

St Vincent's Voice

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

JULY 2016 — ISSUE 09

The Duchess of York visits St Vincent's

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St Vincent's receives major
HIV cancer grant

St Vincent's Sonographers
win Workplace of the Year

New National Geographic
documentary at St Vincent's

A message from Anthony Schembri



CEO, ST VINCENT'S HEALTH NETWORK SYDNEY

Fr Darryl Mackie is quoted in this edition of St Vincent's Voice as saying "you feel his warm presence" in reference to his recent meeting with Pope Francis.

We receive countless messages of praise from grateful patients which is extremely heartening, but the truth is we often feel a sense of pride and privilege to be able to look after those who seek our help at St Vincent's. Indeed, often when I have an opportunity to meet patients, I am struck by their warm presence.

Recently, I have had the opportunity to meet with clients from Stanford House since the service moved to St Vincent's and I have no doubt that we will be able to make a major difference to their lives as we do across all our clinical services.

We talk a lot about our mission to see, serve and strive for something greater and in reading through this edition of St Vincent's Voice, I feel that you get a real sense of this mission.



Short & Sharp

Prof Glanville announced President Elect



Congratulations to Professor Allan Glanville, Director of Thoracic Medicine, who was recently named President Elect for the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand.

"It is a humbling experience to be recognised in this way by one's peers. This election result recognises the premier position of St Vincent's Hospital in so many domains in the field of thoracic medicine and is a direct credit to the Department.

"We have a great team, a wonderful spirit and can achieve incredible outcomes driven by our mission and values", said Prof Glanville of this achievement.

St Vincent's to shine in new documentary

St Vincent's is proud to be participating in an internationally commissioned National Geographic documentary series about breakthrough treatments. The six-part series will focus on frontier medical science through the patients' journey.

This is an exciting opportunity to showcase our specialists using cutting-edge technology and innovation to improve patient outcomes. The show will be broadcast in January 2017 on the National Geographic channel in 13 countries worldwide and on Fox in Australia.



Gorman House set to evolve

St Vincent's detox unit, Gorman House, is currently undergoing refurbishment and is set to become a fully medicated withdrawal unit when it re-opens in September 2016.

"Although the 'social detox' method of withdrawal was innovative in 1982 when the Sisters of Charity first opened Gorman House, careful analysis and new research has shown that as our patients' health needs have become more complex, a new model of care is needed", said A/Prof Nadine Ezard, Director of Alcohol and Drug Services at St Vincent's.



SERVING SOMETHING GREATER

SARAH FERGUSON EMBRACES
SR SESARINA BAUDR TERESA ANDERSON, CE, SYDNEY
LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT WITH
A/PROF ANTHONY SCHEMBRI

The Duchess of York opens Stanford House

Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson recently opened Stanford House on the St Vincent's Campus, a supported accommodation service for people living with HIV who have complex health needs. The home has capacity for four clients for up to three months, and also offers outreach services for clients and past residents, previously based at Stanmore.

The primary objective of Stanford House is to support people living with HIV who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or living with a drug, alcohol or mental health condition. Services at Stanford House include providing assistance with basic accommodation, food, and emotional support; as well as their clinical management and treatments, with the ultimate goal of supporting clients to transition into independent living.

During the opening, CEO of St Vincent's Health Network Sydney A/Prof Anthony Schembri said "We're delighted to have the Duchess with us today to open this vital service. Along with our partners, the Committee of Stanford House and Sydney

Local Health District, I know our clients will get the best care and effectively link with the vital supports within our community."

A special mention was made of the St Vincent's Curran Foundation who contributed \$70,000 towards the fit-out of Stanford House, raised through the HIV Future Fund.

As well as officially opening Stanford House, the Duchess of York also took the time to meet staff and patients from the Hospital's Heart and Lung Unit as well as Cancer Services and ICU.

For more information on the HIV Future Fund, please visit <http://supportstvincents.com.au/HIVFuturefund>

STAFF NEWS

Fr Darryl's once in a lifetime meeting

Hospital Chaplain, Fr Darryl Mackie recently experienced a privilege beyond measure.

Following his annual pilgrimage to Ireland to trace the footsteps of the Sisters of Charity, Darryl travelled on to Rome after he was invited to celebrate Mass with none other than Pope Francis. Fr Darryl said, "Wow!! On meeting the Holy Father, you feel his warm presence in his embrace. I told him I work in a hospital in Australia that cares for the poor and sick and his eyes lit up. He said 'God bless you brother for your work and on your hospital'. It was then that he imparted his blessing... to all of us!"



SEEING SOMETHING GREATER

Data mining to improve personalised cancer care

St Vincent's Hospital in collaboration with the Garvan Institute of Medical Research have awarded Dr Frank Lin the 2016 Shine Translational Research Fellow. As an advanced physician trainee in oncology, Dr Lin will undertake a novel data mining project to support personalised cancer care.

The Shine Translational Research Fellowship Program was jointly established by St Vincent's and the Garvan to support clinicians. It provides them with an opportunity to participate in research, and to facilitate the translation of research discoveries directly into clinical practice.

Dr Lin's research will focus on unlocking important predictive information that is 'hidden' within medical records

that could help guide how clinicians treat individuals with cancer. "Not only is there an enormous amount of information encoded within electronic medical records (EMRs), but there are patterns within that information that can help predict likely outcomes for individual patients," says Dr Lin.

"Those patterns can be difficult or impossible for clinicians to detect on a case-by-case basis – but by applying



systematic text mining approaches to EMRs, we hope to uncover those hidden patterns and help guide therapeutic decisions in treating an individual with cancer."

"I am very grateful for this opportunity. The Fellowship has jump-started the possibilities for me to explore how best to use advanced computational methods to benefit patients in the clinic" he said.

SEEING SOMETHING GREATER



New clinical trial program to prevent and treat HIV associated cancers

Dr Mark Polizzotto, a St Vincent's Haematologist and Kirby Institute researcher has been awarded a major Cancer Institute NSW grant to develop a clinical trial program in cancers associated with HIV infection. The goal of the prestigious five year Future Research Leaders Fellowship is to develop new therapies to improve outcomes for people with HIV and cancer.

"People living with HIV remain at a substantially elevated risk of cancer, with cancer now being the leading cause of death in this group," said Dr Polizzotto. "As people with HIV live longer, cancers are becoming increasingly important causes of morbidity and mortality, however people living with HIV are excluded from standard clinical trials of new cancer therapies, partly due to the complexity of their medical condition.

It is therefore essential that dedicated trials are available to enable them to reap the benefits of rapid and ongoing advances in cancer therapy".

As part of this new clinical research program, Mark has led the development of a new collaboration with the US

National Cancer Institute AIDS Malignancy Consortium, the peak clinical trial group for HIV-associated malignancies globally. This has enabled the establishment of an AIDS Malignancy Consortium clinical trial site at St Vincent's and the Kirby Institute, their first core site outside the United States. Through this collaboration, Australian patients with HIV-associated cancers will be able to access these innovative trials of new therapies for the first time.

Additionally, the grant also includes support for trials in the prevention of certain HIV-associated cancers and the establishment of a clinical biobank to support future basic and translational research in the field.

SERVING SOMETHING GREATER



A/PROF BERNADETTE TOBIN

Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to Dr Bernadette Tobin on being made an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to education and philosophy and to the development of bioethics in Australia – such a wonderful and deserving honour.

St Vincent's Health Network is very much the beneficiary of Bernadette's distinguished service and the Campus as a whole is a greater place, owing to her wisdom and support.

Additionally, two of our senior long-serving medical specialists were awarded Queens Birthday Honours for their wonderful contributions to clinical practise as well as medical education. Associate Professor Brett Courtenay and Associate Professor David Bryant were both awarded Medals of the Order of Australia. While representing two entirely different specialities (Orthopaedic and Thoracic Medicine), both of these clinicians epitomise our mission and values and share a impressive track record for providing compassionate care and fostering a culture of learning and teaching on the Campus.

Congratulations.

SEEING SOMETHING GREATER

Riders Caring for Riders

The first of its kind in NSW, St Vincent's Riders Caring for Riders program is helping injured motorcyclists on the road to recovery.

The Motorcycle Accident Rehabilitation Initiative (MARI), a rehabilitation and referral service for motorcyclists presenting to our Emergency Department, is one of only two support services for injured riders in Australia and is a collaborative effort between St Vincent's Trauma Service, Emergency and Rehabilitation Departments. The program offers ongoing medical and rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, psychology and support with legal and insurance requirements. Volunteers – fellow riders – provide additional at home support where needed and continuously raise funds through events, rallies and motorcycle clubs for additional services.

The program was developed in response to research indicating that up to one third of people involved in motor vehicle crashes continue to suffer post-traumatic stress disorder at least one year post injury, and up to half experience depression six months post injury. In context of this, Prof Steven Faux and his team of researchers recently completed a trial on early rehabilitation intervention following road trauma. The first of its kind in Australia, the trial was conducted in partnership with Westmead, Liverpool, St George and Wollongong Hospitals.

This study revealed that early rehabilitation intervention is effective in having injured riders back to work or usual activities by three months.



A/PROF STEVEN FAUX AT THE LAUNCH OF ONE OF MARI'S FUNDRAISING LONG DISTANCE RIDES.

STRIVING FOR SOMETHING GREATER

Planning for the future

In 2015, the NSW Government provided the St Vincent's Campus with \$5 million in funding to map out the future of the St Vincent's Darlinghurst Integrated Health and Research Campus.

To help us with this task, St Vincent's has engaged Deloitte consulting who have embarked on a journey with us to develop a Clinical Services Strategy and Plan that will progress the redevelopment of our Campus.

The vision is to provide a 'whole of campus' solution resulting in best practice service models, world leading translational research and deliver innovative models of

care that will influence the future direction of health care in New South Wales.

This planning for the future is centred around several key priorities including the expansion of our speciality services and growing existing services to better meet the complex needs of vulnerable community members.

To achieve this, the team is reviewing current services, engaging with clinicians, consumers, researchers and the executive team, as well as the wider stakeholder groups, and to date have been overwhelmed by the great ideas flowing in from each of our service groups.

In addition, the planning team will be assessing the external environment to understand future trends in the provision of health care as well as demand and supply, to help identify opportunities to re-shape our services and position us for projected growth. These inputs, along with the development of future service models, will generate a Clinical Services Strategy and Plan that will form the recommendations for the future direction for our campus.

The draft plan will be available in August this year. If you'd like to make a suggestion or register interest to be involved, send an email to syd.redevelopment@svha.org.au

STAFF PROFILE

What I know about... hip hop dance

by Sylvia Gjerde

It started when I was three years old. Family lore tells of a tiny blonde figure strutting about the living room, parents and siblings arranged in a dutiful semi-circle, while Michael Jackson's 'Bad' pumped from the tape deck. As I grew older, the obsession tightened its hold. I would moonwalk across the hall at the school disco while impressed pre-teens looked on. I perfected my moves over hours of sock-footed kitchen floor sliding while mum was cooking dinner.



SYLVIA (FAR RIGHT) AND HER ALL-GIRL CREW.

At high school I started taking hip hop lessons, eventually forming an all-girl crew. We performed anywhere and everywhere: school fairs, prisons, churches, and busking in the street. I started teaching classes and competition crews, and we travelled to national and international events. I spent all my money on sneakers. Hip hop became my life.

What I love about hip hop dance is the freedom of it: there are no rules, no grades to pass before moving to the next level. You can learn in a studio, or out on the street late at night, using a shop window as a mirror. And there are continually new styles, moves, and trends: hip hop dance evolves constantly.

I'm now performing and filming videos with musicians outside the hip hop genre, bringing dance to an audience who doesn't expect it. And my style and choreography has evolved to include their influence.

It's hard to keep dancing with this new doctor job, but I don't really have a choice: the music moves me whether I like it or not.

Dr Sylvia Gjerde, St Vincent's Intern

You can read Sylvia's full story on our blog, 'Life Support' at www.svhs.org.au/home/newsroom/life-support-blog

STRIVING FOR SOMETHING GREATER

Winning at Work

Congratulations to St Vincent's Ultrasound Department who were recently awarded Workplace of the Year at the Australian Sonographers Association's 2016 Awards of Excellence. The Awards Program acknowledges and rewards outstanding achievement in sonography across Australia and New Zealand; and the Workplace of the Year Award recognises the commitment a workplace demonstrates in supporting sonography, implementing career development initiatives and advancement of the workplace. Well done team on this terrific achievement, we're very proud.



ST VINCENT'S ULTRASOUND TEAM MEMBERS SOLANGE OBEID AND SARAH SKILLEN WITH ASA PRESIDENT, TONY FORSHAW.



FEATURE INTERVIEW

KNOW YOUR PRODUCT

Interview with Aboriginal Health Worker, Nathan Taylor



Nathan has joined the St Vincent's Aboriginal Health team to ensure our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and families experience a positive and supported health and healing journey.

What major breakthroughs in your field do you hope we will see in the future?

The accumulative measure of Aboriginal Health is the average life expectancy. I would hope to see a reduction in the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and/or Torres Straits Islander peoples and the rest of Australia.

What are the challenges you see now and in the coming years (in your area of expertise)?

Whilst there is a larger population of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples living in urban areas within Australia, there are proportionally higher amounts of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples that live in regional and remote environments when compared to the non-Indigenous population. Because of this, access to adequate resources and culturally appropriate medical services will likely continue to be an issue.

What do you love the most about what you do?

I love being able to support people within the local community and to hopefully enable them to improve their health, and in some cases address their social determinants of health.

What motivates you on a daily basis?

I love what I do.

Describe what you do in 10 words.

Ensure appropriate care for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patients.

What is your proudest moment, professionally speaking?

There have been multiple instances where patients have had to make significant life changes in order to address their health concerns. Seeing them take pride in successfully improving their health has been very rewarding for me.

Facts & Figures

ST VINCENT'S ACCREDITATION 2016



600

individual appointments



351

criteria



6

surveyors



FRONT COVER: THE DUCHESS OF YORK VISITS ST VINCENT'S

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