

ST VINCENT'S Voice

APRIL 2019 – ISSUE 18

The latest staff and community
news from
ST VINCENT'S HEALTH
NETWORK SYDNEY

ST VINCENT'S WELCOMES OUR NEWEST RECRUITS

Inside this edition:

- TAVI Innovations at St Vincent's
- St Vincent's opens the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre





A/PROF
ANTHONY SCHEMBRI

CEO, St Vincent's Health
Network Sydney

This edition of St Vincent's Voice represents a lot of renewal, featuring numerous fresh faces and ideas.

In many respects, particularly as one of Australia's oldest hospitals, I find renewal a very reassuring phenomenon, and I am delighted to report that in terms of key areas of our workforce including junior doctors and nursing graduates, that we continue to attract the cream of the crop. I have no doubt that these fresh faces will bring with them fresh ideas – ensuring that we continue our legacy of being an innovative Campus – often willing to think outside the square.

On the subject of fresh ideas, this edition features some exciting new projects from innovative NGO partnerships to end homelessness in inner-city Sydney to a ground-breaking study in improving diabetes diagnosis and treatment.

Enjoy,
Anthony

+ SHORT SHARP



Welcome Interns

In January we welcomed 37 new interns to St Vincent's for 2019! During orientation, they met with CEO A/Prof Anthony Schembri who gifted them with the St Vincent's Mary Aikenhead pin.



Nursing Graduation

A big congrats to our Cardiothoracic, Intensive Care and Perioperative postgrad nurses who recently graduated. We're very proud of all you have achieved and so glad you chose to take your careers to the next level at St Vincent's!

For info on our postgraduate courses see nursingatstvincents.org.au

TAVI Innovations

The first successful Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) in the Southern Hemisphere utilising the transcaval technique was recently performed on the St Vincent's campus.

Patients with diseased or small veins and arteries who have previously been deemed inappropriate for traditional TAVI procedures are now being given the opportunity to have this operation. The procedure is more comfortable and patients are up and moving within 1-2 hours post procedure.

Music to our ears



A Sound Life volunteers with Team 7 North and Volunteer Coordinator, Christine Harvey

Recently a wonderful group of musicians from volunteer organisation, A Sound Life, came to St Vincent's to share their mission to transform the lives of people in need and improve their health, wellbeing and happiness through music.

Performing bedside on our Neurological ward, they gave us song, dance, laughter and tears as our dedicated

team watched a non-verbal, paralysed patient moving a hand in time with the music; and a long term patient with a head trauma injury, dancing with joy.

We're very much looking forward to working with A Sound Life to make musical therapy a regular event for our patients.

Kirby Institute and St Vincent's welcome new Director



Prof Anthony Kelleher

Prof Anthony Kelleher has been announced as the new Director of the Kirby Institute, following the passing of inaugural Director, Prof David Cooper last year.

Beginning his career at St Vincent's Hospital during the height of the HIV epidemic, Prof Kelleher has gone on to leadership roles at UNSW and Kirby Institute, where he now takes his role as Director.

"It is a true honour to be named Director of the Kirby institute and I am excited by the challenge of growing the impact of the Institute's research even further by working closely with its strong academic and research support teams" says Professor Kelleher.

Supporting Holocaust Survivors

St Vincent's has recently taken on a training program that educates staff on how to effectively treat patients who have lived through the Holocaust, in a culturally respectful way.

The course dives into potential triggers that can reinvolve trauma, weaken trust and in some cases, prevent a patient from completing their treatment. Understanding the cause of these triggers and their potential impact on a patient is an important step in the provision of empathetic care. Having the tools to handle certain situations differently, means that patients who are living with this particular trauma can be treated in a way that acknowledges, understands and honours the patients' history.

To find out more about this program, please contact Margaret Lazar, Director of Allied Health, at margaret.lazar@svha.org.au



Manny Vinoya & Peter Honeyman

Congrats to our Graduate Trainees

Congratulations to Peter Honeyman who has been appointed as St Vincent's Health Network Sydney's first Indigenous Graduate Management Trainee.


The trainee program provides participants with training and experiences in all aspects of the Hospitals' operations and aims to prepare and encourage talented young people to become future leaders within the organisation.

Peter has taken on the role following the successful completion of the program by Manny Vinoya,

who is now moving on to work in the Acute Care Stream.

Peter, who previously worked as Senior Aboriginal Health Worker at St Vincent's, is the first internal appointment to the trainee program in over 10 years.

"We're extremely happy to have Peter as our Graduate Management Trainee for 2019. He's shown terrific promise and aptitude in his time at St Vincent's. And all of us who have worked with Manny are very proud of his achievements and his commitment to our mission," said A/Prof Schembri.

 Inspired to lead



Announcing the Retirement of Professor Jo-anne Brien.

Since 2000, Professor Jo-anne Brien has held the role of inaugural Chair in Clinical Pharmacy at St Vincent's Hospital and the University of Sydney; and is a conjoint Professor of Medicine at St Vincent's Hospital Clinical School, UNSW.

Jo-anne's tenure in her role at St Vincent's has been instrumental in establishing the team's highly regarded research profile. Her own research to support best practice and development of new service models in Clinical Pharmacy along with her commitment to Quality Use of Medicines has enabled her to take on major leadership roles on key expert committees of the Federal and State Governments, including membership of the Management Committee of the NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group, Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee of Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and the PICO Advisory Sub-Committee for the Medical Services Advisory Committee.

Jo-anne has held many high

profile roles in tandem, including Chairperson of the NSW Branch of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia, Associate Editor for the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice, and Editor in Chief of the Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research.

Chair of the St Vincent's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee and Deputy Chair of the St Vincent's Hospital Drug and Therapeutics Committee, Jo-anne's work has seen her focus on many challenging ethical health issues and her commitment to both clinical ethics and governance, is evident not only in the committees she has served over many years, but in the compassionate way in which she has undertaken these roles.

Jo-anne's calm and considered approach to leadership has earned her great respect from her colleagues. She has been an unwavering source of support, encouragement and acted as mentor for the St Vincent's Pharmacy team as well as her students. Having supervised 35 postgraduate research students, Jo-anne was awarded the 'Best Consultant Tutor' at St Vincent's Clinical School in 2006.

It is with gratitude and respect, that we wish Jo-anne a wonderful and well-earned retirement.

Jo-anne will remain in her role as Chair of the Ethics Committee but will conclude her remaining roles in November, following some long service leave.

St Vincent's Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre



St Vincent's has opened the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre, providing dedicated cardiac CT and dedicated cardiac MRI services.

The Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre is part of the establishment of the St Vincent's Heart Lung Vascular Institute and is already up and running. 387.5 square metres of space (former renal dialysis space)

has been allocated for this purpose on Level 2 of the Xavier Building.

St Vincent's has committed to the establishment of the Heart Lung Vascular Institute as one of its major strategic goals, and will be the flagship service for St Vincent's Health Network Sydney.

Diabetes study published

Congratulations to CNC Joanne Taylor, Prof Lesley Campbell, Prof Jerry Greenfield and team who recently had a study published in the Internal Medicine Journal on diabetes prevalence and insulin medication errors in hospital patients. The team conducted a hospital-wide survey of every admitted patient in St Vincent's and Sacred Heart, as well as non-admitted patients in Emergency.

Results showed that one in five patients had diabetes, but that the prevalence was much higher amongst cardiac, cardiothoracic and haematology oncology patients.

The research findings have resulted in increased diabetes services to the specific wards where diabetes prevalence is much higher, new prescribing guidelines to assist doctors in prescribing insulin as well as the provision of departmental education.



L-R: Jane Ludington, Pharmacist; Joanne Taylor, CNC; and Prof Jerry Greenfield



St Joseph's prayers for Christchurch victims

During the recent St Joseph's Day Celebrations and Mass, staff held a candle-lighting ceremony and observed a minute's silence to remember the victims and families of the Christchurch terrorist attack.

"Our message is that we stand as one with our Muslim brothers and sisters and our heart goes out to all in our local community who have been profoundly affected by this act", said Matthew Bullen, St Joseph's Mission Integration Manager.

As-salamu alaykum.
(Peace be upon you)

St Vincent's commits to end Street Sleeping

St Vincent's was proud to sign a joint commitment with the Institute of Global Homelessness and partner NGOs to work towards significantly reducing street sleeping in the City of Sydney.

Together with the NSW Government, City of Sydney, Institute of Global Homelessness, St Vincent's de Paul, Mission Australia, Salvation Army, Wesley Mission, Neami

National and foundations, we are aiming to:

- Reduce rough sleeping in the City of Sydney by 25% by 2020
- Reduce rough sleeping in the City of Sydney and NSW by 50% by 2025
- Work toward zero rough sleeping in the City of Sydney and NSW. Ambitious, but achievable when we work together as a community.



The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian announces our joint commitment.

SV Inspired to care

Goodbye and good luck!

St Vincent's Health Network is saddened to announce the retirement of our very dear colleague John Geoghegan, who will shortly finish his current role at St Joseph's.

John's last official working day will be the 31 May, after which he will then commence long service leave prior to retirement.

John has been a driving force at St Joseph's for over 24 years. His roles have been diverse, including Onsite Operational manager, Member of the Hospital Leadership Team, and Hospital Disaster Controller. John has fulfilled a myriad of other less formal roles from egg-nog bootlegger to "Ice Bucket Challenge" veteran – having been frozen on the front lawn more times than he'd probably care to remember – but raising a fortune for our MND services in the process.

Starting his career as a registered nurse, John has since gained a Bachelor of Nursing, Master of

Management, Master of Health Science (Honours) and a Graduate Certificate in Leadership in Catholic Culture at several universities. Currently John is enrolled in a Doctor of Health program undertaking a revelatory case study investigating what consumers and care givers value in standalone public subacute hospital.

But perhaps more important than all his achievements, is the fact that John has always been a quintessentially kind gentleman, making all our staff feel valued and welcome. John's career at St Joseph's will long be remembered as one that embodies our mission and values to a tee. Thank you for your service John, and God speed.



John partaking in the annual St Joseph's Ice Bucket Challenge



St Vincent's Telehealth

For people who live in a rural or remote area it can be difficult to access specialist healthcare services, often requiring long distance travel and subsequent accommodation costs as well as separation from support networks, only adding to the stress of being unwell.

Telehealth can help people living in rural and remote areas to access specialist services with greater ease and reduced waiting times. In some cases, you can see a specialist sooner via a Telehealth consultation.

During a Telehealth consultation, the patient and their healthcare professional will speak to each other via phone or a video call – similar to Face Time or Skype.

While Telehealth doesn't replace all face-to-face consultations, the additional phone and video calls help to support a person's treatment plan. St Vincent's already have 38 services and over 80 trained clinicians ready to support our patients and caregivers via Telehealth.

For access, training and support please contact Majid Shahi, Project Manager – Telehealth SVHNS on (02) 93555712; Mob: 0417664707; E: Majid.Shahi@svha.org.au

For more information see www.svhs.org.au/telehealth

Feature interview with

LEE SMITH

Aboriginal Health Worker, Parklea Correction Centre

Lee is in training to be the Aboriginal Health Worker at Parklea Correctional Centre. Prior to this, he worked at St Joseph's Hospital for almost four years as a Hospital Assistant.



What did you love most about working at St Joseph's?

My job at St Joseph's was my first role in the hospital industry, which was a great opportunity. It's a small hospital and the feel of the hospital is good. I made some strong relationships with the staff there, and I was able to meet a lot of people from different nationalities through the hospital and the community.

What motivates you on a daily basis?

Getting up each day with the thought that maybe I can change one person's life, or their way of thinking. And going to Parklea, I'm motivated by the opportunity to be able to help in any way possible out there, to change anyone's life or way of thought.

Tell us one of your favourite memories during your time at St Joseph's?

It was great to be able to build a relationship with my boss out there, I guess most of the time, we see them more than we see our families. St Joseph's was good, and I was sad to leave them, they became family after a while.

What is your proudest moment?

It would have to be my kids; seeing the achievements they've made in their lives, being there to witness it and being able to be a part of their life.

What would your advice be to other Indigenous people who were thinking of working within the St Vincent's family?

I'd tell them that if the opportunity presented itself to grab it with both hands. It's a great organisation to work for, it really is. It's like a big family network, everyone looks after each other and that's good.

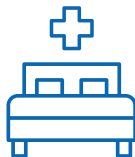
What are you most looking forward to about your new role at Parklea?

I'm looking forward to being a support base for the Aboriginal inmates out there, it's something that's really needed. I'm looking forward to being able to help out wherever I can. So, when the opportunity presented itself to go work at Parklea, I thought it might be a good career path and a good change, and I wanted to be able to help with Aboriginal health.

FACTS + FIGURES

38,208

Bed days Oct-Dec 2018

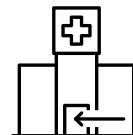


3.4 DAYS

Average length of stay
Oct-Dec 2018

11,345

Patients admitted between
Oct-Dec 2018



svhn.voice@svha.org.au

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FRONT COVER: OUR 2019 JUNIOR MEDICAL OFFICERS.