



ST VINCENT'S CAMPUS  
ALUMNI

*Charity,  
Care & Compassion*

# Newsletter

August 2015

## Update

**The St Vincent's Campus continues to make significant breakthroughs in research, medicine and patient care.**

In February 2015, St Vincent's Public Hospital shifted services from five programs to four clinical streams, with each stream now led by a Clinical Director in partnership with a Clinical Manager. This change took place after much careful consultation and review. The new streams are Surgical, Heart/Lung, Medicine and Integrated Care.

The St Vincent's transplant team have produced a revolutionary advancement in cardiothoracic surgery, successfully implanting artificial valves while the patient's heart continued to beat. The procedure offers a much less invasive procedure than traditional heart surgery.

St Vincent's Lung Transplant team performed their first successful transplant using OCS (organ care system), also known as "lungs in a box", to transplant lungs from a marginal donor and allowing previously unusable organs to be revitalised in an external environment before transplantation.

Kinghorn Cancer Centre has opened a Wellness Centre featuring a dedicated acupuncture clinic and exercise physiologist the first of a range of holistic services planned to be offered to patients, staff and the general public.

Congratulations to St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney who have been awarded the Press Ganey Australia/ New Zealand Success Story of 2015 for its two pronged

innovation to improve the patient experience follow up calls following discharge and enhancement of bedside manner.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney was also awarded the inaugural ACHS Group medal in recognition of an outstanding contribution by a group to improving quality and safety in Australian health services in a manner consistent with the ACHS mission and values.

A planned neurology registrar's clinic will provide rapid assessment to patients with neurological symptoms and conditions. This initiative of St Vincent's Private Hospital is expected to enhance existing Neurological Services and increase patient referral numbers within the specialty. The registrar position is funded under the Commonwealth Extended Specialist Training Program.

A movement Disorder Service commenced in mid 2014 to support patients with Parkinson's Disease, unidentified tremors and other motor neurological conditions. This service complements existing St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney services such as the Apomine Service and Deep Brain Stimulation.

A Centre for Family Based Health is also being developed by St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney. The centre will be linked to U Space Young Adult Mental Health Programs. The aim is to train mental health nurses and to trial holistic, family-based mental health programs.

Construction of the St Vincent's Private Community Hospital in Griffith commenced in March. This venture will provide a much needed boost to healthcare services in

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the Western Riverina district of New South Wales. More about this can be read on page 3.

Four St Vincent's doctors were honoured in the Australia Day Honours list in January. Associate Professor Raymond Garrick, Dr David Golovsky, Associate Professor Phillip Stricker and Professor Denis Wakefield were all honoured by the Governor General. Professor Bruce Brew was honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June. Further details of these honours are included on pages 10 and 11.

Associate Professor Kelvin Kong spoke at the annual St Vincent's Alumni Dinner held at St Vincent's Clinic on 29 May. A/Prof Kong is the first Aboriginal Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Information and photos from the dinner are included on pages 6 to 9.

This month, St Vincent's Clinic celebrates 25 years of providing excellence in patient care, research and education as well as assisting the poor and vulnerable through Sisters of Charity Outreach. A nostalgic look back over the past 25 years is included on pages 4 and 5.

St Vincent's Clinic Foundation has announced \$1 million in funding for research grants for 2016. This brings the total amount of funding since the Foundation's inception to \$12 million.

## Pope Francis declares Mary Aikenhead venerable

**Mary Aikenhead, founder of the Sisters of Charity, was declared Venerable by Pope Francis on 18 March.**

When Mary Aikenhead set up her Congregation two hundred years ago, there were only a hundred women religious in Ireland, all enclosed contemplatives. Mary applied to Rome for permission for her Sisters to take a fourth vow of 'Service of the Poor', enabling them to visit poor people in their own homes; those who were sick and hungry and cold and penniless and with no one to turn to. In 1838 Mary Aikenhead sent five Sisters to Australia, the first women religious to set foot in this country. It was from this early presence that St Vincent's grew to be the caring organisation it is today.

Sister Clare Nolan, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of Australia, concurs with Sister Mary Christian, Congregational Leader of the Religious Sisters of Charity in Ireland that Mary Aikenhead was a woman ahead of her time.



Mary Aikenhead, Founder of the Sisters of Charity

"All around her Mary Aikenhead saw the plight of people who were poor and suffering. Her great faith and trust in Divine Providence enabled her and the first Religious Sisters of Charity to provide education for poor children, establish medical facilities for those in need of health care and to visit the sick and poor in their homes. In one of her letters we read that the sole purpose of the Congregation is: 'to lend our humble assistance to alleviate the sufferings of the poor of every creed.' Mary Aikenhead's life was not easy, but she never lost hope. Her life teaches and inspires us to dream courageous visions, to have compassion for human pain, to analyse unjust structures which are the cause of poverty, to work with others to solve problems and to remain resolute in the face of hardship."

# Construction Commences on St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith



A blessing and ground breaking ceremony for the new St Vincent's Private Community Hospital was held on 1 March

**Commencement of the construction of the new St Vincent's Private Community Hospital has commenced after an official blessing and ground breaking ceremony was held on 1 March.**

Federal Health Minister, The Hon. Sussan Ley and NSW Health Minister The Hon Jillian Skinner joined local members, St Vincent's Health Australia Chairman Paul Robertson AM and CEO Toby Hall, St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney CEO Robert Cusack, Sisters of Charity Congregational Leader Sr Clare Nolan rsc and other senior St Vincent's Private representatives in an official event to mark the commencement of construction.

St Vincent's Private Hospital CEO, Robert Cusack said: "The ground breaking and blessing signify an important milestone in this project of bringing a private hospital and clinical learning and teaching centre to the community of Griffith as well as the surrounding region of the Western Riverina. Our core aim is to improve access to health services for the people of Griffith and beyond.

St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith will include a 20 bed inpatient unit, two operating theatres and 20 day only beds alongside the Murrumbidgee Clinical Teaching and Learning Centre. With the Griffith Base Hospital and the interlinked clinical and teaching campus, the St Vincent's Community Hospital Griffith will boost the health care services for people of the Riverina.

# St Vincent's Clinic

## Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence

In 1983, Sr Mary Bernice Elphick, Administrator of St Vincent's Private Hospital, realised that the hospital needed to expand its services on campus. Around the same time a group of St Vincent's doctors led by Dr John Roarty met to consider the possibility of building a clinic similar to the Mayo Clinic in the USA. Both parties realised they needed each other's expertise to succeed and St Vincent's Clinic became a collaborative effort between the St Vincent's doctors and the Sisters of Charity.

At the end of 1985, a steering committee led by Dr John Roarty was formed. The St Vincent's Private Hospital Forward Planning Committee recommended that the land adjacent to the south of St Vincent's Private Hospital (Penn's Hardware and a used car yard) be considered as a location for the clinic. The land was purchased in 1988 and the Sisters of Charity approved the building of what would become St Vincent's Clinic.

In 1990, St Vincent's Clinic finally opened its doors to offer a specialty clinic offering a broad range of specialists and diagnostic services under one roof.

St Vincent's Clinic has since grown into a multidisciplinary centre of excellence providing a comprehensive range of services that continues to pride itself on its ongoing role in healthcare leadership and expertise. In particular, it continues to be true to its founding aspirations of excellence in patient care, education and research.

Besides its commitment to patients, St Vincent's Clinic continues to work with the poor and marginalised through Sisters of Charity Outreach and provides funding for research through the St Vincent's Clinic Foundation.



Sr Mary Bernice Elphick and Dr Roarty



Penn's Hardware on the site of what is now St Vincent's Clinic



St Vincent's Clinic today

# St Vincent's Clinic

## Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence

### Outreach

The story of Sisters of Charity Outreach is entwined with that of St Vincent's Clinic. When the clinic was proposed, Sister Mary Maguire had some concerns about its establishment. She believed that the sisters should be working with the poor as directed by Mary Aikenhead, the founder of the congregation. After much consideration, she approved the building of St Vincent's Clinic on the condition that it include a service that reached out to the poor and vulnerable. Her words were:

"No outreach, no clinic!"

Sisters of Charity Outreach was officially opened in 1990, the same year as St Vincent's Clinic, and it continues to serve the poor and vulnerable through visit programs for socially isolated people, providing refuge to those escaping domestic violence, assisting people attending court, providing transport for country patients attending medical appointments in Sydney, assisting carers of patients and assisting recent arrivals to Australia to settle into the community.



Sr Eileen Browne, Sr St Jude Doyle and Sr Elaine Lum - founding members of Sisters of Charity Outreach in 1990

### St Vincent's Clinic Foundation

The founding doctors of St Vincent's Clinic and Sister Bernice believed that research and education were essential to continued excellence in patient care. In 1991, St Vincent's Private Hospital gave the sum of \$1,000 (in trust) to St Vincent's Clinic to establish a trust fund to be known as the St Vincent's Clinic Foundation. The St Vincent's Clinic Foundation was formally established in 1992 with the aim of strengthening the research and education aims of St Vincent's Clinic. Since its establishment, St Vincent's Clinic Foundation has widened its funding scope for research, including the patient focused multidisciplinary grants for nursing and allied health research. From a humble beginning, St Vincent's Clinic Foundation has grown to have assets of over \$15 million and a commitment to continue funding research across the St Vincent's Campus, pledging \$1 million in research funding for 2016.



St Vincent's Clinic Foundation Research Grant recipients 2014

# St Vincent's Alumni Dinner 2015

**The 2015 St Vincent's Campus Alumni dinner was held in the St Vincent's Clinic Function Room on 29 May.**

117 Campus Alumni came together to meet, exchange stories, celebrate being part of the St Vincent's family. Guest speaker, Associate Professor Kelvin Kong, the first Aboriginal Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, led the audience through his journey so far – interspersing facts about his family, with stories of his medical training and practice alongside interesting information on native flora and fauna. This was a poignant talk as the Alumni Dinner coincided with National Reconciliation Week

Associate Professor Kong hails from Shoal Bay and the Worimi people of Port Stephens, north of Newcastle. He completed his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at the University of NSW in 1999. He embarked on his internship at St Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst and pursued a surgical career, completing resident medical officer and registrar positions at Westmead Hospital, John Hunter Hospital, Gosford District Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and the final year of his training completed at St Vincent's Hospital, fittingly where his career started.

Along the way, he has also been privileged in serving the rural community through secondments to peripheral hospitals. He is now a qualified Surgeon specialising in Adult & Paediatric Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery (Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery), being Australia's first (and currently only) Aboriginal Surgeon.

He is part of a strong, medical family, his mother is a nurse, his sister Marlene is a General Practitioner and her twin Marilyn, is Australia's first Aboriginal Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. Being surrounded by health, he has always championed for the improvement of Indigenous health and education. Complementing his surgical training, he has been involved in numerous projects and committees to help promote Indigenous education and health.

Alumni President Dr Tony Williams praised the work of Associate Professor Kong:

"We were humbled by the work and dedication you have achieved in the space of such a short time. The need is obviously great and the rewards must give you great



A Prof Kelvin Kong speaks at the Alumni dinner

satisfaction. Just to tackle deafness in great numbers in disadvantaged children is an enormous task, let alone all the other work and travel you have undertaken."

The Annual General Meeting of the St Vincent's Campus Alumni was held along with the election of the Committee as follows:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| President -      | Dr Tony Williams   |
| Vice President - | Adrienne Richardson  |
| Secretary -      | Samantha Newell (ex officio)   |
| Treasurer -      | Patricia Reed  |
| Members -        | Anne Sheridan, Margaret Barker,<br>Sr Anthea Groves, RSC (ex officio), Michelle Wilson (ex officio), Dr Michael Jensen & Mr Don Melley |

# St Vincent's Alumni Dinner 2015



The Alumni Committee with A/Prof Kelvin Kong (third from right)



Dr and Mrs Brian Sheridan



Mrs Helen Campion and Sr Marie Stanley



Dr John Roarty OAM and Dr Kevin Bleasel



Father Darryl Mackie and Father Bob Walsh



Sr Angela Burke, Sr Jennifer Fahey and Rosemary Mann



Sr Anthea Groves and Prof Don Chisholm



Dr Kevin Bleasel, Dr John Tonkin and Dr Malcolm Pell

# St Vincent's Alumni Dinner 2015



Ronnie Spencer and Ron Spencer



Max Coleman, Ron Spencer, Michael Jensen, Ronnie Spencer and Tony Graham



Patricia Reed and Margaret Barker



A/Prof Kelvin Kong and Sr Anthea Groves



Mary Malloy and Ronald Benson



Margaret Barker, Anne Sheridan, Patricia Reed and Kelvin Kong



Bill Herlihy, Agnes Herlihy and Bob McGuinness



Dympna Kava, Karen Fisher and Madonna Kava



# St Vincent's Alumni Dinner 2015



Tony Williams and Patricia Reed



Mary Rose Williams



Anne Lyons and Elizabeth Farrer



Margaret and John Barker



Michael Jensen and Kelvin Kong



Jim Biggs and Elena Shklovskaya



Sr Anthea Groves and Kiarra Mitchell



Sr Margaret Fitzgerald and Alexander Walker

# Queen's Birthday Honours List

## Professor Bruce Brew

Professor Bruce Brew was recognised as Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2015 for significant service to medicine particularly the neurological impacts of HIV/AIDS, as a clinician and researcher and to medical education.

Professor Brew is the Director of Peter Duncan Neurosciences at the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research where he specialises in inflammatory neurological diseases such as the effect of HIV/AIDS on the brain. Prior to this he held roles as the director of Medicine at the Neurosciences Unit, Head of the Neurosciences Unit and Senior Staff specialist at St Vincent's Hospital. He has also been the Head of the Applied Neurosciences program at St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research since 2005 and is a member of the Clinical Research Advisory Group, the Management Committee and Chairman of the Library Committee.

He is also Professor of Medicine (Neurology) at the University of New South Wales and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame Australia.

Professor Brew has been an invited member of the Board of Directors, International Society for Neurology, since 1999 and a member of the Neuroimmunology and Virology Research Group at the World Federation of Neurology since 1996.



## Australia Day Honours List

Four members of the St Vincent's community were acknowledged in the 2015 Australia Day Honours List presented by the Governor General of Australia. Congratulations Associate Professor Raymond Garrick (AM), Dr David Golovsky (AM), Associate Professor Phillip Stricker (AO) and Professor Denis Wakefield (AO).

## Associate Professor Raymond Garrick

Associate Professor Raymond Garrick was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to medicine in the field of chronic pain management and to medical education as an academic.

Associate Professor Garrick has been head of St Vincent's and Mater Clinical School, University of Notre Dame, since 2009. He is Conjoint Senior Lecturer in Medicine at University of New South Wales and a former consultant tutor of the year award recipient.

He has been an Honorary Medical Officer (neurologist) at St Vincent's Hospital since 2009. Prior to this, he was a Visiting Medical Officer for 27 years, Director of Neurophysiology for 10 years and was involved in establishing an acute and chronic pain service at St Vincent's. He was a member of the St Vincent's Medical Advisory Committee from 1992 to 2002, including the role of Chairman from 1999 to 2002.



# Australia Day Honours List

## Dr David Golovsky

Dr David Golovsky was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order Of Australia for significant service to medicine, particularly in the fields of urology and fertility.

Dr Golovsky was a member of the Urology Department at St Vincent's Hospital and is currently also compiling a history of the department. He was an Honorary Medical Officer and Visiting Urologist at St Vincent's Hospital from 1978 to 2008 and Head of the Department of Urology from 1995 to 2008.

Dr Golovsky was also a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of St Vincent's Foundation from 1995 to 2003.



## Associate Professor Phillip Stricker

Associate Professor Phillip Stricker was awarded Officer (AO) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to medicine and medical research as a leading urologist, a robotic surgery pioneer, a teacher and mentor and as an advocate for prostate cancer awareness.

A/Prof Stricker is Chairman of the Department of Urology at St Vincent's Private Hospital and St Vincent's Clinic. In 2006 he performed the first robotic surgery undertaken in NSW. He is the Manager of the Robotic Fellowship Training Program and Research Fellowship and Director of the St Vincent's Prostate Cancer Council.

In 1996 A/Prof Stricker initiated the first prostate cancer support group in Australia. He is the Director of the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre NSW and the Clinical Director of Prostate Cancer Research at the Kinghorn Cancer Centre and Clinical Head Uro-Oncology Research Unit, Garvan Institute of NSW.



## Professor Denis Wakefield

Professor Denis Wakefield was awarded Officer (AO) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to medicine, particularly in the field of ocular immunology and immunopathology as a clinician, researcher and academic.

Professor Wakefield established the first ocular immunology research unit at St Vincent's Hospital and the first dedicated inflammatory eye disease clinic in Australia.

He was the Associate Dean, (Research) and Director of Medical Research in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales from 2008 to 2014.



# St Vincent's Private Hospital Redevelopment Update

Following the SVHA Board approval in June 2014 to proceed with the \$115 million redevelopment of the Hospital, including both expansion and renovation plans, project planning is progressing well. Highlights of the development include:

- Monthly Campus Coordination Meetings between St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney and St Vincent's Clinic will continue throughout the project and will oversee the resolution of issues including car parking, traffic and interfaces between the ongoing operations of the hospitals and the construction works.
- A financial analysis has been prepared for the possible extension of the underground car park in the Public Hospital and this is being discussed with St Vincent's Health Network Sydney and the TSVH.
- Design Development commenced in November 2014 and is currently being concluded. A broad cross section of our medical specialists have provided valuable input into these design meetings, a number of which were specifically arranged to obtain medical input
- The State Significant Development Application (SSDA) was lodged in March 2015 and the public exhibition period closed at the end of May 2015. There have been no significant objections to the scope or design of the redevelopment and the project team is currently preparing responses to the issues raised by the City of Sydney and Department of Planning & Environment. Buildcorp was appointed as Contractor in January 2015 under an Early Contractor Involvement arrangement and is assisting with the project design and detailed construction planning, particularly in regard to minimising the impact of construction on the operation of our hospitals on the campus.
- Subject to obtaining St Vincent's Health Australia and Authority approvals, the project timeframe includes the construction of the new East Wing and new CSSD from October 2015 to April 2017 and the refurbishment of the existing inpatient units and associated works from June 2017 to the end of 2018.



A model of the proposed St Vincent's Private Hospital Redevelopment

## Privacy

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