



Professor Kate White (centre front) with nurses at RPA's chemotherapy suite, L-R Alexis Ferguson, Jane Manalang, Macy Panah and Theresa Nielsen

CANCER NURSING RESEARCH UNIT LAUNCHED

The central role of specialist cancer nurses in NSW in the delivery of quality cancer services was celebrated at the launch of the Cancer Nursing Research Unit on 26 May 2011.

Established in 2009, the Cancer Nursing Research Unit (CNRU) has enjoyed its first successful year. As an innovative collaboration between Sydney Nursing School, the Cancer Institute of New South Wales and the Sydney Cancer Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, the Unit combines Sydney Nursing School's strength in cancer and palliative care research and the Sydney Cancer Centre's excellence in clinical cancer care to develop and support cancer nursing clinicians across NSW.

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STUDENTS TAKE ON HEALTHCARE TEAM CHALLENGE

The first University of Sydney Health Care Team Challenge took place in May at Cumberland Campus. Hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences, this cross faculty interprofessional competition was organised in conjunction with Sydney Medical School and Sydney Nursing School.

Last year the University of Sydney sent a team of health sciences, medical and nursing students to a national competition in Brisbane. The students were so positive about their experience of working with their fellow students from other disciplines and faculties that a local-level competition was organised to decide which team would go on to represent the University of Sydney at

this year's national competition.

The five competing teams included students from Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences students in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Exercise and Sport Science, Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation Counselling. Each team had to respond to a complex patient case study with a detailed recommended care plan for that person.

Our nursing students were very positive about the experience. "I wish every nursing student had the chance to experience the Health Care Team Challenge. It was a truly unique learning opportunity and I feel

privileged to have been part of it. It broke down many of the barriers that can be encountered when working with other health care professionals," participating student Olga Aleshin said. "I also want to say how proud I was of us nurses. We were amazing!"

Thanks to Sydney Nursing School's Dr Chris Gordon as Master of Ceremony and for mentoring our nursing students through the team challenge process. The winning team, 'Majestic Dolphins', will go to Brisbane in August to compete in the inter-university challenge. Nursing student Louise Kan, will be part of the team. Good luck Louise!

CNRU LAUNCH

The CNRU was launched by Professor David Currow, Chief Cancer Officer and Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Institute NSW (CINSW), and Professor Jill White AM, Dean of Sydney Nursing School.

Professor David Currow expressed his delight in the work of the CNRU as one of six academic chairs funded by the CINSW to provide cutting-edge research across NSW tailored to meet the needs of the community.

“The academic chair in Cancer Nursing is a key platform by which we want to build quality care and improve patient outcomes by supporting the next generation of researchers, clinicians, teachers and policy makers to change clinical practice, policy, behaviours and understanding.”

Associate Professor Michael Boyer AM, Director of Sydney Cancer Centre and

Medical Director of Lifehouse at RPA, acknowledged the success of CNRU through the leadership and vision of Professor Kate White.

“She has brought together a top group of academic nurses and researchers within a very busy general hospital and cancer centre to undertake research that will translate into better care for cancer patients. The collaboration has been enormously successful for all partners,” Michael Boyer said.

Professor Kate White outlined the role of the CNRU in supporting the ongoing development of cancer nursing practice, education and research in NSW, within the context of increasingly complex treatment for cancer patients in an ambulatory setting, and the changing nature of cancer nursing as an advanced practice role.

“I have actually been given a very easy job as a champion of cancer nursing,” Professor White said. “With a nursing

workforce which is invigorated and passionate, cancer nurses are not only engaged in clinical practice that goes well beyond cancer care, but also questioning that practice and developing research questions to inform their practice.”

CNRU welcomes the opportunity to support cancer nurses in NSW to achieve their research and educational goals.



L-R: Professors Kate White, David Currow and Jill White AM

DEAN'S MESSAGE



It's true that there's never a dull day in nursing and midwifery and that's certainly the same at

Sydney Nursing School.

In May I travelled to Malta to attend the International Council of Nurses' International Congress, along with my colleagues Professor Mary Chiarella, Adjunct Associate Professor John Kelly and Amanda Adrian, Chief Executive Officer Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council. We certainly enjoyed our very lively "hypothetical" presentation on Managing the Politics of Health Workforce Reform in a Professional Regulatory Environment. The congress was an excellent opportunity to meet other nursing academics from around the world and meet the incredible group of nurses and midwives who are doing amazing things in health care.

I then travelled to the United Kingdom and met with the Nursing and Midwifery Council to discuss strategies to make the transition easier for Australian nurses to work in the UK. I also met with Professor Lesley Page, the UK's most eminent

leader in midwifery policy and practice, to discuss her role in our recently re-launched Midwifery and Women's Health Nursing Research Unit.

Certainly a highlight from my trip was the annual International Nurses Day Florence Nightingale Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey. Just ten days after "The Royal Wedding", the pomp and ceremony continued with Westminster Abbey packed with nurses from across England commemorating 100 years since Florence Nightingales' death. The choir was magnificent and a new piece of music was commissioned by the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing to honour nurses from around the world who had lost their lives during armed service. Three nurses representing the armed services presented an Honour Book with all the names of nurses who lost their lives in war. Professor Anne Maree Rafferty, Professor of Nursing Policy and Dean of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery gave the very moving lesson and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I felt very privileged to be there.

Back home I was very pleased to attend the official launch of the Cancer Nursing Research Unit. The Launch was certainly a terrific celebration acknowledging the very important

work of Professor Kate White, her energy and commitment to cancer nursing and the fantastic group of people who have been drawn to her. Like our recently launched Midwifery and Women's Health Nursing Research Unit, this is a fantastic model whereby members of the nursing and midwifery academic community are located within a clinical unit. Here they have the opportunity to work alongside clinicians who see the need for research and its contribution to better outcomes for patients and their families. I thank the Cancer Institute of NSW and RPA Cancer Centre for supporting this very important initiative.

Representing both the Council of Deans of Nursing and the University of Sydney I contributed to the Health Workforce Australia national consultation on the National Training Plan for Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery. While the Health Workforce Australia report is yet to be released it's clear that in future years there will potentially be a significant shortage of nurses as older nurses and midwives leave the workforce. I have no doubt that our new Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies), ready to be introduced in 2012, will contribute significantly in preparing the next generation of nursing leaders.

—Warm regards, Jill White

NURSING AWARDS

ARC LINKAGE GRANT

Congratulations to Professor Mary Chiarella (Chief Investigator) and her colleagues Professors Marilyn M Walton, Belinda J Bennett, Terry R Carney, Dr Patrick J Kelly, Jann P Foster who have been awarded an ARC Linkage Grant for their project: "National registration of health practitioners: a comparative study of the complaints and notification system under the national system and in NSW".

ARC Linkage Projects link researchers in higher education with partner organisations outside of the higher education sector to carry out collaborative research in any discipline. On announcing the funding, Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, said, "These partnerships help produce tangible, workable solutions to real issues, like climate change, health and national security,"

CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS

Two Sydney Nursing School academics have been awarded 2011 Churchill Fellowships enabling them to develop their nursing expertise at overseas locations.

Awarded to Australia's 'best and brightest', Churchill fellows are selected for their innovation and excellence in their chosen field.

Professor Kate White will travel to the United Kingdom to examine the role of nurse-led clinics focussed on intervention strategies for sexual dysfunction in cancer patients.

Associate Professor Kim Foster, received her Churchill fellowship to assist her work in developing programs for building resilience in children and families where parents have a mental illness.

It's fantastic that Sydney Nursing School academic staff represent two of the 27 Fellowships awarded in NSW.



On 9 June Sydney Nursing School welcomed a delegation of 120 nursing students from the USA, Canada, Japan, Africa and Australia through the International Scholar Laureate Program. Here they're enjoying an interactive workshop about health resource allocation, analysing our different health care systems.

RESEARCH STUDENT WINS POSTER AWARD

BY LOUISE HEATHER

Research Student, Rebecca Ogilvie, Master of Philosophy (Nursing), recently won the Poster Award at a research conference in Canberra.

Rebekah Ogilvie says she was always going to be a nurse. Now, having worked in emergency and critical care for most of her 15-year career, she is the Trauma Coordinator at Canberra Hospital. Her passion for trauma nursing has led her to explore traumatic injury further through her Master of Philosophy research project at Sydney Nursing School.

"My interest came about through observing an extremely high proportion of patients between the ages of 12 and 24 who were treated following self inflicted traumatic injury within a three month period in 2008," Rebekah said. "Although injury is the leading cause of death in this demographic, little is known about the long term outcomes following this type of injury in young people." Hence, her project was conceived and titled *The Experience of Surviving Life Threatening Injury in 12-25 Year Olds and the Relationship Between Risk Taking Behaviour and Suicidal Intent*.



Rebekah's research has yielded much interest from her peers and at the 1st Australian Capital Region Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference in May she won the coveted Poster Award for a side project on the implementation of a nationally benchmarked trauma team activation criteria. "Funnily enough, I was not planning on submitting an abstract but was asked to by my manager. So when I won I was a bit overwhelmed. It was great to be recognised as making a significant contribution to research within our region", she says.

"This work challenges me in ways that I have never been challenged before", explains Rebekah. "I used to scoff about the fact that I would never do research because it was 'so boring', but as you grow as a person and as a clinician, you come to the realisation that there is so much more to caring than mere task. So once I completed my initial Master of Nursing (Critical Care) at Sydney Nursing School in 2005, my mind and heart opened to the idea."

With her peer's encouragement and obvious passion, Rebekah is well on her way to her goal of upgrading to a PhD in November. "I think that this is just the beginning for me," she says of her research. And it's clear that this is indeed the first chapter in an extremely rewarding and relevant academic career.

Photo: Rebecca Ogilvie (right) with colleagues A/Prof Rachel Li and Dr Jennie Scarvell, Trauma and Orthopaedic Research Unit, ACT Health (L-R)

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Nursing considerations to complement the Surviving Sepsis Campaign guidelines

Crit Care Med 2011 Vol. 39, No. 7

Professor Leanne Aitken, Professor of Critical Care Nursing, Griffith University and Princess Alexandra Hospital, and Honorary Professor of Nursing at Sydney Nursing School, led a team of international nursing experts, including Dr Andrea Marshall from Sydney Nursing School, on behalf of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses, to develop guidelines for nursing care of severe sepsis patients.

Emergency and Trauma Care for Nurses and Paramedics

Kate Curtis and Clare Ramsden

Emergency and Trauma Care follows the patient journey from pre-hospital to definitive care. The book brings together a team of highly respected clinical practitioners and academics to deliver the most up-to-date text dealing with the practical procedures and evidence experienced by emergency and trauma care providers every day.

With Clinical Associate Professor Kate Curtis as an editor, Sydney Nursing School contributors also include Dr Andrea Marshall (Respiratory Emergencies), Dr Tom Buckley (Endocrine Emergencies), and Clinical Senior Lecturers Margaret Murphy (Endocrine Emergencies), Leanne Horvat (Gynaecological Emergencies) and Jon Magill (Spinal Trauma).

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Professor Jill White with graduates Charlotte Beniuk and Maricel Mariano

ALUMNI CORNER

It was a perfect afternoon for Sydney Nursing School's Class of 2010 graduation ceremony on Friday 8 April.

More than 160 nursing graduates, including pre-registration degrees, Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration), Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) and postgraduate advanced learning degrees, attended the ceremony in the Great Hall. Later they enjoyed drinks in the Quadrangle with Sydney Nursing School staff, their families and friends.

The occasional address was delivered by Professor Mary Chiarella who promised our graduates that the rewards of a career in nursing are tremendous. "If I were to ask every nurse and midwife in this room to close their eyes now, you would all be able to conjure up a person you have cared for, who still touches your hearts today and from whom you learnt a great deal about the human spirit."

As future leaders in health care and as active citizens, Mary exhorted graduates "to realise that public affairs are also your affairs and to be active citizens, who work in the community and express your opinions thoughtfully and knowledgeably in public debate."

NURSING DIARY DATES

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

27 August, 9.30am–4.00pm
Sydney Nursing School will be open all day. Do you know someone about to finish school and interested in a career in nursing? Ask them to join us for lectures featuring our new Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) and combined degree programs and tours of our clinical simulation facilities.

GENERATION OF SCHOLARSHIP (GOSSiP)

Join us for a stimulating afternoon of scholarship in practice
27 August
29 September - including presentations by Timor Leste Health Leadership Program Fellows
17 November - Research Supervisors Forum
Contact hiam.simonsen@sydney.edu.au for more details.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY GO EXPO

22 September, 3–7pm
Explore your postgraduate options, investigate a particular course or begin the application process.

Nursing mini-lectures:
5–5.30pm Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry)
5.30–6pm Nursing Career Pathways
6–6.30pm Clinical Trials Practice
More info: http://sydney.edu.au/graduate_options/about_go.shtml

POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION EVENING

13 October, Sydney Nursing School

2nd INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE
Canada

POSTGRADUATE COURSE-WORK ENROLMENTS

Applications close 1 December

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