

HealthMatters

Sydney – it's *your* local health district

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What's next? It's up to you



Don't miss the fifth instalment of Sydney Local Health District's annual showcase of the best in health and medical research and innovation.

Be there as we ask 'what's next' and go on a journey from medical device commercialisation, clinical trial prowess, virtual reality for surgical planning, an equity lens for our community and the marvel of robotic surgery.

We welcome the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Brad Hazzard to present Sydney Research awards, robotic surgeon Associate Professor Declan Murphy of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne and welcome back the effervescent Julie McCrossin to host Symposium 2017.

View the program and register for 22-24 June now at www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/InnovationSymposium. *More: page 4*

CONTENTS

Executive messages	2
A new way home	3
Healthcare in the third dimension	4
Sharing ideas for the future	4
Calling for dry heroes	5

District confidential	6
Our people matter	7
In brief	7
Professor Bill Gibson – biography	8
Events calendar	8



Health
Sydney
Local Health District



Message from the Chief Executive



Dr Teresa Anderson
*Sydney Local Health District
Chief Executive*

This month we are once again calling on staff to have their say in the annual People Matter employee survey.

We have a large group of staff from every area of our hospitals and health centres who are championing the importance of this survey, encouraging staff to share their thoughts on what makes a positive workplace. I look forward to seeing a large percentage of our 11,000 staff complete the online survey.

I am pleased that the transition of the District's information and communication technology teams from the combined South Western Sydney LHD departments continues to progress. The next phase will see the separation of services provided by the electronic medical record, the data centre and client services directorates. I have been meeting with the South West Sydney LHD Chief Executive and eHealth NSW

to formulate a plan for the management of our shared eMR and will provide more information as this progresses.

Next month will see traffic changes around the Sydney Dental Hospital in Surry Hills, as the construction of the Sydney Light Rail continues. Chalmers Street will close to through traffic outside the hospital and local traffic management will be in place to allow motorists, including taxis, drop off at the front of the hospital. I encourage all patients to plan their journey before their next appointment.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium this month at the new venue of Carriageworks. It is one of my favourite days of the year – celebrating the dedication and passion of our clinicians and staff towards the very best in patient care.

Message from the Chair, District Board



The Hon. Ron Phillips
*Sydney Local Health District
Board Chairman*

This month, Sydney Local Health District will get together in the spirit of innovation and ask what's next, for health and medical research in our state.

I look forward to joining you at the Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium at Carriageworks, the three-day event is sure to have something for all to learn, see and do with presentations, demonstrations, competitions, awards and debates.

For the first time, the Big Idea will grant pre-seed funding to the best medical commercialisation idea, showcasing just how forward thinking our people in Sydney Research are. Join in the fun to catch a sneak peak of these ideas on Thursday 22 June at the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre.

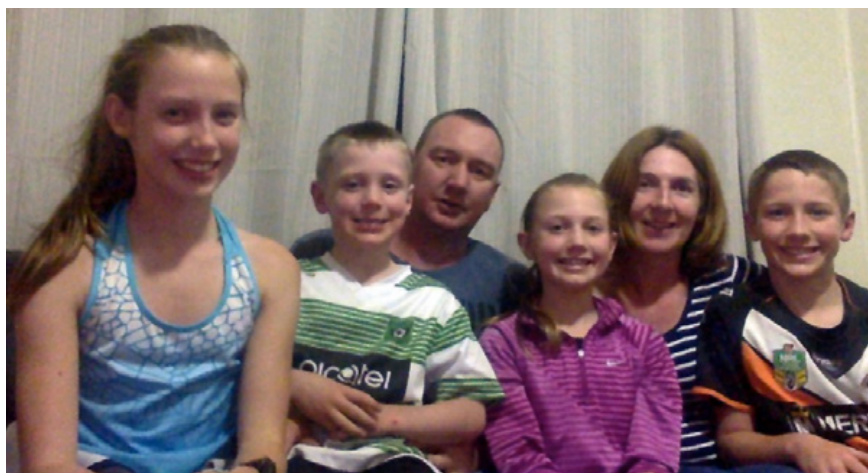
Also this month, we open nominations for the District's Quality Awards which

recognise innovative programs, projects and staff members who have contributed to patient care. I look forward to presenting the awards, including the Chairman's award, at the District's annual general meeting in November and encourage you to get your nomination in by 14 July.

Finally, I was pleased to hear that Associate Professor Timothy Wand, nurse practitioner and mental health liaison in the RPA emergency department received \$564,411 funding over two years in the NSW Health Translational Research Grant Scheme for a project on management of severe behavioural disturbance in emergency departments. The grants were announced at RPA by the NSW Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Brad Hazzard. Congratulations also to palliative care staff specialist Dr Jessica Lee who was awarded a PhD scholarship with the University of Sydney.



A new way home



Darragh McMahon and his wife Mary and four children.

Patients at the melanoma clinic at RPA hospital now have the option to go home just days following surgery under a new care model with Sydney District Nursing.

The new model is a research collaboration between the melanoma service and Sydney District Nursing, said Associate Professor Robyn Saw, RPA's melanoma and surgical oncology department head.

"Patients who would normally spend a week in hospital after a lymph node dissection can now return home two

days after surgery, with daily home visits by community nurses for up to six weeks," said Associate Professor Saw.

"The model mobilises patients earlier, aiding their recovery, and is common practice in the USA. But this is the first model of its kind in Sydney."

44 year-old Darragh McMahon came to Australia 22 years ago from Ireland.

Many of his 20 years as an excavator driver were spent wearing shorts, and his discovery of a melanoma on the back of his leg was a big shock.

The melanoma was removed, but further testing meant Darragh needed surgery to remove lymph nodes in his groin.

The father of four was an ideal candidate for the new model, and became the first person to go home from hospital just two days after dissection surgery, with daily care from the Sydney District Nursing team.

"I was a bit worried at first, but once I got used to the idea, it was great to be home. The community nurses were very good and gave me great reassurance," said Darragh.

"It was far easier to be at home than having the kids come to hospital to visit."

The melanoma service at RPA performs about 60 dissections each year, and it is hoped many will benefit from the new model, said melanoma clinical nurse consultant Natalie Forster, who developed the model with Sydney District Nursing.

"Patients are carefully selected to ensure they have the support at home and the ability to self-manage."

Medical records go digital

Concord Hospital is the latest in the District to switch on the latest technology for patient records.

Phase two of the electronic medical record is now live, replacing paper medical records with electronic progress notes, nursing assessments and medical consultation documents.

The system also allows the automatic recording of a patient's vital signs into their record, and gives clinicians real time access to a patient's entire record at the click of a button.

Concord's acting general manager, Dr Steevie Chan, said it was a significant achievement in clinical excellence and innovation.

"Work practices are continually evolving but having the technology to record and review information about your patients quickly and easily is a great addition for clinical staff.

"Being able to access up-to-date information that is clear and consistent, from any area of the hospital, will give more time back to patient care."



Mobile work stations allow staff to check patient details on the wards at Concord Hospital.

Balmain Hospital will be the next to introduce the latest updates to the eMR.



Healthcare in the third dimension

This year's Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium will have a touch of virtual reality.

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital ear, nose and throat surgeon Dr Payal Mukherjee will demonstrate the power of disruptive technologies and their effectiveness in healthcare.



Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium 2017

After winning \$50,000 funding in the District's innovation competition, the Pitch, in 2015, Dr Mukherjee has progressed with research using 3D printing and augmented reality to assist with complex surgical cases.

"There are a lot of anatomical challenges in ENT. We use the technology to plan before we go into surgery. It can help to inform us whether to go ahead or not and to talk through and visually demonstrate the surgical plan with patients," she said.

The initial investment from the Pitch funded a 3D printer and software, making the use of the technology inexpensive.

"Something that might cost thousands of dollars, is about \$20 in materials for each case."

Dr Mukherjee's research project is looking at the potential savings the health care system and the scalability of the idea.

"We want to spread the knowledge to others so they can think about how it applies to other areas of medicine, and how they could use it to benefit their patients."

Be sure not to miss this interactive keynote presentation along with a range of snapshot sessions on the District's leading



Don't miss keynote presentation from Dr Payal Mukherjee at the Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium.

innovative projects on Friday 23 June at the Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium. Entry is free – register now at www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/InnovationSymposium.

Sharing ideas for the future

Several staff attended the Cerner Regional User Group conference in Brisbane recently, exchanging ideas about future technologies impacting healthcare.

Presentations covered major electronic medical records implementations at RPA, Concord and Canterbury hospitals and reflected on the importance of local engagement and ownership for project success.

Angus Ritchie, the District's Chief Medical Information Officer, presented on ways to evaluate and improve safety with the electronic medical record.

"The best part of the conference is being able to network with delegates from Cerner and clinicians from other states and districts. We get a sense of the pitfalls and priorities for future implementations, upgrades and enhancements. It helps them to learn from us as well," he said.

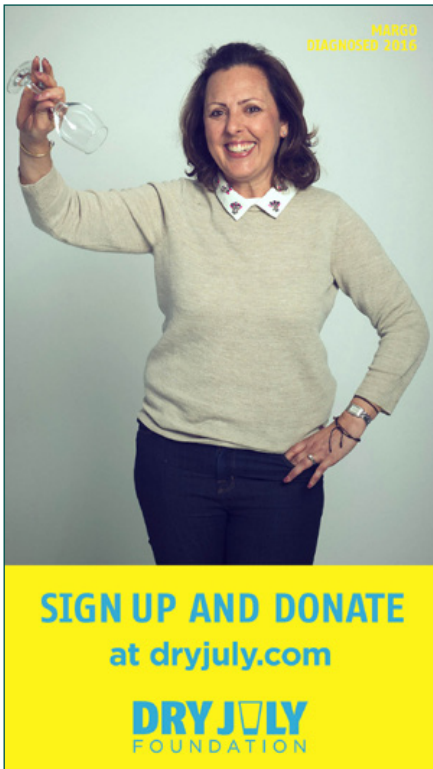
The delegates were also treated to a visit to the fully digital Princess Alexandra Hospital for a bird's eye view of the potential for electronic medical records across our District.



District staff at the Cerner Conference.



Calling for dry heroes



Margo Tannous is calling for your support in Dry July.

In July, about 11,000 Australians will be diagnosed with cancer.

Dry July is a movement to give up alcohol for a month in support of people affected by cancer, by raising funds for cancer support organisations to help improve patient comfort, care and wellbeing.

After four years of support from Dry July, the Concord Cancer Centre has received \$275,333 in funding to expand survivorship programs for cancer patients, purchase

chemotherapy treatment chairs, blanket warmers, scalp cooler for hair loss prevention and upgrade waiting rooms.

The District's clinical director of cancer services, Associate Professor Philip Beale, said this year, he was calling on staff and the community to go dry for July in a bid to raise \$60,000 for wellness programs and patient comfort items.

"Every dollar from Dry July will benefit cancer patients and their families and carers at Concord Hospital. We hope these funds can help make a difficult time, a little easier for those affected by cancer. "

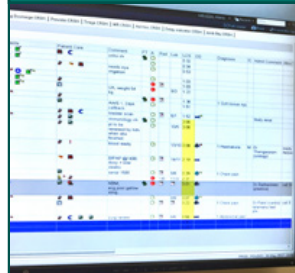
Mother of three Margo Tannous was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 and after beating it once, was faced with the devastating news eight years later that the cancer had returned.

"You can take a diagnosis in different ways but I have chosen to tackle it to the ground and keep it there. Cancer is not going to beat me – I'm going to beat it.

"I encourage everyone to get behind Dry July and support it. Every cent counts. It's about giving back and god willing, finding a cure for all cancers."

You can sign up as a 'dry hero' and register to raise funds for the Concord Cancer Centre at www.dryjuly.com/beneficiaries/concordcancercentre.

WHY I DO WHAT I DO



Michael Murtough-Coombes

Manager – Demand Management Unit
Concord Hospital

I was a nurse and took a secondment in bed management and I've been doing it for 12 years now.

Our job is to work with the nurse managers, coordinate all the patient moves, alleviate the problems.

It's trying to control a fluid situation – like a big game of chess. Every day is different. It's amazing the number of people we can get into the place and get cared for.

I tell nurses if they want to be a manager, it's the best training you can get.



JUNE 2017

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY



SEXUAL HEALTH TRAINING



BIGGEST MORNING TEA



SORRY DAY





Our people matter



People Matter Survey champions.

This month, staff are once again being called on to share their opinions and provide feedback on working in Sydney Local Health District.

The NSW public sector employee survey is an important opportunity for the District's 11,000 staff to have a say about their workplace culture, said the District's acting director of workforce services, Nathan Rudd.

"Workplace culture is something we all experience, but is hard to measure. This is a chance for staff to communicate directly with leaders and managers and reflect on their experiences."

Last year's survey was completed by about 3,000 staff and showed Sydney Local Health District was one of the best public sector workplaces.

"Improving the work environment can be as simple as doing little things to help staff feel safe and valued and the survey can highlight areas where this is needed."

Staff can complete the strictly confidential survey at www.health.nsw.gov.au/survey2017.

Community member recognised

The voluntary contributions of Mr David Khedoori as the independent member of the RPA Institutional Biosafety Committee were recognised this month by the District's Chief Executive Dr Teresa Anderson and committee chair Professor John Rasko AO.

Mr Khedoori served 17 years on the committee, bringing invaluable insights from his community and business perspectives. The committee that plays an important role in ensuring research and clinical trials involving gene technology meet regulatory and legal requirements.



David Khedoori with Dr Teresa Anderson and Professor John Rasko.

IN BRIEF

Quality Awards now open

Sydney Local Health District is proud to support innovation and each year staff are encouraged to nominate projects and programs that have made a difference to patient care through the annual quality award program. Staff are also encouraged to nominate colleagues for the individual award categories of staff member of the year, collaborative leader of the year and volunteer of the year. Projects submitted to the District awards are also considered for nomination to the NSW Health Awards. Details of award categories and application forms are available on the Intranet. For more information, contact Ben Short, Clinical Quality Manager. Entries close 14 July.

REDCap success

To celebrate the two year anniversary of using REDCap in the District, the first REDCap Day offered new and experienced users an opportunity to learn and share more about the secure web application to support researchers with their data. About 200 people attended the forum, with presentations from across the District on the benefits and efficiencies of using REDCap, which is safe, secure, easy to use and free for researchers to access. Since its introduction in May 2015, REDCap has more than 500 projects with 800 users from managing kidney transplantation at RPA to the efficient responses to public health matters. The forum finished with a live demonstration by members of Clinical Research Centre team who showed participants how to build a simple research database in less than 30 minutes.

Norton unit recognised

The efforts of the team at Concord Centre for Mental Health's Norton unit have been recognised with the Leadership Award at the state-wide Productive Mental Health Ward Sustainability Showcase. The productive ward initiative has streamlined systems and processes, increased group activities and introduced a dedicated relaxation space, equipped with massage chairs and sensory items to improve self-soothing strategies. The measures have been received positively by consumers and helped reduce average length of stay for patients.

Educating international students

Sydney Local Health District has higher rates of chlamydia than any other local health district and to combat this trend, the HIV and Related Programs health promotion team initiated a collaboration with the University of Sydney to raise awareness of chlamydia transmission and prevention amongst international students. The project uses a range of resources, including the Play Safe website, to improve sexual health knowledge and to provide referral pathways to sexual healthcare and the Australian healthcare system. The project also delivers sexual health education to the university's health workforce on the latest epidemiology on chlamydia and HIV trends among this population group.



Professor Bill Gibson honoured in new biography

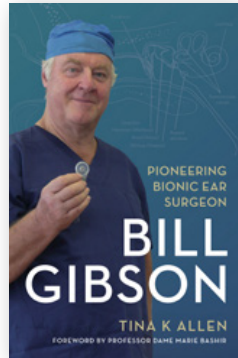
One of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's most loved former ear nose and throat surgeons has been honoured in a new biography, *Bill Gibson: pioneering bionic ear surgeon*.

British-born Bill Gibson emigrated with his family to Australia in 1983 when he was appointed as the head of the ENT Department at RPA and the inaugural Professor of Otolaryngology (study of hearing and throats) at the University of Sydney.

In 1984, he made history, performing the first bionic ear operation in NSW on a 22-year-old woman. He was assisted by a number

of theatre staff including Sr Denise Lithgow who described the 16 years she worked alongside Professor Gibson as special.

"He poured his heart and soul into the cochlear implant operations and kept in touch with many of his implant recipients," Sr Lithgow said.



Professor Gibson retired in 2012. His portrait, painted by Dr Gillian Dunlop, also a rhinoplasty surgeon, hangs in the ENT clinic as a reminder of the many surgeons Professor Gibson trained at RPA.



Professor Gibson with Sister Denise Lithgow and inset: Bill Gibson's biography.

His biography can be purchased from bookshops and online booksellers.



Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium 2017

Register now at slhd.nsw.gov.au/innovationsymposium

Day 1 • Thursday 22 June

- Big Idea** 8-10:30am, Charles Perkins Centre Auditorium
- Clinical Trials Showcase** 2-5pm, Carriageworks
- Research Education Series** 8:30am-4:30pm, Carriageworks

Day 2 • Friday 23 June

- Carriageworks** 7:30am-7pm

Day 3 • Saturday 24 June Carriageworks

- Sydney Robotics Summit** 8am-6pm, Carriageworks
- Good Health: The New Thinking – Central and Eastern Sydney PHN** 12-5pm

EVENTS CALENDAR

Dry July

Go dry in July in support of Concord Cancer Centre.

Register to raise funds or donate at www.dryjuly.com/beneficiaries/concordcancercentre

NAIDOC Week

Wednesday 5 July, 11am

Balmain Hospital

Celebrate Aboriginal history, culture and achievements with lunch and cultural activities.

TheMHS Conference

30 August – 1 September

Hilton Hotel, Sydney

Mental Health Services annual conference will discuss new models, new funding, new providers and the voices of people with a lived experience about change and innovation in mental health services. Early bird registration at www.themhs.org by 18 July.