



# Servionews

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL

FEBRUARY 2009

## RPH welcomes new interns and nurses

*Royal Perth Hospital has welcomed the largest ever number of medical interns to start work at the Hospital this week.*

A total of 89 medical graduates started working at RPH this week, with some of them doing country placements as part of their introduction to the Hospital system.

RPH Director of post graduate medical education Dr Richard Tarala said RPH had 65 interns last year and 51 in 2007.

"This is a very marked increase, both for Royal Perth Hospital and the state as a whole," Dr Tarala said.

"This is the beginning of more health care for West Australians.

"From this new group of medical graduates starting this week we will have more doctors to send out into the country and into the community as a whole."

He said each intern would have five placements of eleven weeks throughout their first year as doctors.

They will rotate within various disciplines within RPH and also a number of sites outside the hospital.

In particular RPH sends many interns to rural sites, including Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Port Hedland and Broome, which is very positive for country residents.

Of the 89 interns, approximately 70 will have at least one rotation at a country location.

Prior to beginning their placements, all the interns had a one week orientation at RPH.

They undertook many courses, including learning about Freedom of Information, Needlestick Injuries, Child Protection Reporting, Infection Control, and Management of Aggression Training (MOAT).

Mount Lawley resident Anna Robson is one of the first interns to graduate from Notre Dame University and was really pleased to gain placement at Royal Perth Hospital.



*The new group of Interns start*



*Interns undergo MOAT training*



*Anna Robson*



*Graduate nurse Daniel O'Donnell*

"I have a great interest in indigenous health and RPH offers opportunities for me to explore that area further," Anna said.

"Having grown up in the Kimberley and Pilbara areas, I am also looking forward to returning to the country and doing a placement in Port Hedland," she said.

RPH is also welcoming a new batch of graduate nurses who are taking their place on wards throughout the hospital.

There are three graduate nursing intakes per year and in January RPH welcomed 56 Registered Nurses (RNs) and six Enrolled Nurses (ENs), with 54 RNs and one EN due to start in March.

In the first year of the graduate program there is an option of a surgical placement, including the State Major Trauma Unit, medical, acute rehabilitation, mental health and critical

care placements including coronary care, ED and High Dependency.

In the second year of the program graduate nurses can rotate into more specialised areas such as Intensive Care, Cath Lab, BURNS, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, Operating Theatres and Population Health.

One graduate nurse enjoying his time on the State Major Trauma Unit is Daniel O'Donnell. After nine years working as an assistant agency nurse, Daniel joined RPH's two-year nurse graduate program.

The former "tree surgeon" is enjoying the program's variety and is hoping to experience working in the Emergency Department and the Critical Care/ Intensive Care areas in his next two rotations.

Daniel also lectures at Curtin University and is a graduate representative on their website.

# RPH staff collects goods for Women's refuge.

**Royal Perth Hospital staff are not only dedicated to the wellbeing of their patients but also the greater community.**

RPH staff from the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Department, including some staff from WASON, organised a collection of toiletries and beauty products to be sent to the Women's Refuge in West Perth.

Occupational Health Nurse Berrie Morrison said that the collection was sent to the Women's Refuge Head Office.

"The Head Office is then responsible for the distribution of the goods to those in need," said Berrie.

"We collected all sorts of women's products from skincare to jewellery. These are products that everyday people would take for granted but for some of these women it is a luxury.

"This has been a year long collection and it has not just been staff members from OH&S but people from all over the hospital have donated," said Berrie.

*Julie Hall and Berrie Morrison.*



## eConsult system



*Kerry Leen briefs the Interns on the eConsult system.*

**A new computer system, thought to be the first of its kind in Australia, has been developed by the Medical Specialties Division and Information Technology specialists at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH), and it's set to make inpatient consultation requests and responses a 'paper-less' exercise.**

Known as 'eConsult', the system can be accessed from any network computer in the hospital simply using an HE number and a password, and allows requests for specialists' opinions and responses to be displayed simultaneously.

The system operates on an SQL server and allows people with the correct authorisation to request a consultation from any specialty, or any consultant, without the need for a written letter of referral.

Details of the transaction are recorded automatically and requests are immediately submitted to the department in question. Once the specialist visits the patient and types in the response, results of the consultation visit for each patient are shown.

The system concept was developed initially by Godfrey Leung, Business Manager, Medical Specialties Division, and Natalie Farkas, Business Analyst. Once trialled, Edmund Choo, Application Architect, programmed the system to retrieve and download existing information from TOPAS.

eConsult Project Officer, Kerry Leen, who is

implementing the project, says it will improve efficiency and accuracy.

"The system is paperless, so reducing resources required for courier services and clerical staff," Kerry said.

"Additionally, there will be no loss or delay due to manual handling of the request or faxing or legibility.

"TOPAS information will be populated automatically, saving the doctors time and preventing transcription errors and fitting of incorrect labels

"Overall, patients will receive more timely medical care, thus shortening length of stay."

eConsult is being tested and is expected to be rolled out across the hospital in February.

## RPH stalwart receives OAM

*Long-time Royal Perth Hospital Radiographer David Ernest Hartley has been awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to medical science and to the community through the design and development of minimally invasive surgical technology, particularly the intra-aortic stent.*



*David Hartley.*

Mr Hartley (AM) worked at Royal Perth Hospital from 1959 to 1996. He has had a long and rewarding career in Radiography commencing at RPH where he worked for 37 years and held positions as a Superintendent Radiographer and the Superintendent/Business Manager before leaving in 1996 to join Cook Research and Development WA as the Founding Director.

Mr Hartley was Awarded Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia - For service to medical science and to the community through the design and development of minimally invasive surgical technology, particularly the intra-aortic stent.

In 1975 The Member of the Order of Australia was introduced and is awarded for service in a particular locality or field of activity or to a particular group. In the Australian honours system appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and service. It is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow citizens.

The Order of Australia has four levels:

- Companion of the Order (AC)
- Officer of the Order (AO)
- Member of the Order (AM), and
- Medal of the Order (OAM).

Awards in the Order of Australia are publicly announced each year on Australia Day and the Queen's Birthday.

# Kindness at the heart of Rhoda's work

*In the world's developing countries, open-heart surgery is a complex and expensive procedure that cannot always be offered to all patients who need it.*

For many of those patients, medical professionals like RPH intensive care nurse Rhoda Tuma are a God-send.

Every year since 1997, Rhoda has travelled with a team of specialists to perform complex surgeries in countries including Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and Vanuatu.

"I receive such a blessing out of doing this work," Rhoda said. "When I travel with ADRA, I go for one or two weeks each trip. We often perform one week of adult surgery and a second week of paediatric surgeries.

"We see miracles happen during this time - it's truly a blessing."

The experienced intensive care nurse often uses her annual leave entitlements to be part of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) surgical teams, which make regular trips every year.

ADRA also operates a skills exchange program, which enables local nurses to benefit from the skills base of Australian nurses.

The volunteer surgical teams are recruited from health professionals from across Australia and include surgeons, nurses, perfusionists and anaesthetists.

Rhoda hopes to perform her volunteering work for the rest of her career, and over the years, she has recruited RPH intensive care nursing staff to accompany her on the missions so close to her heart. RPH perfusionist Nigel Slade has also been part of the ADRA teams travelling to perform the delicate surgeries.



*Rhoda Tuma providing medical assistance in developing countries.*



# Human nature unchanged through time



*In the small village of Manaus at the mouth of the Amazon River, Royal Perth oral surgeon Ray Williamson was part of an archeological team that in 2006 excavated a native community preserved by sand for four thousand years.*

The find was fascinating for the accomplished maxillo-facial surgeon, whose three-month South American trip allowed him to indulge his passion for archeology while learning more about his area of expertise - the reconstruction of defects and injuries of the head, neck, face and jaw.

"The most fascinating part was that while technology has changed, human relationships have not," Associate Professor Williamson said. "The natives recorded their experiences on ostraka - broken pottery - because paper was limited to the richer communities. They wrote and drew about the love affairs they were having, rowdy neighbours who

were drinking too much and about being ripped off by the higher classes."

A/Prof. Williamson's love of archeology has shed a host of parallels between ancient human civilizations and those of today, including confirmation that the human skeletal system and human ailments also remain relatively unchanged, despite the technological advances in treatments.



In fact, after scanning the skulls and reconstructing the faces of mummies from the Valley of the Kings, Egypt, obtained from a private collection, A/Prof Williamson found the similarities remarkable.

"These ancient communities have shown us that people had the same worries and suffered from the same ailments," A/Prof. Williamson said. "We saw evidence of the similar arthritic conditions, and in the case of the village in Manaus, the

teeth were worn from the sand and from the use of sweeteners like honey, so from a health perspective, and especially a dental point-of-view, not much has changed."

When he is not exploring ways to successfully reconstruct the injuries from facial traumas suffered by patients across Western Australia, including lip reconstructions for cancer patients, A/Prof. Williamson likes to paraglide, run and swim.

Over the years, the adventurous surgeon has run along the Great Wall of China, climbed the Leaning Tower of Pisa and lived on the Amazon River.

## Ray Williamson biography:

- Studied dentistry at the University of Sydney before joining the Australian Navy as a dentist, and later as a diver. He has used his knowledge of hyperbaric oxygen to devise ways to minimise the effects of radiotherapy on patients with face, neck and lip cancers.
- Completed his oral surgery training at RPH in 1980, before starting his career here in 1982.
- Worked in the UK between 1986 and 1988, before coming back to RPH.
- Has studied archeology and takes regular trips to Egypt on archeological digs.
- Was involved in pioneering work on dental implants in Toronto in 1981 and was involved in the development of the world's first plastic ear and nose reconstructions.

# Life-support patient's benefit from technical support

***In November 2006 the Shenton Park Spinal Unit achieved a long awaited goal of discharging a patient home who was dependent on mechanical ventilation for survival.***

Two years later, the program is an outstanding success with three people being supported in the comfort of their own homes, and a further two being supported to live at the Quadriplegic Centre.

Claire Bains, Ventilator Discharge Nurse at Shenton Park Spinal Unit, said this achievement was due to the excellent collaborative effort of many people.

"The Ventilator Dependent Quadriplegic - Community Care Program (VDQ-CCP) is dependent largely on the outstanding service provided by the Medical Engineering and Physics departments at Royal Perth Hospital," Claire said.

"In particular we would like to acknowledge David Pearn-Rowe and William Rivera for their assistance in purchasing the initial equipment, and

Mike Lovett and the team at Medical Equipment Maintenance and Support Services."

With their expertise, they have developed procedures to ensure that the life support equipment these patients depend on remains in working order.

One patient reaping the benefits is 23 year old Shane Agnew who severed his spinal cord in a trail bike accident a little under three years ago.

Shane has no movement, is unable to speak, and is dependent on a ventilator. Shane spent two and a half years in hospital before this new program enabled him to be assisted in his own home.

Shane's father Ken said that having Shane at home has changed their lives and has meant that they have been able to get on with things and live normal lives again.

"For Shane to be at home is fantastic," Ken said.

"He is surrounded by friends and family and can live a normal life again. And as parents it has also changed our lives as we no longer have to travel in to hospital

everyday but can get on with our daily activities."

"We are very grateful to everyone who has made this possible and especially the 'techs' who have always gone out of their way to rectify any problems we have and are always so quick to come and fix things when there is a problem," Ken said.

Claire and the staff at the Shenton Park spinal unit echo Ken's sentiments.

"We couldn't safely enable these patients to live at home without the assistance of the 'tech guys' and we would like to acknowledge and thank them for the important service they provide."

Shane Agnew is soon to be married, and with the wedding taking place in Cairns the 'tech guys' will be called on once again to assist Shane in his travels.



*Shane Agnew with Paula Nunes, prior to being discharged home.*

## Spirituality, Suffering and Healing

***A new course for fifth year medical students has been run for the first time at Royal Perth Hospital.***

'Spirituality, Suffering and Healing' was instigated by Palliative Care Physician Dr Doug Bridge, after recognising the importance of addressing the spiritual needs of the doctor and the patient.

Doug said that students were repeatedly confronted with issues of suffering and meaning, as they came alongside dying patients.

"These issues are not confined to terminally ill patients," Doug said.

"In recent years there has been a worldwide resurgence of interest in the spiritual dimension of health and health care."



*Madhavi Karunaratna and Shin Yi Ng were the first students to take the course.*

In 2005 the Curriculum Committee of the Medical School decided that spirituality should be incorporated in the curriculum throughout the six years.

This new two week option is the first major programme at RPH in response to that decision.

"The unit allows the students to explore the issues of spirituality, suffering and healing, and the relationships between the three," said Doug.

As part of the course, the students are assigned one designated patient with whom they explore the spiritual

dimension of their illness experience.

"The students can take a spiritual history and respond to issues raised by the patient, and in doing so become increasingly aware of their own spirituality and how it influences the doctor/patient relationship."

"In much of medical practice it is possible to focus on 'a disease which can be cured.' In exploring a person's spirituality the focus is on 'a suffering person who needs healing', Doug said.

"This is more challenging, sometimes quite threatening; yet often profoundly rewarding." Doug said.

"The emphasis is on a holistic perspective that includes not only the "disease", but also its meaning to the patient and family."

Shin Yi Ng was one of the first students to take the course and she said it was an enriching experience.

"It made me reflect on my faith and how patients, family and doctors interact and deal with end of life issues, which, as medical students, we seldom have to come face to face with, but will be important in our professional development."

Ten students participated in the 2008 course. They came from a very diverse range of cultural and religious

backgrounds: Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, and agnostic.

They all described the experience as very helpful, and recommended that it be part of the core curriculum for all students.

## Fiona joins New Inventors

Royal Perth Hospital's Fiona Wood has signed on to be a guest panellist on ABC's the New Inventors television show.

Fiona Wood made a guest appearance on the grand final show last year and will again lend her expertise on medical and therapeutic inventions featured on the program.

Her first appearance will be on March 25 and the producers are thrilled to have her involvement.

In a press statement released Australia wide, the New inventor's Executive Producer Sophia Zachariou said of Professor Wood's appointment; "We are thrilled that Professor Fiona Wood AM will be joining our talented panel of judges. We received tremendous feedback about her guest appearance last year and we think her outstanding achievements in the medical field will inspire and assist Australian inventors, which is what the program is all about."



*Fiona Wood joins the ABC.*

# Under the Microscope with Daniel Fatovich

***Amphetamines have a dramatic effect on the brain, and there have been reports of structural abnormalities of the brain associated with methamphetamine use, according to a speaker at the 25th annual scientific meeting of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.***

In 2005, Associate Professor Daniel Fatovich and his colleagues found during a prospective observational study at Royal Perth Hospital Emergency Department that 1.2% of all ED attendances were causally related to amphetamine use.

Most (71%) were men, whose average age was 28 years.

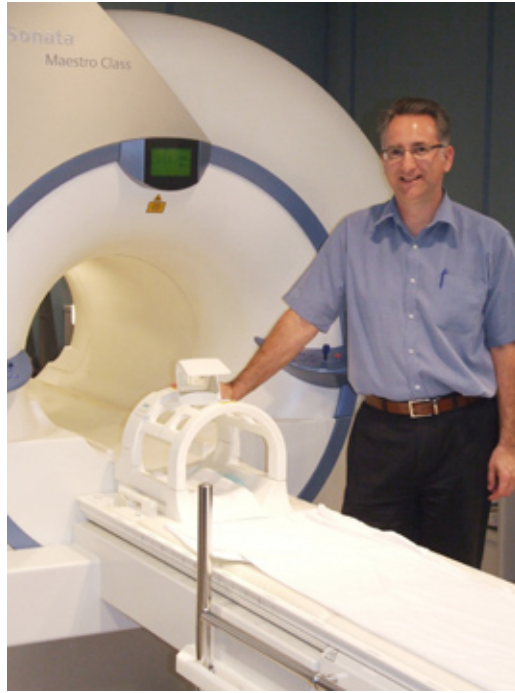
About a third arrived by ambulance and 16% via the police.

They spent between half an hour and 24 hours in the ED, with a third requiring sedation, 40% requiring admission, and 37% requiring psychiatric evaluation.

“We concluded that amphetamine-related presentations comprise 1.2% of all ED attendances and have a major impact on hospital EDs.

“Patients are often agitated and aggressive, require extensive resources, and frequently re-attend.”

Professor Fatovich said the burden of amphetamine-related illnesses on EDs is likely to continue.



Professor Daniel Fatovich.

Since 2005 he and his colleagues have conducted more research on the issue.

As part of a chlamydia screening project, they surveyed 823 attendees aged 18-25 years on their drug use.

62% reported having used illicit drugs. These included 81% cannabis, 40% ecstasy, 25% “ice”, and 13% cocaine.

The relationship between these drugs and the prevalence of asymptomatic chlamydia of 5.4% will be discussed.

There is a significant relationship between drug use and sexual activity.

Professor Fatovich is now conducting a prospective study of patients who attend the emergency department at Royal Perth Hospital with amphetamine intoxication.

These patients are offered a screening MRI brain scan to detect unsuspected cerebral abnormalities.

## Death rate higher in country

***The death rate from trauma in areas classed as Very Remote is over four times the rate in areas classed as Major Cities.***

This is the finding of a study conducted in Western Australia which was presented at the 25th annual scientific meeting of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.

The conference, held at the Wellington Convention Centre in New Zealand.

The study, conducted by RPH’s emergency medicine specialist Associate Professor Daniel Fatovich, and Associate Professor Ian Jacobs from the University of Western Australia, examined Death Registry data from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 2006.

Deaths were allocated to one of the five Remoteness Areas: Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote, and Very Remote.

Almost 5000 (4937) trauma deaths occurred during this period, of which 72% were males, with an average age of 43 years.

The least number of deaths occurred in Remote WA, and the age at which death occurred decreased as remoteness increased.

Transport accidents are the leading cause of trauma death outside the Major City.

Self-harm is the leading cause of trauma death in the Major City, most commonly hanging.

The researchers found that trauma deaths as a result of falls, occurred mainly in the elderly in the Major City.

According to A/Prof Fatovich, this result is likely to be related to the effects of time and distance for these events.”

“Such data should be useful for the planning of trauma systems in these areas,” A/Prof Fatovich said.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2008 Employee of the Month Winners

### Shenton Park Campus

Madeline Slowey  
Karen Smith  
Michael Gent  
Tarrlita Lock  
Mike Choy  
Brett Halliday  
Colleen Lewis  
Cecilia Lai  
Sarah Benjamin  
Jade Cartwright  
Lara Kruger

### Wellington Street Campus

Allison Cain  
Claire Grant  
Julie Spindler  
Domonic Greene  
Sheau Chan  
Heath Rogers  
Michelle Walker  
Gordon Woodward  
Jim Bruce  
Richard Warne  
Kathleen Conlon

Special thanks to our valued sponsors: Police and Nurses Credit Society, Bunnings Warehouse, HESTA Super Fund and Cakebox.

The first 2009 Employees of the Month will be announced in the next edition of Servio.

# RPH remains a high donating hospital

**Once again RPH has proven it's commitment to organ and tissue donation in Australia, with the hospital contributing to 11 of the states 28 cadaveric organ donors over the past year. These 28 organ donors resulted in 95 organs being transplanted giving those recipients another chance at life.**

One such grateful recipient, Matthew Hunt, received a heart transplant after being diagnosed with cardiomyopathy a condition that affects the heart muscles.

In Matt's case his condition was genetic. His father died of the condition and when his older brother also showed symptoms of the condition, he and his younger brother were also tested and found to have the same issues.

Matt's older brother Jeff also received a heart transplant five years ago but fortunately his younger brother is currently doing well on medication and doesn't look like requiring a transplant at this stage.

Matt was thrilled when he got the call to say he was about to receive a new heart. He had recently found out his wife was pregnant and was determined to stay around to see his child be born.

"The whole transplant team were wonderful," Matt said.

"They always made themselves available to answer questions and provide support and I couldn't fault any of them."

Matt also had high praise for Transplant Nurse Consultant Clare Wood and the important role she played in his experience.

Being the major trauma and transplant centre for WA, RPH continues to have consistently high numbers of organ donors and strives to ensure best practice in identifying and supporting organ and tissue donors and their families by participating in the National Organ and Tissue Donation Collaborative (NODC).

RPH will continue to be at the forefront as part of the 2009 Federal Government National Reform Agenda for organ and tissue donation.

This initiative will see an increased presence of organ and tissue donation personnel in hospitals with the appointment of a hospital based Medical Director and Senior Nurses.

This increase in personnel will ensure a greater awareness and improved knowledge levels in organ and tissue donation.

Australian Organ Donor Awareness Week will be held from 21 - 28 February 2009 and that week is a national call

to action, encouraging all Australians to think about organ and tissue donation and register their wishes on the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) and most importantly, talk to their family and friends about their choice.



*Matt Hunt does some exercise in the RPH gym.*

Currently there are 660,000 people in WA registered on the AODR. During Australian Organ Donor Awareness Week staff involved in organ and tissue donation will be available to provide information and answer questions at a display on the bridge at the Wellington street campus.

To register as an organ and tissue donor call 1800 777 203, log on to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) or visit a Medicare office.

For further information contact DonateWest via phone 9222 0222 or email [donatewest@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:donatewest@health.wa.gov.au)

## Staff Amenities

At Last they have arrived. The long awaited Staff Membership Card and Smartclub Books.

Office hours are:

RPH Staff Amenities Office 7.30am - 2.00pm Monday - Friday

SPC Staff Amenities Office 10.00am - 2.00pm Tues/Wed & Thurs.

Sorry but we will not be sending them out in the internal or external mail, but you will be able to collect other members books and cards on their behalf.

**Current GYM TIME TABLE FOR January 2009.**

\*\* May change without notice.

### AEROBICS TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12.10pm	Circuit (Mick & chuck)	Toning with weights (Chuck)	Water running (Ross or Mick)	Circuit (Ian)	Shape & tone (Sally)
5.15pm	Boxercise (Ian)	X-training (sally)	Step/abt (Sally)		

When using Gym Facilities it is **COMPULSORY** to have a Health and Fitness Assessment at the cost of \$30.00 inc GST.

Monies to be paid to Michelle or Pam at Staff Amenities. Assessments include a health questionnaire, height, weight, Tri-level fitness test for aerobic capacity, body fat test. Following the assessment, a personalised program will be designed based on your personal or sports related goals which will require a follow up appointment to receive your program.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR ARE WEARING COMFORTABLE GYM GEAR.**

**CHILDREN UNDER 17 YEARS are NOT permitted to use weights in the gym for insurance/safety reasons.**

In addition, you are not to let **NON-PAYING** friends in to the GYM. **IF CAUGHT, YOUR OWN PRIVILEGE BE WILL BE REVOKED.**

Only Staff Amenities Members can participate in aerobics classes.

## Letter of thanks

I am a patient who was operated on Monday December 8 and I would like to take this opportunity to say thankyou for making the experience a good one. Dr Unwin showed great care in ensuring my safety (fixing a 'dodgy' drip) and Dr Manopas helped me drift off to sleep (telling me about sipping cocktails on a tropical island). Dr Luo ensured that he operated on the right finger by putting a huge red texta arrow to point to it!

It was all in all, a zany, 'out of this world' experience and I appreciated the humour and yet also the professionalism and expertise that all my doctors worked with. Much appreciated and I am grateful for such excellent doctors here in Perth. Also the nurses were great too!

Yours sincerely,

# Interprofessional Workshop

*Towards the end of 2008 Royal Perth Hospital held an Interprofessional (IPL) workshop in the Clinical Skills Centre, WASON.*

Twenty four members of staff attended the workshop which was facilitated by Judy Stone, an IPL Coordinator at the Allied Health Advisor's Office in Canberra.

"Interprofessional Learning occurs when two or more professions learn with, from, and about, each other to improve collaboration and the quality of health care for patients and clients," said Judy.

IPL philosophy supports health professionals working collaboratively in a health care setting, through a purposeful interaction with service users and carers, to produce quality patient centred care.

Certain key aspects were outlined for successful IPL, including:

- Equity - all contributions are valued.
- Respect differences.
- Avoid or explain jargon / acronyms.
- Check understanding.
- Seek to identify mutual goals and where these diverge.
- Identify and agree what the barriers are to collaborative learning and working.
- Identify and agree how to address conflict.



*RPH staff who took part in the IPL workshop.*

- Mutual respect and support.
- Recognise own and others' knowledge and expertise.

Judy gave the background to her work on IPL in Canberra and proceeded to explore the needs of staff at RPH with some interesting and interactive group exercises.

"This was followed by a 'where to next for RPH' with the group listing some ideas where IPL and simulation could be linked," said Ted Stewart-Wynne, Assistant Director, Clinical Services.

"The group agreed that we need to identify Clinical Educators in the various professions, find a coordinator for IPL, establish what is already out there - such as programs to support new graduates, and form an IPL reference group."

## Hot Spot

*This month the HEAT team would like to remind staff about the challenges facing the community in regards to climate change.*

Energy plays a vital role in our everyday lives. We use it for many purposes including keeping warm in winter and cool in summer, providing light to our homes, refrigeration and cooking our food and heating our water.

As beneficial as energy is to our lives, its use can have an undesirable effect on the environment. Just about every time we switch on the light or turn on an appliance we are contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. On average each Western Australian produces around 6 tonnes of greenhouse gases every year.

It is important that we all realise the implications of our energy use. Not only can it have an adverse effect on the environment, it also costs us money.

There are many easy and inexpensive ways to reduce energy use at home, most of which simply requires a change in behaviour. Some others require a modest investment but will pay for themselves through lower energy bills.

The allocation of two hours per month during work time has been endorsed for members, or future members of the Health Environmental Awareness Team (HEAT) to develop and implement environmental initiatives.

HEAT will focus on energy management, reducing waste, recycling and other sustainability issues.

The Hot Spot is presented by the HEAT TEAM. For further information on HEAT please contact Ray Stevenson: [Ray.Stevenson@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Ray.Stevenson@health.wa.gov.au) or Mobile 0404 894 031 or ext 42700.

## New system begins roll-out

*Employees from Royal Street Divisions, Dental Health Services and Drug and Alcohol Office have become the first to start using the Alesco Human Resource System.*

The system, which will be in use by the whole of Health by the end of 2010, will have a big impact on the management of payroll and human resource records.

As well as changes to the way in which human resource records are managed, employees will also have access to the web self service MyHR.

Among the features of the online human resources tool, employees can view and print their payslips and check their leave balances. There are also added features for managers, including a team calendar.

Staff at the three affected sites have already changed to the One Pay Health pay cycle, which will eventually bring together the whole of Health on one pay cycle, one pay day and one payroll. Currently there are 25 different payrolls in operation.

Royal Perth Hospital is scheduled to transition to One Pay Health in September this year, and will move to the Alesco HR System in April 2010.

Further information on One Pay Health and the Alesco HR System can be found on the HCN intranet site.

# 2009 MRF Research Grant Recipients

**Research Director Professor Peter Leedman would like to congratulate all the recipients who were successful in receiving funding through the Medical Research Foundation (MRF) for 2009.**

"The quality of applications was very high and the projects cover a broad range of clinically relevant areas," Prof Leedman said.

"Studies include patient rehabilitation to basic studies aimed at identifying new molecules that could be useful

in patients with cancer and various infections."

"We look forward to hearing of the advances made from these research projects, and the important outcomes for the health of the WA community."

The Chief Investigator of each grant is listed. For some grants there is more than one Investigator involved.

## **A/Prof G T Allison**

Early mobilisation in the intensive care unit (ICU): the clinical utility of establishing a protocol for patients who have been mechanically ventilated for three or more calendar days

## **Dr S J Aulfrey**

A novel approach to identification and characterisation of antibacterial peptides from Australian ant species

## **Dr S M Colley**

The functional role of SLIRP in colorectal cancer

## **Dr T Collyer**

The influence of differing inspired oxygen concentrations on platelet function in a model of ischaemic reperfusion injury

## **Ms K Davern**

Introduction of phage display as an alternative to monoclonal antibody production for analysis and screening of peptide ligands

## **Dr D Finnegan**

Optimisation of Mesenchymal Stromal Cell Therapy for Graft-Versus-Host Disease through Evaluation of Serum Cytokine Levels Following High Dose Chemotherapy and Allogeneic Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation

## **A/Prof R Ganss**

Discovery of RGS5-regulated signalling pathways in vitro

## **Clin A/Prof C H Heath**

Direct detection and identification of pathogenic fungi in high-risk haematology patients from whole blood using realtime PCR and DNA sequencing

## **Dr E Ingley**

Towards a proteome-wide analysis of phospho-tyrosine-SH2 domain interactions and its potential use in clinical diagnosis

## **Dr F-X Jiang**

Determining molecular signature of developing insulin-secreting  $\beta$  cells

## **Dr A Y F Lim**

Development of prognostic assays to monitor disease progression in patients with pulmonary non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) infection

## **Dr A Maiorana**

Evaluation of a culturally appropriate model of cardiovascular disease secondary prevention for Indigenous people

## **Dr S E L Temple**

HSP70 modulation as a novel therapeutic tool in sepsis

## **Dr M A Thomas**

Regulation of the prostatic tumour suppressor, NKX3.1 by ETS transcription factors

## **Dr M Watson**

Introduction of RNAi to Huh7 cells to inhibit the replication of the hepatitis C virus (HCV)

## **Ms T A Williams**

Continuous enteral feeding, is it really continuous?

## **A/Prof C S Witt**

Do the common genetic variants of the KIR2DL4 NK cell receptor influence the Th1/Th2 bias of the immune response?

## **Dr J H Wu**

Inhibition of Cytochrome P450 synthesis of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid by sesame lignans