

## What's On

### The Association For The Welfare Of Child Health (Awch) 2005 National Conference

Keynote presenters will include Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM, Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner; Dr Robin Sullivan, Director General Queensland Department of Child Safety; Associate Professor David Bennett, Head of the NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health; and Associate Professor Victor Nossar, School of Medicine at Flinders University and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Adelaide.

Title: AWCH 2005 'Healthy Solutions for Children: Making the Right Choice'  
Date: Thursday, 28 and Friday, 29 April 2005  
Where: Parramatta Carlton Hotel

For more information contact Sharyn Low from Matrix On Board, Conference Secretariat, telephone (02) 4572 3079, fax (02) 4572 3972 or e-mail sharyn@mob.com.au

### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides free, confidential, professional counseling for any personal or work related concerns.

To obtain a brochure or to make an appointment phone (02) 9382 3681 and (02) 9382 6616.

### TWO GREAT WINS

Congratulations to SCH staff Dr Michael Brydon, Co-ordinator of Clinical Services, Dr Jonny Taitz, Paediatrician, Sonja Falkiner, OHS Co-ordinator and Dr Hala Katf, Chief RMO, who recently received the Best OHS Training Program award at the prestigious 2004 National Safety Council of Australia and Telstra National Safety Awards of Excellence. The awards encompassed four categories and included 20 entrants from some of Australia's largest and most respected organisations.



Screening Hearing (SWISH) program team, which recently received a Baxter NSW Health Award in the Effectiveness of Health Care category. This award went to the NSW Health Primary Health and Community Partnerships Branch and AHS SWISH Co-ordinators.

SWISH also won the 2004 Premier's Public Sector Gold Award in the category of Service Delivery.

The SWISH project team successfully developed and implemented a statewide population-based newborn hearing screening program to identify and intervene early with babies born with significant permanent bilateral hearing loss. In the first 18 months of the program, 92 babies have been identified. Average age of diagnosis has decreased from 18 months to 1.6 months and average age of commencing hearing aid intervention has decreased from 22 months to 3.8 months.



The SESAHS SWISH team consists of Chris Rhodes, Area Co-ordinator and Hearing Screeners, Claire Wilkinson, Michelle Hannan, Maria Benney, Rebecca White, Kate Herring, Kate Squire, Jane Stratton and Brigita Beznak. The Baxter awards are judged on performance over a period of time and all screeners, both past and present, have gone the extra mile to assist the program. Monica Wilkinson, Sally Moylan, Peter Jennings, John Newall, Rachael Paxman and Vaya Condos are members of the SCH Audiology Unit involved in SWISH diagnostics.

The SCH team improved the Junior Medical Officers (JMOs) Induction Program significantly by providing new starters with a copy of the Hospital's induction manual one month before starting work at the Hospital, and requiring a signed acknowledgement it has been read. New JMOs are tested on arrival on their first day through simulated interactions with patients, relatives and other staff via 15-minute scenarios in groups covering 10 stations. The team scoring the most points is given a prize and groups scoring consistently poorly are required to revisit the station after one month. Registrars who have completed the induction program are randomly recruited to be examiners at the program to ensure they are competent to contribute as teachers and examiners. The induction program has been used as a model to improve Junior Medical Officer induction in other hospitals, both in Australia and internationally.

Congratulations to the Statewide Infant

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER OF SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, RANDWICK  
DECEMBER 2004

## Celebrating International Children's Day

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick recently celebrated International Children's Day with plenty of colour and music.

The theme for this year was "My Favourite Idol".

Celebrations kicked off at midday in the Hospital School courtyard with a BBQ lunch, face painting and kids' art competition and lively entertainment by the brass Navy Band. Good music, like good news, travels fast: And the Navy Band was very good - with patients and staff hanging over the railings from Prince of Wales Hospital next door. They are on our list for next year's Party Day!

During the afternoon Australian Idol celebrity, Courtney Act, joined children and their families and staff in the Starlight Express Room for a Karaoke Competition. Courtney judged the competition, handed out prizes to all the contestants and gave the ultimate prize to doctors (heavily disguised as The Village People) on C3West for best Karaoke showstopper.

Art therapy, play therapy and music therapy are all utilised by qualified staff at Sydney Children's Hospital to help children through their experience of hospitalisation and provide positive outcomes for the children. Party Day - colourful paintings and music with heart - took this idea to the max.

Channel TEN was amongst the audience in the Starlight Express Room and our karaoke competition made the 5pm news. The Southern Courier and Navy News both covered the event.

Thank you to everyone who donated their time and goods on the day including: Courtney Act, Commonwealth Bank Staff from Martin Place, staff from Bunnings Warehouse, members of The Royal Australian Navy Band, Smiths Foods, Krispy Kreme Donuts, New Zealand Natural Ice Cream, Popsy Popcorn and Serendipity Ice Cream.



## Staff Recognition Awards



Recipients of Staff Recognition Awards

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick recently held its annual Staff Recognition Awards. The awards are held every year to formally acknowledge and honour staff members who have served 10, 20 or 30 years at SCH, Randwick. Special mention must go to Amy McIntosh (Public Affairs) and Jane Wallis (Deputy Director of Human Resources) for all their help in making the evening such a success. Also, thank you to Phyllis Moran, Director of Nursing for her support of this event and handing out the awards.

Staff honoured this year include:

30 years service - Dulcie Featherstone, Sheila Petty and Kay Driver  
20 years service - Peter Lee, Margaret Manson and Bambang Utomo

10 years service - Jennifer, Bellemore, Hector Colihuil, Nicole Davenport, Donna Drew, Lilly Fajnsilber, Ifta Harahap, Elizabeth Hardwicke, Ethel Mady, Margaret Patterson, Jennie Studdert, Imade Sujata, Jill Pymont, Nerralie Shaw, Tania Jordan, Faina Zitser, Janelle Young, Robyn Donnellan, Marc Madeleine, Usha Krishnan and Ana Dosen.



### SEASONS GREETINGS

We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. If you are taking time off, enjoy, and take care during all the festivities!

The Way Forward Deadline Dates For 2005 Are 18 January (For The Combined January/February Issue), 15 February, 15 March, 12 April, 17 May, 14 June, 12 July, 16 August, 13 September, 11 October And 15 November.

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## Editor's Notes

The Way Forward is the SCH, Randwick internal newsletter.

Should you want to submit to The Way Forward please do so before the following dates.

**THE DEADLINE DATES FOR 2005 ARE 18 JANUARY (FOR THE COMBINED JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE), 15 FEBRUARY, 15 MARCH, 12 APRIL, 17 MAY, 14 JUNE, 12 JULY, 16 AUGUST, 13 SEPTEMBER, 11 OCTOBER AND 15 NOVEMBER.**

I will be on leave and travelling around Australia next year with my hubby in our much-loved Winnebago (also known affectionately as Winnie). I look forward to seeing you again towards the end of 2005. Thanks for all your contributions this year. Until my successor is appointed please continue to forward articles and photos to:

### Jan Forrester

E-mail: [forresterj@sesahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:forresterj@sesahs.nsw.gov.au)  
Phone: (02) 9382 3571  
Fax: (02) 9382 3577

The website address for Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick is [www.sch.edu.au](http://www.sch.edu.au)

## Employee Of The Month

### Our Employee of the Month for November 2004 is Maggie Aitken.

Kylie Whitten, Paediatric Dietitian, SCH (Maggie's nomination was supported by Helen Kepreotes, Manager of Nutrition and Dietetics), nominated Maggie for her willingness to take on the role of Department Manager for 10 weeks.

Kylie said, "During the period of acting as Manager, Maggie maintained her clinical caseload, managed the daily operations of the Department while dealing with the multiple unexpected events that came up".

Kylie explained, "Maggie welcomed a new staff member, said goodbye to three others and dealt with coverage of these vacancies as well as that of staff on sick and annual leave. She managed to maintain her sense of humour and this is our way of saying thank you".

**Position:** Paediatric Dietitian.

**Best part of your job?** Getting a hug from a kid - because they know you well enough to share a hug.

**Worst part of your job?** Saying goodbye to children when they transit to an adult facility.

**When you were young what did you want to do when you grew up?** Be a horticulturist and spend time growing plants.

**First full-time job?** Dietitian at the Royal Heart and Chest Hospital, London.

**How long have you been at SCH, Randwick?** A very long time!

**Strangest thing you've ever had to do on the job:** Teach children how to tie their shoelaces - it's amazing how many children rely on their parents to tie their shoelaces!

**Your mentor or greatest inspiration?** The parents who have a child with a chronic condition, who against all odds, keep a family together and can still notice people worse off than themselves. I'm sure I could not do that.

**Where will you be in 10 years?** Living in the country, near the sea, with a huge, productive garden!

**Job you most admire?** Psychologists. We encourage the "what you need to do" and they somehow find the "how you are going to do it".

**Maggie will enjoy a complimentary meal at Mamma Theresa's at Kingsford and a bouquet of flowers compliments of Clementine Flowers, Randwick. Metro Parking will also throw in a cheque for \$100 each. ENJOY!!!**



## An Outstanding Volunteer Effort

Johnny Solomon helps out daily in SCH's Outpatients Department (OPD) in compiling new Hospital files. Although Johnny may not always like doing this work, he always does a great job, which allows OPD staff to have a ready supply of notes for new patients when they arrive. Johnny puts in a lot of hours helping out. OPD staff would like to thank Johnny for all his help and his outstanding effort.

Susan Harmon, NUM OPD



## Message From Professor White

Dear Colleagues

After the review of the external environment in last month's Editorial, I will this month concentrate on matters internal. We have ended another busy year with a mix of challenges, growth opportunities and continuing performance. Major service developments include: mental health, neurology, cardiology, trauma, cerebral palsy, orthopaedics, motion analysis laboratory, rehabilitation, stem-cell laboratory, ultrasonography, nuclear medicine and community services. In addition to these funded initiatives we have received, for the first time, discretionary growth funds of \$1.5m for tertiary services, in recognition of well-documented increases in activity, complexity and care requirements. We have also been granted an MRI licence specific to SCH which will begin operations in July 2005 in conjunction with our campus imaging services.

Following a series of focus groups, consultations, staff forums and other feedback we have identified a process on ongoing change in our organisational structure and operational effectiveness. The first stage, implemented immediately, required a cohorting of many medical departments and some other units into Service groupings within the current Directorates. This will allow meaningful delegation beyond the level of the Clinical Directors, both Medical and Nursing. The modified organisational chart also recognises a functional Executive consisting of the Director of Nursing, Coordinator of Clinical Services and Director of Administrative Services along with the Executive Director.

The second stage, well in progress, is to define the roles and responsibilities of Medical Discipline Heads (previously Departments), Service Directors and their relative interactions in matters of Clinical and Corporate Governance. At the same time, functional improvements are being implemented to maximise the effectiveness of the two Clinical Directors, Nursing. It is proposed that in six to nine months we will once again review our progress, invite external expert input and analyse all aspects of our organisational journey.

It is important to acknowledge current and continuing challenges. Our success has always depended on our amazingly committed workforce while individual workloads are continuing to increase both in volume and complexity. There are some gaps in our spectrum of services that need to be addressed and appropriately resourced. We also have challenges in recruitment to positions that are established such as: nurses in ICU and operating theatres, as well as some medical specialists. We have a growing waiting list for operations in certain surgical sub-specialties such as ENT. Of highest urgency, however, we have enormous constraints in office accommodation for clinicians of all disciplines. We are working on a variety of "space" solutions, some of which are expected to bring immediate relief.

Through our joint efforts and collaboration I expect the challenges of 2004 to become the opportunities of 2005 as we continue on our journey of success and performance at both individual and organisational levels. I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Festive Season and a wonderful year to follow!

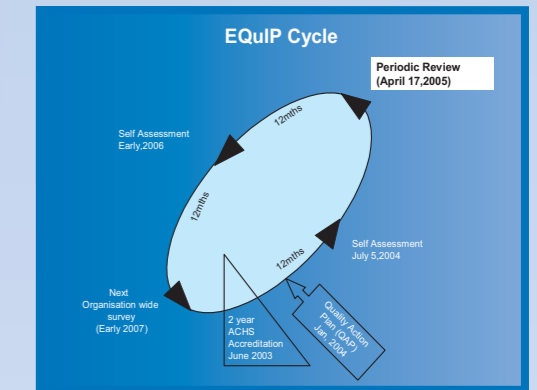
Best wishes

Les White  
Executive Director



## Quality Improvement Update EQiP - Periodic Review

The next phase of the EQiP cycle is the Periodic Review. This will be conducted in the week beginning April 18 next year, which is only four months away!!!!



The Periodic Review is an on site review that aims to help us maintain momentum for continuous improvement between the last Organisation Wide Survey (OWS) conducted in early 2003 and the next one due in 2007. The ACHS surveyors will again visit our organisation to verify our progress since the last OWS.

Recently, ACHS changed their accreditation standards. From January 2005, all organisations will need to achieve the following at Periodic Review to maintain accreditation status:

- Demonstrated progress in addressing all recommendations from ACHS following the last OWS.
- Awarding of a Moderate Achievement (MA) rating in each of the 19 mandatory criteria. The MA rating means that we have systems in place for all activities and that data are collected to demonstrate systems are evaluated and improvements are made.

So, what happens next?

Prior to the review, we will need to update the information on the 19 mandatory criteria documented in the Self-Assessment Report. We will also need to collect evidence to demonstrate our achievements in these criteria and the progress we have made in addressing the ACHS recommendations.

The actual review will be similar to the last OWS. However, it will be a shorter review, with only two ACHS surveyors visiting the organisation over a two-day period.

It will commence with a short 10-minute presentation where we will outline our achievements in the mandatory criteria to the surveyors. Following this, the majority of the surveyors' time will then be spent reviewing evidence to verify our achievements and the progress made in addressing their recommendations from the last survey. The review will culminate with a summation from the surveyors on the organisation's performance.

Paul Tyne, Quality Improvement Manager, SCH

## Grand Rounds

John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Level 1, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

1700 every Wednesday - Refreshments 16:45.

Convened by A/Prof John Ziegler.

Grand Rounds will recommence on Wednesday, 2 February 2005.

### 1 December 2004

#### "Every Child Matters" - What does it mean for child health services?

Speaker: Prof Al Aynsley Green (National Clinical Director for Children)  
Co-ordinator: Heather Johnston  
Chairperson: Tim Bohane

### 8 December 2004

#### Christmas Party

### 15 December 2004

#### "An Update on Suicide in Younger Adolescents"

Speakers: Michael Fairley, Michael Dudley and Melissa Sankey  
Co-ordinator: Michael Fairley  
Chairperson: John Ziegler



## Community And Hospital News

### First Child In Australia To Receive Successful Double Cord Blood Transplant

Brad Hubbard is the first child in Australia to receive a novel form of transplant - not one but two separate cord blood units - at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

Researchers at the Minneapolis Transplant Centre in the US have identified that the use of two cord blood donations for transplant hastens engraftment (acceptance by the body) and improves the survival chances of patients. Brad's doctors and parents decided to proceed with a double cord blood transplant for him and he received two cord blood transplants on the 2nd July, 2004. One cord blood was obtained from the AusCord Australian network of cord blood banks and the second unit came from a European cord blood bank. The two units were from newborn babies of different sex and different blood groups.

These differences did not create any problems with the transplant. Brad has engrafted both cord blood units in a faster time than would normally be expected. Interestingly, one of the two cord blood units has now taken over - the female unit! The other cord blood unit seems to have facilitated the survival of the female cord blood unit to do its job more quickly.

### Sydney's Lord Mayor Welcomes Early Childhood Centre To Kings Cross

Lord Mayor Clover Moore welcomed the Sydney Children's Hospital Early Childhood Centre back to Kings Cross.

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, manages the Centre, offering health services to generations of mothers and babies in Kings Cross and surrounding suburbs, in a facility provided by Sydney City Council.

The Centre is located in the Reginald Murphy Community Centre at 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point and is open two days a week - Tuesday and Wednesday. Phone: (02) 9357 4851.



### SCH Volunteers Wear Their Hearts On Their Sleeves

As part of a team of ten volunteers from the Prince of Wales campus, eight Sydney Children's Hospital staff - five Intensive Care Unit nurses, two Cardiac surgeons and two Anaesthetists - participated in the 11th annual Operation Open-Heart program at Port Moresby.

Each year the team has increased its endeavours to treat as many patients as possible, especially as elective cardiac surgery is a luxury in New Guinea.

This year, an additional eleven patients underwent surgery, which brought the total to 53 patients! The majority were children under 10 years of age, with about three teens and 13 adults (mostly young). Three of our nurses and one surgeon were first time travelers, and found the experience extremely rewarding. They are all keen to repeat the experience.

Margaret Bresnahan, Equipment Co-ordinator Intensive Care Unit

### Successful Child Protection Week

Child Protection Week (5-11 September 2004) was a great success! A morning tea was held at the Child Protection Unit to celebrate the wonderful work that all staff across Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick do to protect children. About 50 people representing Randwick campus staff, and other community partners, including the Department of Community Services, attended the morning tea. The theme for this year was 'Child Protection is Everyone's Business', and indeed the work that all staff do in recognising and reporting suspected child abuse leads us towards a safer community for our children.

The staff from the Child Protection Unit and the PANOC Team (Area Child Protection Counselling Service) are available to consult on Child Protection matters and enquiries should be directed to 9382 1412.

Allison Rodger, Area Panoc Co-ordinator, Child Protection Unit, SCH

### Arts Program News

A painting of Steamboat Willie has been donated through the Cultural Gifts Program by the artist Dick Watkins and is now hanging in Allied Health to complement other works by Australian artists in the Unit.

Lesley Rosenberg, Arts Co-ordinator, SCH Arts Program

## Nursing Matters

### SCH Nursing Journal Club

To support practice improvement and change, the Clinical Nurse Consultants have restarted the Nursing Journal Club. The Journal Club will provide an opportunity for nurses throughout the Hospital to develop skills in evaluating, critiquing and presenting current health care literature.

Please come and join us to listen, discuss and learn from each other. We would like to encourage all staff to present a journal article in this forum. If you would like support to prepare a presentation, please contact one of the CNCs who will be happy to provide whatever support you need.

In 2005 the lunchtime Nursing Journal Club will be on the third Wednesday of each month from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Venues are yet to be determined.

Date: 16 February 2005  
Time: 2.30pm  
Topic: Childhood risk factors for the adult pain experience  
Presenter: Marita McInerney  
Location: TBA

## Sydney Children's Hospital Trauma Service Outreach Activities

Dr Anthony Dille (Trauma Director, Sydney Children's Hospital), Kellie Wilson (Trauma Clinical Nurse Consultant, Sydney Children's Hospital) and Anthony Cook (South East Health Area Trauma Coordinator) presented at the Rural Trauma Seminar at Merimbula on the NSW South Coast on November 5, 2004. This was an initiative of the NSW Paediatric Trauma Committee and The Institute of Trauma and Injury Management. There were 130 attendees including General Practitioners, Nursing staff, Pre-Hospital personnel, and Allied Health professionals.



Dr Anthony Dille presented an overview of the priorities of paediatric trauma management. Kellie Wilson gave a presentation on the management of paediatric burns and presented a case study on cervical spine injury. Anthony Cook gave a presentation on the emergency management of head injury. Debbie Andrews from NETS provided a presentation on preparation of the paediatric patient for transport and Paul Riley from the Ambulance Service of NSW provided a pre-hospital perspective of trauma management.

Didactic sessions were followed by a series of skills stations including: airway management, intravenous access and intraosseous insertion, and immobilisation of the cervical spine.

Feedback received has been very positive and further seminars have been requested. The seminar provided a valuable opportunity to interface with our rural colleagues and we look forward to future meetings.

Kellie Wilson, Trauma Clinical Nurse Consultant, SCH

## Pat On The Back

### Outstanding Performance

Dear Phyllis (Phyllis Davis, Manager, Operating Theatre Suite, POWH&SCH)

On the night of the 16 and 17 October 2004, an unplanned exit procedure was successfully performed at the Prince of Wales/Sydney Children's Hospital operating suite.

I am writing to commend your nursing staff, not only those who were on duty those nights or on call, but also staff members who attended despite the fact that they were not on call.

Despite the fact that an emergency craniotomy was being performed and that an urgent trauma procedure was about to be undertaken, all of your staff members enthusiastically co-ordinated the organisation and subsequent execution of this complex procedure. What was even more remarkable is that the procedure was an emergency one and therefore had not been rehearsed.

I counted 24 staff members in the operating theatre at the time of the procedure. This event really demonstrates how a group of dedicated individuals, who know one another well and have worked together for years, can perform superbly as a team even in difficult, unplanned circumstances.

Your nursing staff, who are key to this whole procedure, all performed superbly.

With kind regards, Dr Ian Jacobson.

### Oh What A Night!

The 2004 Rainbow Ball was held on Saturday, 23 October at the Four Seasons Hotel. A great night was had by all 380 guests and around \$40,000 was raised for the Allied Health Department at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and the children's wards at St George and Sutherland Hospitals. The Sydney Kids Committee would like to thank everyone who attended as well as the major sponsors of the event including Kwik Kopy Bondi Junction, Royal Brunei Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, NSW Sporting Goods Association, Citizen, Last Minute Locums and Westpac.



Antoinette Lawless (centre) receives her prize of a trip for two to London at the Rainbow Ball from Aji Puteh of Royal Brunei Airlines and Sydney Kids Committee Patron Amanda Keller

## Welcome To Foundation News

### Viva Las Vegas

Bar Cleveland was inundated with stars on the night of October 21. Comedians, magicians and an amazing troupe of showgirls all helped contribute to a fantastic fundraising event. It's been rumoured that even Elvis made an appearance.



### An Amber Affair - Say Cheers And Cheer Up A Sick Kid

Ten boutique breweries and 23 boutique beers served up a fabulous beer tasting in aid of the Sydney Children's Hospital at Lowenbrau Keller in the Rocks. Chuck Hahn lent his brewing expertise and Liz Deep-Jones from SBS television compered the night. All proceeds went to the Parents and Family Support Fund.

### Coogee Bay Golf Day

The generosity of the supporters of the Coogee Bay Hotel just seems endless. This year their annual golf day raised in excess of \$150,000. Their long-term support is greatly appreciated and we wish to especially thank Tim Cox yet again for his tireless effort.

### Happy Christmas And The Biggest Thank You

All the staff at the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation say thank you for all the help that the Hospital has given us throughout 2004. We wish you a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you again in the New Year!

### Christmas Closures

The Foundation, The Star Café and the SCH Gift Shop will be closed from 24 December 2004 and will reopen on Monday, 10 January 2005.

Look out for the new non-slip floor in the Star Café.

## Important Dates

The Way Forward Deadline

TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2005 (COMBINED JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE).

Employee of the Month Nomination Deadline

TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2005 (COMBINED JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE).

## Information Update

### Patient Friend Feedback

South East Health Consumer Recognition Awards were recently held during working hours. The fact that our consumers needed to send apologies - e.g. Merron Howard, the Chair of the SCH Parent and Consumer Council - highlights how much of their own time, energy and ideas they contribute each year to help us in the planning and review of service improvements. Many thanks to all of our consumers for their hard work and best wishes for the Festive Season. Coralie Lane, Patient Friend

### Tow Prizes 2004 - A Great Success For Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick

The Tow prizes are designed to foster the conduct of high quality research within the Hospital group and to provide an appropriate forum in which such research can be presented to the Hospital community.

Registrars, Fellows and researchers from Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick entered a large amount of scientific data for this year's prizes. We were very successful by winning three of the five divisions. Winners included:

Open Junior section - Dr Bryn Wainstein (Immunology Fellow).

Clinical Presentation - Dr Sarah Dalton (Emergency Department Fellow).

Poster Division - Dr Yvonne Belessis (Respiratory Medicine).

The Sydney Children's Hospital Senior staff also selected a runner up for each division including:

Clinical Division - Dr Sean Kennedy (Nephrology)

Poster - Dr Bronwyn Chan (General Paediatrics Fellow)

Prizes were very generous and included support of the Open Senior division by the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation.

Congratulations to all. For the first time there was a Nursing division prize. This is likely to continue, so start preparing for next year! (Editor's note: The Junior Staff would like to thank all their supervisors for their hard work, encouragement and support with these presentations, with a special thank-you to Dr John Lawson who played a key role as co-ordinator and advisor.)

Dr John Lawson, Neurology Department

### OHS Morning Tea

The OHS Committee from Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick recently held a morning tea and display of manual handling/medical safety equipment, which was very well attended. There was also an OHS Quiz and an opportunity to vote for the nursing staff who will be on the next OH&S Committee. Congratulations to those who won prizes in the quiz: A Koh, L Mady, A Goodear, K Hadfield, V Binns, A Kirby, H Murcutt and J Young.

SCH would like to thank the OHS Committee for arranging this very successful event, and for their time and enthusiastic efforts as Committee members over the last two and half years. The new OHS Committee (names will be announced shortly) will commence in February 2005.

Sonja Falkiner, OHS Coordinator, SCH, RHW, RCS, ISD & some Area Departments

### Sleep Unit Attends Australasian Sleep Association Meeting

The Sleep Unit at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick was well represented at the recent Australasian Sleep Association (ASA) Meeting held at Star City Casino. There was a record attendance of over 400 people from Australia, New Zealand, USA, Singapore, Hong Kong, Uruguay and India. Dr Greg Blecher, Sleep Medicine Fellow, presented a poster on children on non-invasive ventilation for Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome ("Ondine's curse"). A/Prof Michael Kiernan, who is spending his sabbatical in the Sleep Unit, presented a poster on the validation of a childhood sleep questionnaire on an Australian normative as well as sleep-disordered population. As well, Dr Arthur Teng was elected unopposed to a third term as honorary secretary of the ASA.

Dr Arthur Teng, Director, Sleep Medicine Unit, SCH



## Movers & Shakers

Amy McIntosh, Public Affairs Officer, has left Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick for the highly frenetic pace of PR agency life at Hausmann Communications. Amy has been with SCH for over two years and has been a driving force in promoting SCH throughout the media and the wider community. We wish her every success in her new position.

Congratulations to Dr Edwin Kirk (pictured), Clinical Geneticist, SCH, who recently received the Ralph Reader Prize (Clinical Section) for his research about Atrial Septal Defect (APD) or what is commonly known as "hole in the heart". Edwin received the award at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ), which was held in Brisbane. Edwin has been conducting his research jointly with Dr Changbaig Hyun and Professor Richard Harvey from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Unit, Dr Owen Jones from SCH and researchers from St Vincent's Hospital and The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Edwin's work is part of his PhD (UNSW) titled "Genetics of ASD".



Congratulations to Georgina Papaioannou who has been appointed as SCH's Health Education Manager. Georgina replaces Belinda Rose who has moved to the south coast of NSW.

Dr Arthur Teng (cello) and Dr Yashwant Sinha (violin) recently played in the Australian Doctor's Orchestra (NSW) "Musicus Medicus" at City Recital Hall, Angel Place. The concert was in aid of the Andrew Olle Memorial Trust and featured the talented 20-year-old pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk playing the Chopin Piano Concerto No.1 in E minor. Other pieces included the Egmont Overture by Beethoven and Ravel's Mother Goose Suite. The conductor was Nicolette Fraillon.

Neroli Dickson, Occupational Therapist, School Therapy Team, recently left SCH to work with the Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce (formerly known as GMTT) as one of three Transition Care Co-ordinators in NSW. Her focus will be the transition of adolescents with chronic illness from children's services to adult services. She is based at RPA and can be contacted on 0425 232 128.

Morag Maillie has been seconded to the position of Paediatric NUM Operating Suite. Heidi Zeman has gone on Maternity Leave. We wish Morag and Heidi well in their respective new roles.

Alison Dale has been seconded to the position of Education Officer (full-time temporary) for 12 months.

Catherine Donnellan has been appointed to the position of Nursing Unit Manager - Child & Family Health Services. Catherine previously held the position of A/NUM Child & Family Community Health, South Western Region, Illawarra Area Health Service.

Fran Stancombe recently resigned from Child & Family Health Services.

Paula McShane has resigned from the position of After Hours Hospital Co-ordinator.

Carolyn Smith has been appointed to the position of Resuscitation Training Officer for six months.

Congratulations to Irene Adam (Recreation and Play Therapy) - winner of the October Child Friendly Healthcare Initiative (CFHI) award! Irene has introduced a daily plan in C1South that details play activities patients participate in and lists the developmental goals that they are working towards. Families and staff on C1South are using this.

Dr Lettie Leung, Paediatrician from Kwong Wah Hospital in Hong Kong recently spent two weeks in a "mini-fellowship" at the Sleep Unit.

## Patient Services Activity Comparison

|  | September 2004 | September 2003 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Admissions</b>                                      | 1,199          | 1,313          |
| <b>Discharges</b>                                      | 1,204          | 1,327          |
| <b>Day only cases</b>                                  | 581            | 614            |
| <b>Hospital Average Length of Stay</b>                 | 3.0 days       | 2.8 days       |
| <b>Hospital Average Length of Stay (excl Day Only)</b> | 4.7 days       | 4.4 days       |
| <b>Occupancy</b>                                       | 93.80%         | 100%           |
| <b>Non admitted patients</b>                           | 23,401         | 22,840         |

## Mild, Mild West



Not only do they have to battle the drought, the locusts and the snakes, medical and nursing staff of regional areas in Western NSW, still have to manage very sick children without the infrastructure and expertise of tertiary hospitals.

The Area Health services have merged. The Greater West Area Health Service now covers a geographical area larger than Germany, but a population of only around 300,000. Often now referred to as ROTS (Rest of the State), medical and nursing staff are just priceless to their communities and would like to be understood and not criticised.

For paediatrics, the nearest base hospital is in Dubbo. From SCH, Dubbo is a picturesque drive of about 420km. While you are likely to encounter a hospital every 10-50km, for some Western patients, this can be as far and flat as 350km.

Most staff are still worried about treating children. Supported by one of the valuable GESCHN nurses, they are updated on skills, procedures and guidelines. Not all hospitals have doctors readily available and GPs cannot be expected to be experts in all fields. Some centres have locum doctors that frequently change and so it can be difficult to maintain a mainstream practice.

Commonly only nurses attend emergency rooms. They are infrequently handed distressed children and are asked to 'simply make better'. Ambulance officers often stay to assist with resuscitation until further help arrives. Stress levels mount when transporting children not knowing what the road trip may bring along with anxious parents and relatives.

Thankful to any feedback or other type of education regional staff are open for updates. GESCHN aims to make paediatric management easier for those disadvantaged geographically and complements teaching done locally and by NETS.

Dr Joe Khouri, GESCHN Paediatrician