHD and SCHN to design and construct a new clinical simulation laboratory to support the delivery of the Masters of Nursing (Graduate Entry) and other professional education activities at Westmead.

Medical Sciences Honours
Creation of a dedicated Honours in Medical Sciences program at Westmead has attracted very strong interest amongst current University of Sydney undergraduates and students from around Australia and overseas. The program currently has over 100 projects on offer, supervised by scientists from WIMR, KRI, CMRI, ICPMR-Health Pathology, Westmead Hospital and the Institute for Dental Research.

Surgery Solutions
A mini-symposium on engineering solutions in surgical settings was held September 8 at Westmead Hospital.
Over 70 students attended, including 65 engineering students from main campus, to hear surgeon’s present case studies on potential challenges and recent engineering-informed solutions to surgical challenges. Several academics from Engineering & IT also presented on past projects. It’s expected that the scope for collaboration and innovation this symposium highlighted will be further explored for the benefit of students, staff and patients from both campuses.

**Lecture Series**

The Westmead program team has instigated a public lecture series in collaboration with Sydney Ideas, intended to highlight expertise and collaborations around Westmead precinct; occasionally bring visiting experts from outside Westmead to contribute to the cultural and intellectual life; and at times coordinate with Sydney Ideas to bring experts from Westmead to other university locations.

**First two Lectures**

The first of these Sydney Ideas events was held in June. A forum on Zika virus and Australia’s preparedness to respond to infectious disease outbreaks, this event attracted approximately 100 people to Westmead on a Wednesday evening to participate in this lively discussion.

The second talk was held in August as part of National Science Week, and explored the links between chronic illnesses such as liver disease and cardiovascular disease, discussing the impact on the health system and the community caused by the growing prevalence of such illnesses.

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**University of Sydney All Staff Forums at Westmead**

- Tuesday 18 October: 3.30pm-4.30pm, Lecture Theatre 3, Westmead Education block.
- Thursday 8 December: 10am-11am, venue TBC.

For more information about any of these Westmead Precinct activities, please contact westmead.program@sydney.edu.au

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**Open Day for Westmead Research Hub**

The Open Day for Westmead Research Hub was held on August 4th at the WIMR.

Sydney University made a substantially greater contribution to the planning, promotion and delivery of the Westmead Research Hub Open Day compared to 2015, including providing a bus to transport students from Camperdown to Westmead for the day and thorough internal promotion of the event to current university of Sydney students.

The event was a great success and attracted approximately 200 people, 100 of which were students (an increase of 150% compared to 2015) to meet supervisors, tour facilities and investigate opportunities to undertake honours and HDR at Westmead.

Plenty of positive event feedback was received and all parties involved are looking forward to putting on an even better event in 2017!
Western Sydney Research in High Schools Sparks Interest in Northern Territory

“Protection, Prevention, Promotion” was the theme of the recent Public Health Association of Australia’s (PHAA) 44th Annual Conference held in Alice Springs. It was a great success with over 300 delegates attending, generating over 13 million impressions on Twitter.

Bridget Foley, Research and Evaluation Officer in the Primary Health Care Education and Research Unit (PERU), supported by the Western Clinical School, presented a poster detailing “The Impact of the SALSA Program in High Schools in Western Sydney”. The SALSA (Students As LifeStyle Activists) Program is a peer educational program which motivates high school students from disadvantaged areas to adopt healthy eating and active living behaviours.

The poster attracted significant interest from professionals working with indigenous communities across NSW and the NT.

These connections are being pursued to extend the population reach of the SALSA Program.

Robotic Kidney Transplant

Thanks to Westmead Hospital and Westmead Private, Australia has had its first successful robotic kidney transplant!

A 33 year old patient from the Hills district was fortunate to have this surgery after a bowel surgery last year that had complications. The patient reports she was home in just 5 days and recovered really well.

It was a fantastic collaboration between the two hospitals which will be available to selected patients going forward.

Hospital Week

Westmead Hospital hosted an informative and popular Hospital week in August this year.

A panel of experts delivered information and updates on oncology, urology, surgery, neuroscience, nursing, end of life plus many other hot topics.

The week included guest keynote speakers from around the country, including Louisa Hope, a Lindt Café siege survivor who shared her story.

National Pain Week

The last week of July was dedicated to National Pain Week. Cricketing legend Michael Clarke was this year’s National Pain Week ambassador and he spoke at the Westmead Hospital pain week conference.

Michael has suffered with chronic pain since he was 17 and wants to help make a difference to other chronic pain sufferers.
Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMIG)

As medical students, we all enjoy hands-on experiences to contrast with the heavy theory of 1st and 2nd year. The last EMIG event of the year incorporated suturing, knot tying and wound management, allowing us to learn the practical skills we see performed by the doctors in the ED every day. We were amazed at how many different ways a wound can be dealt with. From gluing the superficial wounds to closing them with staples, there was much fun to be had playing with the various equipment.

This event was a great end to an exciting year for EMIG. We were extremely lucky to have experienced ED staff instructing us and helping us develop our skills. All the students are incredibly grateful for the continued effort and support of Dr Coggins and the ED staff.

Sarah Coulter Nile, Maggie Maciaszek and Mandy Wang

Westmead Student Surgical Association (WSSA)

The Annual Surgical Olympics
Friday 21st of October from 4:30pm onwards in Westmead Clinical School.

Westmead Clinical School Society (WestSoc)

A Year in Review

First and foremost, thank you to all the amazing exec members who have helped run the society for the past year, and thank you to all who attended and got involved in the events WestSoc hosted this year.

WestSoc is a student-run society established in recent years to advocate on behalf of students at the Westmead Clinical School and to host social events for all students placed at Westmead.

In 2016 we ran multiple social events including several mixers and a trivia night. Of particular mention was the inter-faculty mixer, which brought together dental, nursing and medical students based at Westmead. We hope to continue to host these types of events in future years to maintain relationships between medical students of different stages and also students in other health professions.
On the advocacy front, the stage representatives met with the heads of school on a regular basis to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement throughout the year. A group of executive members also met regularly with the architecture and design team involved in the redevelopment of the common room at Westmead to ensure it develops into a suitable and practical space for medical students.

WestSoc will be having its AGM in late October to elect in a new executive team. All position are up for grabs so if you’re enthusiastic about planning social events or representing your peers at Westmead, come along and run for a position!

Sydney Medical School Events

Please see the Sydney Medical School website for [http://whatson.sydney.edu.au/events](http://whatson.sydney.edu.au/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:-

**Stage 2 OSCE Examiners 1st & 2nd Nov**

If you are interested in being an Examiner, please fill out the form attached (page 10), and return to Jerome or Dr Harrison (contact details listed on the form).

Postgraduate Student Unit

**Post-Graduate Research Seminars**

Congratulations to our PG Research Seminar Winners!! They will move forward to compete for the ‘Young Investigator Awards’ to be held in November:

- July – Rahul Samanta (Cardiology)
- August – Karen Keung (CTRR – Renal Medicine)
- September – Karen Hazell Raine (Psychology)

Congratulations to our seminar winners, and to those who have won Lucky Door Prizes, and thank you to those students who supported the seminars thus far.

**Conferences**

Congratulations to Vyoma Patel (Surgery) on her poster presentation at the International Congress of Immunology (ICI) held in Melbourne, August 21st-26th 2016.

Monocyte inflammatory profile differs between individuals, and altered lipid levels may partly contribute to these differences

Vyoma Patel¹, Helen Williams¹, Stephen Li², John Fletcher¹ & Heather Medbury¹

¹.Vascular Biology Research Centre, Department of Surgery, Westmead Hospital, University of Sydney, New South Wales 2. Institute of Clinical
Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead Hospital, University of Sydney, New South Wales.

**Background:** In various diseases, such as atherosclerosis, intermediate monocyte levels are elevated. Considered ‘inflammatory’, they are a possible treatment target. However, as they remain a minor subset (5-10%), the function of the other subsets in disease is important to discern.

**Aims:** To compare the inflammatory profile of monocyte subsets in individuals and relate this to their lipid levels.

**Method:** Blood was collected from controls and lipid analysis performed. Monocyte subset expression of M1 and M2 markers and production of cytokines (post LPS or PMA stimulation) was determined by whole blood flow cytometry.

**Results:** No individual subset was distinctively inflammatory. Upon LPS stimulation, intermediates produced more TNFα, IL-1b and IL-6 than classicals and non-classicals (all P< 0.001), but with PMA, classicals produced more IL-1b than the other subsets (P< 0.001). TNFα and IL-6 were not induced. Classicals expressed higher levels of M2 (anti-inflammatory), and lower levels of M1 (inflammatory) markers than the other subsets, suggesting they were less inflammatory. Importantly, a greater variation in cytokine production was seen between participants, than between subsets. Indeed, the level of cytokine production by one subset, correlated with that of the next (all P< 0.01). Differences between individuals were related to their lipid levels. LPS-stimulated IL-1b production (by all subsets) correlated positively with Chol/HDL (P< 0.025), ApoB/A1 (P< 0.005) and inversely with HDL (P< 0.025). Upon PMA stimulation, classical IL-1b correlated with cholesterol, LDL (both P< 0.01) and ApoB (P< 0.025).

**Conclusion:** Perturbation of lipid levels is associated with inflammatory changes in all monocyte subsets.

Congratulations to Padmashree Rao (Renal Medicine) who recently attended the 2016 Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology (APCN), which took place in Perth, Western Australia, 17 - 21 September 2016 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Padmashree had a mini oral presentation entitled “B-CATENIN/FOXO PROTECTS AGAINST PROFIBROTIC CHANGES AND PROMOTES NON-FIBROTIC HEALING IN VITRO”.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Saad (Brain Dynamics Centre) on presenting her abstract at the Society of Biological Psychiatry conference in May this year in Atlanta, USA.

Jacqueline was also awarded the Westmead association travel grant on August 26th. Great effort!!
Other News

Fiona Robards gave an oral presentation on Marginalised Young People’s Health Literacy at the ARIG meeting late September.

Marginalised Young People’s Health Literacy
Fiona Robards

Summary:
The healthcare system is often complex, particularly for young people. The present study is exploring the ways young people access, navigate and experience health services in NSW, including new technology supports across NSW Health. The study is informed by the new framework of health literacy developed by the NSW Department of Health. The study found that young people may benefit from new technology supports to improve health literacy and engagement. The study also highlights the importance of engaging young people in the development and implementation of new technology supports.

About the Speaker:
Fiona Robards is a PhD candidate and the ACCESS 3 study leader. She is a Senior Research Officer in the Department of General Practice, Westmead Hospital and the University of Sydney. She has extensive experience in health services research and health literacy studies at the University of Sydney and Westmead Medical School.
CALL FOR EXAMINERS
MED 2 SUMMATIVE OSCE
1st & 2nd NOVEMBER 2016

Examiners are needed for the Med 2 Summative OSCE (barrier exam, no student feedback) on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd November, 2016. This exam will take place at Westmead Clinical School, Level 2, Westmead Hospital, and we would be most grateful for your assistance.

Please indicate your availability by ticking the box/boxes, as applicable.

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<tr>
<th>Tuesday 1st November 2016</th>
<th>Wednesday 2nd November 2016</th>
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<td>07:45am - 11:00am</td>
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Examiner information and training will be available before both exams and will be circulated closer to the time.

Please return your response:-
by fax to 9891 3749
or
Jerome Fernandez – Jerome.fernandez@sydney.edu.au
Ext: 59185 / Mobile: 0404 381 988
Dr Amanda Harrison – amanda.harrison@sydney.edu.au
Ext: 56403 / Mobile: 0412 081 528

Name: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Mobile: ____________________________

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Richard Allen
Deputy Head
Sydney Medical School, Westmead Hospital
University of Sydney

Andrew Bleasel
Sub-Dean, Education
Sydney Medical School, Westmead Hospital
University of Sydney