Associate Professor Yun-Hee Jeon is passionate about providing better support and care for older people in Australia. She has a special interest in leadership and management in the aged care workforce.

Associate Professor Jeon is leading innovative research to evaluate the Clinical Leadership in Aged Care (CLIAC) program. The program aims to develop leadership capacity among middle managers in aged care within community and residential aged care services.

The CLIAC program was developed in response to emerging evidence that effective leadership in aged care is critical to improving the quality and safety of care for older people, as well as improved job satisfaction and retention of nursing staff.

“More than a million older people in Australia receive care either in a residential care home or in their own home through various community care services,” she says. “Aged care is a specialist area with a great deal of potential and rewards. It is also an area that is full of challenges including lack of resources and staffing, and limited multidisciplinary team work available.”

She adds that “middle managers in aged care play a critical role in providing leadership and support for their staff, which leads to a more positive work environment, and better quality of care for this vulnerable population. However, middle managers’ capacity to provide leadership is often hampered by everyday administrative work and a complex system that is continuously changing. In our other trials we found there wasn’t enough support for managers to develop their skills and knowledge in supporting and leading their staff”.

The CLIAC program was designed to tackle this very issue. It aims to provide support for middle managers by improving their skills through mentorship and action learning while being engaged actively with the industry. It is hoped that programs like CLIAC are more widely disseminated so they can be accessed by more middle managers.

Associate Professor Jeon and her team are in the process of carrying out an evaluation to examine the effectiveness of the program.

Continued inside
DEAN’S WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to my penultimate newsletter as dean of this fantastic faculty.

It was a big week but went extremely smoothly and my thanks to the wonderful team who orchestrated the complex day and all the months of preparation behind it. We look forward to the ANMAC determination in August which we hope will see all programs reaccredited for a further five years.

We have now moved on to the preparation for our five-year Senior Executive Group/Academic Board (SEG/AB) Review, at which time the faculty will be carefully scrutinised by a panel of internal and external experts. The review team site visit is scheduled for 28 August, so many of you will get a chance to have a say about how you feel we are going, as part of that review process.

We are in the middle of the preparation of the business case for the new building on campus, which we will share with the Faculty of Health Sciences, part of Medicine and possibly part of Pharmacy. This is very exciting as it will enable Nursing and Midwifery to really be part of the physical body of the University for the first time, and will be a wonderful multidisciplinary health precinct, immediately adjacent to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. We expect occupancy late 2017 or early 2018.

I will have one further opportunity to thank you and say goodbye but I would like to express my gratitude to you all for your fantastic support over the past seven years and I look forward to catching up with you all to say as many personal goodbyes as possible in the next five months.

Warm regards

Professor Jill White AM
Dean, Sydney Nursing School

Continued from cover story

of CLIAC compared with usual care, in terms of work environment, quality and safety of patient care, and staff turnover rates. Other outcomes of interest include cost-benefits, managers’ leadership capacity, staff absenteeism, intention to stay and leave, stress levels and job satisfaction.

The findings of the three-year evaluation are expected to be released this year. They will make a significant contribution to the debate on how to address issues facing aged care services and policy makers concerned with the provision of safe and quality services.

The CLIAC program is conducted in partnership with the Baptist Community Services NSW and ACT and the University of Technology Sydney. In addition to the CLIAC program, Associate Professor Jeon has worked with the Health Television Network – Aged Care Channel (ACC) to develop a learning resource called Leadership: Working with Staff for aged care staff and managers. As an invited expert consultant, she presented advice on leadership in aged care, accompanied by a written resource on developing leadership.

The resource was aired nationally via ACC earlier this year and is available as a learning resource for aged care staff, managers and students.
Thanks to Học Mãi, the Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation, two Master of Nursing graduates, Kate Murchie and Susi Summers (pictured left and right), were given the incredible opportunity to travel to Vietnam over the summer to undertake an additional clinical placement. The placement gave them the opportunity to gain invaluable nursing experience and a deeper understanding of issues in the developing world.
How was this placement arranged?
Kate Murchie (KM): The Học Mãi placement and scholarship was offered to Sydney Nursing School students through the Học Mãi Foundation and the University of Sydney. The application included an interview, an essay on why I wanted to apply, and details of my academic achievements.
Susi Summers (SS): The Học Mãi Foundation offered a scholarship and arranged our placements – working alongside fellow student nurses from the University of Sydney – as well as our peers in other health-related disciplines.

What motivated you to apply for this placement?
SS I was interested in the program because I would eventually like to nurse internationally. I thought it would be a good chance to see another health system in action and develop skills and knowledge in a different culture.
KM I wanted to work in Vietnam to understand how a different sociopolitical landscape affects the health of a population. Vietnam interested me in particular because of its long and fascinating history of war and unrest. At a grassroots level, I was interested to find out how nurses function in their day-to-day practice in a developing country.

What is life like as a nurse in Vietnam?
SS I went to Vietnam with an open mind, hoping to learn and contribute whatever I could. I was placed at the Da Nang Hospital for Women and Children for a month, where I worked alongside two University of Sydney medical students.

I spent my first week on the paediatric respiratory ward, mostly administering nebulisers and IV antibiotics, assisting with the medication rounds, and taking patient observations. I saw patients with tropical diseases like dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis, which were new to me. I watched a caesarean section, spent a week in the neonatal ICU and observed babies who had been born prematurely, and with a range of congenital conditions including spina bifida and VATER syndrome.

I was amazed by the generosity of the staff and impressed at the skill and speed with which the children on the wards were treated. The ward routine was completely different to how we do things here in Australia – in some wards only two or three nurses administer IV medications to almost a hundred patients twice a day. It showed me just how vital resource nurses are, particularly in a developing country.

KM I worked in the emergency department of the National Paediatric Hospital in Ha Noi. Vietnam is a very large country with a huge population and the majority live in rural areas where there is very limited health care. For this reason, the sick often present to the city hospitals in very advanced stages of their illness. I had the opportunity to work closely with the doctors and finely tune my paediatric primary assessment and advanced life support skills. Nurses in Vietnam are very busy people and extremely deft at their nursing skills.

In Australia, we are far better resourced and have access to more staff, technology and medicines than Vietnam. Although the differences were glaringly obvious, providing care to the rural population in a geographically large country is a challenge we share in Australia too – this encourages me to think about how nurses can identify the need for, and make changes globally.

What was the greatest challenge – for you, or for nurses in Vietnam?
SS The most challenging part of the exchange was definitely patient communication. It can be difficult to gain patient and parental consent without the ability to speak a common language. However, this experience has equipped me with techniques to overcome language barriers in the future and the skills to put patients and their families at ease.
KM I also visited a rural hospital to understand the divide between rural and urban health care. Overcrowding and lack of resources were the two challenges that leapt out at me during the visit. Despite all the challenges, what became very clear was how stoic and resilient the people of Vietnam are, including those who are sick or dying.

How did your study prepare you for your placement in Vietnam?
KM My degree has taught me to base my nursing practice on current research, to think critically about the evidence, and form clinical decisions independently. This strong foundation helped me to work with confidence in Vietnam. A strong collegial network was also formed during my studies with other nursing students. We are now supporting each other throughout our new graduate year and will no doubt remain in contact throughout our careers.
SS There were many clinical facilitators and staff members who were also good sources of advice and support in preparing. This definitely helped me to get my current job.

It is opportunities like these that make the Học Mãi scholarship such a unique experience, one which our nursing students will carry with them throughout their nursing careers.

To find out more about the foundation and available scholarships, as well as how you can help support the foundation, please visit its website at sydney.edu.au/medicine/hocmai
MEDICINEWISE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CONSUMER INFORMATION

A project team led by Dr Lisa Pont at the University of Sydney has won the National MedicineWise Award for Excellence in Consumer Information for their practical resource on chronic heart failure (CHF), titled: Living everyday with my heart failure.

The initiative was a collaboration between the project team, the Heart Foundation, and the wider Indigenous community to develop a culturally and linguistically appropriate resource to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have chronic heart failure.

The resource aims to facilitate communication and improve the quality of treatment for chronic heart failure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as their prevalence of heart failure is nearly twice that of non-Aboriginal peoples.

The team developed the practical resource through extensive community consultation and audience testing, which ensured it met the needs of the clients and health professionals using it. Living everyday with my heart failure is available nationally via the Heart Foundation. It is in use throughout Australia.

NHMRC PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Congratulations to Sally Tracy, Professor in Midwifery Research, who is part of the research team awarded a $1.3 million National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Grant towards their project: Birthing in our Community: Improving maternal infant health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and infants.

The program aims to ‘close the gap’ in maternal and infant health (MIH) outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in Brisbane. It will investigate MIH outcomes, satisfaction levels and costs, and provide much-needed evidence-based information to redesign services elsewhere. Following the Brisbane redesign, a similar model will be implemented in New South Wales.

The three organisations working together on this project include the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service; and the Mater Mother’s Hospital.

This program will build on previous research from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery that evaluated caseload midwifery care compared with standard hospital care, and demonstrated the health and financial benefits of caseload midwifery.

AGENCY FOR CLINICAL INNOVATION FUNDING

Associate Professor Kate Curtis and her team were successful in their application for funding from the Agency for Clinical Innovation for their project: Evaluation of the Paediatric Trauma System in NSW, Australia. Evidence to change policy and improve patient outcomes in children suffering major injury. The funding came to a total of $192,000.

ISCRR DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Associate Professor Murray Fisher’s project, Remaking masculinities after spinal cord injury: mapping the psychosocial needs, has been awarded an Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCRR) 2014 Development Grant to the value of $19,989.
Congratulations to Professor Robyn Gallagher who was recently appointed as the inaugural Professor of Nursing, Charles Perkins Centre at the University of Sydney.

Professor Gallagher aims to improve care for people with cardiovascular disease and promote a deeper understanding of the disease among health professionals.

A world-leading expert in cardiac nursing, Professor Gallagher says the Charles Perkins Centre provides a unique opportunity for collaboration with multiple disciplines and leading international researchers.

“It’s exciting because everyone joining Charles Perkins Centre is making a leap into the future of research into pervasive and complex problems like cardiovascular disease and obesity,” she says.

An important part of Professor Gallagher’s vision for the future is the translation of research into real-world solutions – a key focus of the Charles Perkins Centre’s unique multidisciplinary approach.

“Traditional research centres aim to be multidisciplinary but rarely achieve the true integration of benchtop research into practice and policy. The advantage of working in the Charles Perkins Centre is that research is integrated with clinical, public health and policy research, as well as systems and theories, so that every opportunity for breadth and depth of research into obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes is afforded.”

Professor Gallagher’s primary focus will be helping to provide quality care for people with cardiovascular disease, and to support their efforts to reduce risk factors through managing weight, physical activity and good self-care.

The Charles Perkins Centre at the University of Sydney aims to ease the burden of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and related conditions by translating the work of the University into real-world solutions.

### Dates for the Diary

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>University of Sydney Open Day and Postgraduate Expo</strong></td>
<td>30 August 2014, 9.30AM – 4PM</td>
<td>Mallett Street Campus and Camperdown/Darlington Campus The University of Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sydney Nursing School Postgraduate Info Evening</strong></td>
<td>23 October 2014</td>
<td>Mallett Street Campus</td>
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<td><strong>Health Kit Day Packing</strong></td>
<td>4 December 2014</td>
<td>The Great Hall, The University of Sydney</td>
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**Graduation**

12 December 2014, 9.30 – 11.30AM
The Great Hall, The University of Sydney