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MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR TQEH RESEARCH COMMUNITY

WINNING NEWS

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MRFF grant awarded to ENT Surgery

L-R: Professor Alkis Psaltis, Dr Oveis Pourmehran, Professor PJ Wormald and Associate Professor Sarah Vreugde, at the dinner celebrating 60 years of TQEH Research in October 2021

Professor PJ Wormald, **Associate Professor Sarah Vreugde**, **Professor Alkis Psaltis** and **Dr Oveis Pourmehran** from ENT Surgery at the BHI, TQEH, and their fellow chief investigators (listed on page 3) have been awarded a Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant in the "Rare Cancers Rare Diseases and Unmet Need" category. Their grant, valued at $1,712,341 will run from 2022 until 2025. It is called The AIRSPACE Trial as it involves "AntI-MRSA PhAge Cocktail treatment via Acoustic Enhanced Nebulisers".

Staphylococcus aureus (*S. aureus*, also known as Golden Staph) is a common bacterium that lives on the skin and in some people's noses and airways. It can cause a range of mild to severe infections, including infections in the context of chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS), a chronic inflammation of the nose and paranasal sinus mucosa affecting around 10% of western populations. CRS is one of the most common diseases for which antibiotics are prescribed, thereby fuelling the emerging antimicrobial resistance crisis. In some cases, the condition does not respond to medical and surgical treatment and is regarded as 'recalcitrant' chronic rhinosinusitis or rCRS. This debilitating chronic inflammatory condition causes severe headaches and a reduced quality of life. It is associated with frequent relapsing infections that current treatments are unable to control, let alone cure. As well as affecting the general population, rCRS also affects nearly all people with cystic fibrosis (CF) and can worsen pulmonary manifestations of this disease. CF is a rare, life-shortening genetic disease affecting approximately 1 in 2,500 children in Australia.

Novel, more effective treatments to counter those relapsing infections in rCRS patients are urgently needed.

Bacteriophages (phages) are viruses that target and kill specific bacterial species, leaving the human mucosa and commensal species unaffected. Phage therapy is not a new idea,

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

BHI SEMINARS

BHI Seminars

The seminar program recommences in mid-March 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

BHI Policy Committee
Tuesday 22 March 2022

BHI HUB

Scientific Director
Joy Rathjen

BHI Ground Floor
Phone: 8222 6870
joy.rathjen@sa.gov.au
Work days: Tuesday - Thursday

Welcome to 2022. It has been a staggered start to the year but with schools and most workplaces back to work this week it feels like the year is beginning.

A big thank you to staff and students for reading the emails and acting accordingly to keep our workplace safe. For the BHI, advice comes from many places and it has been confusing for Imogen to map a pathway, so it is good to be able to report it has been a quiet and calm start for the BHI.

2021 finished with Professor Maddern providing his annual summary of research activity at the BHI, TQEH taken from the results of the Annual Audit for Research Productivity 2020-2021 (a financial year review). Research in the hospital precinct is flourishing – student numbers maintained despite the difficulties experienced by international students wanting to join our programs, publication numbers remained high and our researchers were investigators on more than 130 grants. After presentations from Prof Maddern and Prof Beltrame we farewelled Kathryn Hudson – an emotional moment as we marked the 14 years of service of a colleague and friend (see photo further on in this edition!).

Professor Maddern and I took a deep dive into the publication data, wanting to understand not only the number of publications produced, but also their quality. Using impact factors as a guide, I can report that we publish widely, with reports in more than 240 journals, and that we aim high, with an average impact factor by paper of 7.64, and a median impact factor of 4.12. This is not an analysis that will happen every year, as it is time-consuming and dates quickly, but it has provided a unique snapshot of the research outputs we produce as a community of researchers.

It may have been a slow start to the year, but Rebecca and I have gathered the material for the BHI Research Report 2021, which reports on the research of the BHI, TQEH for the calendar year 2021, and are working with the *(continued on p 7)*

BHI Facilities Manager
Imogen Ball

BHI Ground Floor
Phone: 8222 7427
imogen.ball@sa.gov.au
Work days: Monday - Thursday

BHI Communications Officer
Rebecca Anderson

BHI Ground Floor
Phone: 8222 7345
rebecca.anderson@adelaide.edu.au
Work days: Tuesday - Thursday 9-3pm

MRFF grant awarded to ENT Surgery (continued)

having been considered as early as the 1920's. However, it has recently regained global interest for its potential to treat infections with antibiotic resistant pathogens, including MRSA.

Building on promising results of a world-first Phase 1 human clinical trial conducted by our team, this 4-year study, called the AIRSPACE trial (AntI-MRSA PhAge Cocktail treatment via Acoustic Enhanced Nebulisers) will be the first to provide evidence for the potential of a novel bacteriophage cocktail to eradicate S. aureus and methicillin resistant S. aureus (MRSA) infections in rCRS patients that do not respond to existing treatments. The phage treatment will be delivered to the nose and sinuses using a novel device, developed with our collaborators at the Mechanical Engineering Department of The University of Adelaide. The device has the potential to increase the delivery of medications include phage treatments to the sinuses almost 1000 fold, compared to delivery using nasal rinses.

The novel phages were isolated in South Australia by the ENT Surgery research team and characterised in the recently established Adelaide Phage Therapy Centre (APTC). The APTC was established within the Basil Hetzel Institute, TQEH, with funding from AusHealth Corporate Pty Ltd, a company wholly owned by Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) and the exclusive research commercialisation agent of CAHLN. The APTC aims to make clinical grade personalised phage medicines available to patients and health care providers in Australia and beyond.

This new double-blinded randomised controlled trial will be the first in the world to investigate the real therapeutic potential of phage therapy as a stand-alone-treatment to eradicate difficult-to-treat S. aureus and MRSA sinonasal infections. It provides a unique opportunity for Australians with and without CF who suffer from rCRS with access to a potentially life-changing therapy at the clinical trial stage.

"AntI-MRSA PhAge Cocktail treatment via Acoustic Enhanced Nebulisers, or AIRSPACE Trial" (#2014977)

MRFF Rare Cancers Rare Diseases and Unmet Need category

$1,712,341 2022 - 2025

CIA: Professor PJ Wormald, ENT Surgery, CALHN, The University of Adelaide and BHI, TQEH

CIB: Associate Professor Sarah Vreugde, ENT Surgery, The University of Adelaide and BHI, TQEH

CIC: Professor Alkis Psaltis, ENT Surgery, The University of Adelaide and BHI, TQEH

CID: Dr Sandra Morales, Phage Solutions Pty Ltd.

CIE: Dr Oveis Pourmehran, ENT Surgery, The University of Adelaide and BHI, TQEH

CIF: Professor Ben Cazzalato, School of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Adelaide

CIG: Professor Maziar Arjomandi, School of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Adelaide

CIH: Dr Jennie Louise, Adelaide Health Technology Assessment, The University of Adelaide

CII: Ms Camille Schubert, Adelaide Health Technology Assessment, The University of Adelaide

Additional funding

MRFF "2021 Rare Cancers Rare Diseases and Unmet Need"

"**Augmenting dietary protein during critical illness: A cluster randomised cross-sectional double crossover clinical trial**" (APP 2014786)

$1,992,218.00 2022 - 2025

CIA: A/Professor Adam Deane, University of Melbourne
CIB: Professor Marianne Chapman, Royal Adelaide Hospital
CIC: Professor Sandra Peake, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital
CID: Dr Lee-Anne Chapple, Royal Adelaide Hospital
CIE: A/Professor Jeffrey Presneill, The Royal Melbourne Hospital
CIF: Professor Rinaldo Bellomo, Monash University, Melbourne
CIG: Professor Paul Young, Medical Research Institute of New Zealand
CIH: Dr Emma Ridley, Monash University, Melbourne
CII: Dr Amalia Karahalios, University of Melbourne
CIJ: Dr An Tran-Duy, University of Melbourne

Project summary: A small proportion of Australians become so sick that they require admission to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for life support. As part of their care these patients receive liquid nutrition via a tube into their stomach. The ideal amount of dietary protein to administer is, however, unknown. This large pragmatic trial will inform how much dietary protein these critically ill patients should receive whilst in ICU receiving life support.

These investigators were also successful in obtaining a $100,000.00 grant from the Intensive Care Foundation for the study.

ARC Discovery Project Grant

"Resilient Housing for Low Socio-Economic Older People" (DP220103213)

$375,000 2022 - 2024

CIA: Professor Veronica Soebarto, The University of Adelaide *(photo, top)*
CIB: Professor Renuka Visvanathan, The University of Adelaide and TQEH *(photo, bottom)*
CIC: Adjunct Professor Terry Williamson
CID: Professor Dino Pisaniello

Project summary: The project aims to advance knowledge about housing design and indoor environment to improve the wellbeing of older people with low socio-economic status in South Australia, including those with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It will gather information about indoor living environment and relationships with wellbeing of the occupants, household energy use and operational costs, to explore affordable improvement strategies. The project is significant to address the problems faced by one-third of the population who are unable to afford proper housing and fuel-poor. Improved living conditions will lead to better quality of life and reduce public health costs while providing environmental benefits through reduced energy use.

This research will complete the picture of housing of older people in South Australia that started nearly 4 years ago with their previous grant (DP180102019 "Improving thermal conditions in housing for older Australians").

Additional funding (continued)

The Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation – Conjoint Grant

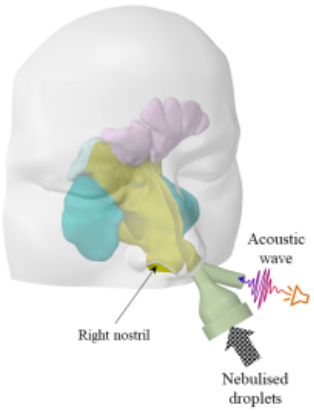
"Acoustic Drug Delivery for CRS Treatment"
$375,000 2022 - 2025

CIA: Professor Peter-John Wormald, The University of Adelaide and TQEH *(photo, top)*
CIB: Dr Oveis Pourmehran, The University of Adelaide and TQEH *(photo, bottom)*

The Garnett Passe & Rodney Williams Conjoint Grant is aimed to support and promote genuine collaborations between scientific researchers and clinical practitioners who are undertaking research, that demonstrably advances research towards improvements in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery clinical practice.

Project summary: Chronic Rhinosinusitis (CRS) has a prevalence of 4.9 -10.9% worldwide and effects approximately 1.8 million Australians. The current gold standard of drug delivery to sinuses is nasal irrigation using a squeeze bottle, which has an unacceptable wastage of active drug of more than 97%. Alternative devices for sinus drug delivery are nasal sprays and lung nebulisers. However, both have poor efficiency as more than 90% of the medication is delivered to either the anterior part of the nose (nasal spray) or to the lung (nebulisers). Our pilot studies, detailed in Dr Pourmehran's PhD thesis, show that applying a tailored acoustic wave to the nebulised medication (droplets) entering the nostril can enhance the penetration of droplets into sinuses >45-fold when compared to the conventional nebulisation drug delivery technique (without acoustics).

If you are curious about how acoustic drug delivery technique works, read Dr Pourmehran's PhD Thesis. This technique has the potential to improve sinus drug delivery >1000-fold when compared to the current gold standard squeeze bottle wash. In this project, advanced computational fluid dynamics models, cutting-edge 3D printing technologies (e.g., Fusetec), virtual endoscopic sinus surgery, and a cutting-edge acoustic technique will be utilised to develop a novel compact acoustically-enhanced nebuliser (AEN) as a high-efficiency sinus drug delivery device to be used in clinical trials for CRS management. This research will be conducted by researchers at The University of Adelaide and the Basil Hetzel Institute, TQEH.



GPRWMF website

https://gprwmf.org.au/awarded/acoustic-drug-delivery-for-crs-treatment/

Additional funding (continued)

ARC Discovery Project Grant

"The Molecular Basis of Nanoparticle Resistance in Mixed-Species Biofilm" (DP220101819)
$375,000 2022 - 2024

CIA: Dr Cindy Gunawan, University Technology Sydney
CIB: Associate Professor Scott Rice, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
CIC: Dr Amy Holmes, University of South Australia and the BHI, TQEH *(photo, left)*

Project summary: The project aims to understand how mixed-species growth of globally significant pathogens develop resistance to silver nanoparticles, currently one of the most important alternative antimicrobials to antibiotics. We will elucidate the nanoparticle effect on multi-targeting toxicity on mixed-species bacterial community and how, in turn, the bacteria activate their cell-to-cell signaling for a synergistic defense to adapt to the nanoparticle toxicity. This pioneering knowledge is the foundation for technologies targeting the interspecies metabolite cross-talking to overcome the resistance phenomena, ensuring a long-term efficacy of silver nanoparticles.

A PhD student funded by the project will spend time in Dr Holmes laboratory at the Basil Hetzel Institute, TQEH, learning state-of-the-art imaging techniques to assess silver nanoparticle interactions with mixed species biofilms.

L-R: Dr Robert Bryant and Dr Alice Day

Gutsy Grant

"Examining diet as therapy in Ulcerative Colitis: A randomised, single blind, placebo-controlled dietary advice trial (EAT-UC RCT)"
$150,000 2022 - 2023

CIA: Dr Alice Day, TQEH
CIB: Dr Rob Bryant, TQEH
CIC: Dr Sam Costello, TQEH
CID: Dr Sam Forster, Monash University, Melbourne

Dr Alice Day, Senior Academic Dietitian in the Department of Gastroenterology at TQEH, and Gastroenterologists Drs Rob Bryant and Sam Costello received this award in addition to the ECCO project grant that was included in the December 2021 Edition of the BHI Winning News (page 3).

This project is in the active recruitment of patient phase and is also supported by a project grant from The Hospital Research Foundation Group.

For more information and trial enquiries please contact the EAT-UC study team on (08) 8222 8984 or health.IBDresearchteam@sa.gov.au

Additional funding (continued)

MRFF MTP Connect BTB Commercialisation Voucher

$90,000

Associate Professor Branka Grubor-Bauk, Viral Immunology Group, The University of Adelaide and BHI, TQEH

This new funding supports the existing funding that Branka received from the Biomedical Translation Bridge Program (a MRFF initiative, delivered by MTP Connect) in 2020 [see October 2020 edition of WN for more information].

BHI Hub news (continued from page 2)

the designers to put it all together. The report will be released after the first BHI Policy Committee meeting for 2022 and is looking impressive, as always. The *photo to the right* shows Tricia Williams with a box of Haighs biscuits - our way of thanking the Intensive Care Medicine Research Group for being the first to submit their report form, and ahead of the original December deadline!! We hope this provides an incentive for some of the groups for the next report collection...

The collection and reporting of research success is a long tradition at the BHI – 2020-2021 financial year was the 24th consecutive Annual Assessment of Research Productivity. Formal reporting is important, but not the only way we celebrate success at the BHI, TQEH. If you have an exciting research milestone – a new grant, ……. Let Rebecca know and it can be featured on facebook, twitter as well as on the BHI website and in Winning News.

Left: Tricia Williams, Intensive Care Medicine Research Group, with our thankyou gift!

Right: Kathryn Hudson at her farewell in December 2021

BHI SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know that the BHI now has a Twitter account? Use the handle **@BHIresearch** to find us, and the hashtags **#BHIresearch** and **#TQEHresearch** in your feeds.

This complements the BHI Facebook page: **facebook.com/basilhetzelinstitute**

If you have news you would like to share on these platforms please alert the BHI Communications Officer **rebecca.anderson@adelaide.edu.au** so that she can keep an eye out for them!

New Equipment thanks to THRF Group & The Univeristy of Adelaide

Ghais Houtak, PhD student with ENT Surgery

Cytek® Aurora 3L Flow Cytometer

In 2006, THRF Group supported the purchase of a FACSCanto™ II Flow Cytometer. This instrument served us well for 15 years; however, it only detects eight colours and current flow cytometry techniques require increased colour detection. In 2021, THRF Group in conjunction with The University of Adelaide, funded The Cytek® Aurora 3 Laser system which detects 24 colours with the capacity to further increase to 40 colours.

The Aurora will facilitate the development of immune based cellular therapy for metastatic colorectal cancer by characterising cells found in cellular therapy and identifying critical factors for tumour clearance.

The Aurora will also be used to characterise cytokine-induced killer cells for the treatment of metastatic cancer, identify how local delivery of SFRP5 affects the tumour microenvironment in vivo, analyse Th17 subsets infiltrating in nasal mucosa of fungal CRS patients and screen for patient nasal immune-phenotype for a CRS clinical trial.

New Staff Members at the BHI, TQEH

Li Lao
Clinical Research Coordinator,
Vascular Surgery Research Group

Dr Saifei Liu
Postdoctoral Researcher,
Solid Tumour Group
(Saifei previously worked at the BHI with the Cardiovascular Pathophysiology & Therapeutics Group)

Dr Ryan Mathias
IBD Clinical Fellow,
Inflammatory Bowel
Disease Research Group

Lalit Yadav
Research Officer,
Adelaide GTRAC Centre

Have you seen Arthur!?
He's a research assistant with the Viral Immunology Group at the BHI, TQEH.

Dr Prue Cowled retires after 47 years at TQEH!!

Next week is Prue's last official working week at the BHI, TQEH after an incredible 47 years, with her starting a well-deserved period of annual and long service leave before she is off the books at the end of August! The November 2021 edition of WN featured Prue receiving one of the inaugural BHI Awards at our dinner celebrating 60 years of TQEH research for her exceptional contribution to research. Below are some parting words from two of her long-standing mentors and colleagues, as well as some memories from Prue.

Prue was thrilled to receive her BHI Award from the SA Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson in October 2021

TQEH Research Day 2008

TQEH Research Day 2013

Professor Guy Maddern, Director of Research at the BHI, TQEH, said of Prue:

"Prue is a "team player", a skill often difficult to find in an environment of focussed, ambitious researchers. There can be no question of her commitment to science and careful meticulous research, but her standout qualities are for "the team". Her commitment to TQEH Research Day at the BHI saw over 20 years of tireless input into the logistics and conduct of this showcase of BHI, TQEH research. Every year in the planning and execution there were countless problems, handled with calm and expert solutions. An apparently effortless event is anything but the case, and Prue's guidance will be greatly missed.

This activity dove-tailed well with her role as Postgraduate Coordinator (PGC) for The University of Adelaide. Mostly it is a supportive and pastoral role which can provide great satisfaction as higher degree students work through their experiments, publications and thesis preparation. This is, however, not always the case. Students can fall into difficult problems unrelated to the science and their supervisors can, from time to time, also present challenging problems. Somehow Prue was always able to navigate these issues and without exception find a workable solution. The role of the PGC is not a tick box exercise and the skill set required is complex. Prue can be quite tough on both students and supervisors, but is always fair. The University of Adelaide owes her a great debt for her many years of unpaid and valuable service. We have now had to find two new PGCs to replace her.

We all look forward to keeping in touch with Prue as her retirement provides a new series of tasks and challenges which she should certainly have greater control over."

Dr Prue Cowled retires after 47 years at TQEH!!

As you will read in Prue's "potted history" on the following pages, Prue spent many years working with **Professor of Vascular Surgery, Rob Fitridge**. Rob writes:

"It is hard to encapsulate the contributions that Prue Cowled has made to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, including the Basil Hetzel Institute and to the colleagues and students she has worked with over 47 years.

Prue was "poached" from the Department of Medicine at TQEH by Professor Maddern to run the basic research in the Department of Surgery, soon after I returned from a research Fellowship at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California. She started a program studying Ischaemia/ Reperfusion Injury with significant success. After a number of years, the Vascular research moved into outcome modelling of new technologies- Prue embraced this very different field of research with enthusiasm. More recently, collaborations with Allison Cowin and Chris Bursill looking at wound healing in diabetes - both at a basic and applied level have been coordinated by Prue.

As the vascular unit has played a major role in the development of international guidelines and curriculum development, Prue has been instrumental in supporting this work. She played an absolutely critical role in the publication by Springer Nature of "Mechanisms of Vascular Disease: A Textbook for Vascular Specialists" in 2020.

Others have written about Prue's role in the development and successful running of TQEH Research Day for many years exemplifies the support she has provided for young researchers- both from the basic sciences and clinicians undertaking research as part of their career trajectory.

It is hard to imagine anyone who better encapsulates the concept of the "quiet achiever" and Prue certainly has had a positive effect on everyone she has worked with.

We all hope the Prue will enjoy her retirement- and many of us will enjoy catching up with her on a regular basis."

Vascular Surgery Research Group

December 2021

Dr Prue Cowled retires after 47 years at TQEH!!

Memories of several decades at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Prue.Cowled@sa.gov.au

I started as a Level 1 Hospital Scientist in The University of Adelaide Department of Medicine at TQEH on 6 January 1975, straight out of my Biochemistry Honours year. Peter Zalewski started in the same department on the same day and, all these years later we are occupying adjacent offices! We both reported to Dr Ian Forbes, a physician, who over the years was a very supportive mentor and provided great opportunities and encouragement to expand and advance our careers.

My first role was in diagnostic immunology and I found the direct contact with patients very rewarding. One of the assays I carried out was lymphocyte surface markers for IgG, IgA and IgM to diagnose blood malignancies and immune deficiencies. This was in the days before flow cytometry, so counting of positive cells was done manually which was certainly challenging and probably not very accurate. Lymphocytes were isolated and incubated with fluorescent antibodies before being examined under a fluorescence microscope. The microscope only produced a single wavelength so we could only use FITC stains. A drop of stained cells was placed on a microscope slide, cover-slipped and the edges then sealed with bright red nail polish. This was to stop the cells moving around when viewed under the microscope. If the cells moved, this tended to induce a feeling of sea sickness in the observer! A single field was examined, first under visible light and the number of cells counted using a manual clicker, then the visible light was turned off and the number of fluorescent cells counted to get a percentage of positive cells. This had to be done quickly as the UV light from the microscope bleached out the FITC!

After a few years, diagnostic immunology became a bit boring, so I was delighted to be able to move over to a new research project, photodynamic therapy for the treatment of cancers. In this treatment, a photosensitising drug (a porphyrin derivative) was given to the patients, and it localised in the tumours. The drug was then activated by shining red light on the tumour, inducing cell death. I was involved in many aspects including patient treatments, *in vitro* assays of new photosensitising drugs and mouse models and, out of the latter two aspects, I was able to write up my PhD thesis which was awarded in 1987.

In 1988, I spent 6 months as a post-doc in the MRC Human Genetics Unit at Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, Scotland, where I was introduced to molecular biology and some more advanced tissue culture techniques. It was a great experience and I returned to TQEH to set up some new projects to examine molecular changes in the development of cancer. In this context, I was able to obtain NHMRC funding and my first PhD student arrived, Andreas Evdokiou, who of course is a familiar face at the BHI, TQEH. I also took study leave for 6 months in 1992 to work at EMBL in Heidelberg, Germany which provided advanced molecular training and introduced me to the joys of pretzels! In 1994, Ian Forbes retired, and I was given the opportunity by Professor Guy Maddern (another great mentor) to transfer to the Discipline of Surgery where I was able to continue the molecular oncology projects for some time, collaborating with the Colorectal and Urology units.

Soon after joining Surgery, I was introduced to Rob Fitridge, a new appointment to the Department as Senior Lecturer in Vascular Surgery. He had just returned from the USA and had a very active interest in vascular research. We collaborated in developing some laboratory research projects in reperfusion injury and we co-supervised higher degree students over the years. In recent years, this collaboration has changed focus and I have been closely involved in managing several clinical research projects. A particular highlight was the publication of a text book, the third edition of “Mechanisms of Vascular Disease” with Rob as Editor and myself as

Dr Prue Cowled retires after 47 years at TQEH!!

the proof reader, formatter, obtainer of permissions to publish figures, manager of Endnote libraries and sundry other tasks. We are both proud of the book and, so far, I haven't spotted any typos. I recently checked the Springer website and there have been over 14,000 downloads. I have greatly valued my collaboration with Rob, we work well together!

Another TQEH highlight was the planning of the new Basil Hetzel Institute research building. In the early 2000s, researchers were occupying the old red brick nursing home and the idea of a brand-new purpose-built facility was very exciting. I recall attending the first stakeholder meeting at the Lakes Hotel in (I think) 2005, complete with flip charts, where we workshopped what we wanted in our new facility, very exciting. There were subsequently many BHI Management Committee meetings over the next year or so to hash out the fine details of what we required in our new building and, since it was to be shared space, work out new ways of operating and collaborating together. Since the new building had a smaller footprint than the old one, we needed to downsize and dispose of a vast amount of obsolete chemicals and equipment. I even had to get the Police bomb squad to take away a bottle of dried out picric acid which was in danger of exploding! We needed to pack everything into moving boxes, both laboratory equipment and office items and I recall that Surgery eventually had about 170 boxes. The Surgery move was on 5 Dec 2008. It was a very hot day and we managed to move all our stuff over the road without too much drama, but we did have an old -80o freezer which did not survive the move.

Overall, working at TQEH for my entire career has been a great experience. I have been given so many opportunities to explore new fields of research and contribute to many projects. I've also enjoyed mentoring and training future research leaders who have studied for their higher degrees at the BHI, TQEH. Many thanks to all who have made the BHI such a great place to work, I will miss the BHI greatly, but life moves on and its time to try new adventures in my retirement!

BHI STUDENT NEWS

BHI Student Reps
2022

Roshan Nepal (Level 1)
roshan.nepal@adelaide.edu.au

Ghais Houtak (Level 1)
ghais.houtak@adelaide.edu.au

Sarena La (Level 2)
sarena.la@adelaide.edu.au

Congratulations to Dr Amita Ghadge and Dr Martha Menberu!!

Dr Amita Ghadge was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy from The Univeristy of Adelaide on 8 December 2021. Her primary supervisor was Associate Professor Wendy Ingman who leads the Breast Biology and Cancer Unit. Amita's thesis was titled "The developmental origins of mammographic density and breast cancer risk" and her research was supported by an International Wildcard Scholarship from The University of Adelaide. Amita returned to India at the end of 2021 to spend some time with her family.

Dr Martha Menberu qualified for her degree of Doctor of Philosophy from The University of Adelaide on 11 February 2022. She completed her PhD with the ENT Surgery group under the supervision of Associate Professor Sarah Vreugde and Professors PJ Wormald and Alkis Psaltis. Research for her thesis, "Investigating Microbiome – Targeted Treatments for Chronic Rhinosinusitis: A novel approach to combat dysbiosis in the nasal microbiome" was supported by an Adelaide International Scholarship from The University of Adelaide. Since submitting her PhD last year, Martha has been working as a research assistant with the ENT Surgery group. She says the following about finishing her PhD, "I am grateful beyond words to my supervisors Associate Professor Sarah Vreugde, Professor Peter-John Wormald and Professor Alkis Psaltis for their excellent guidance, encouragement and invaluable support throughout my candidature. It has been a long journey but worth it. The opportunity to publish my work and connect and collaborate with researchers from across the globe has been so valuable. I am also grateful to the wonderful colleagues and friends in the ENT Surgery group especially, Drs Clare Cooksley, Sha Liu and Mahnaz Ramezanpour and to the Basil Hetzel Institute staff, for amazing support in many ways and their exceptional team spirit. I appreciate the BHI core research facilities, the staff who have provided this friendly and supportive environment and everyone who has connected me to professionals all over the world. I am extremely thankful to The University of Adelaide for granting me the Adelaide Scholarship International (ASI) award, which made my PhD journey possible. Lastly, my Special Thanks are reserved for my husband, Mezgebu and kids, Nati and Emi for their patience, encouragement, humour, and for making everything possible."

GENERAL INFORMATION

Statistician at the BHI

Suzanne is available at the BHI each Tuesday and can be consulted by TQEH/ The University of Adelaide Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences staff and research higher degree students. Support is limited to 15 hours on a per project basis.

Tuesdays
BHI Level 1
Room 1E.07
Phone: 8222 6679
suzanne.edwards@adelaide.edu.au

Suzanne Edwards
Statistical Consultant
Data, Design and Statistics Services
Adelaide Health Technology Assessment (AHTA)
School of Public Health
The University of Adelaide

New Open Access publications for University of Adelaide researchers

THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

Read & Publish agreements: Publishing in open access publications: University of Adelaide researchers now have access to 5 new Read & Publish agreements. These agreements provide researchers with the opportunity to publish their research open access without needing to pay individual article processing charges. The new agreements are with: **Future Science, Oxford University Press, Royal Society, Springer, and Wiley** and add to our existing agreements with Biochemical Society, Company of Biologists, Karger and Microbiology Society.

The agreements apply to all University of Adelaide staff and students, including title holders. Further information is available on the University of Adelaide Library's Read & Publish agreements webpage or by contacting your Liaison Librarian.

**Please note: The CAUL Read & Publish agreements have also been taken up by various Universities across Australia. Staff from other Universities including Flinders University and University of South Australia will need to check with their respective libraries.*

TQEH Librarians

Librarians, Anna Holasek and Rachel Davey from the SA Health Library Service, TQEH campus, are available to assist you with constructing literature and database searches for your research and help you obtain relevant material.

All BHI staff, students and researchers are welcome to contact Anna or Rachel to arrange a meeting or alternatively visit the library website at SALUS [https://salus.sa.gov.au] to view our services and resources, or use the live online chat option to contact library staff.
Please register online for a SALUS username and password to access the online library resources.

Government of South Australia
Health
Central Adelaide Local Health Network

Pre-review service for clinical research grants

All research studies, including grant funded research, require appropriate ethics and governance approvals before they can commence. Unlike the NHMRC, many funding bodies do not utilise a peer-review system as part of their grant funding rounds. This can lead to delays in researchers obtaining the post-award approvals that are required before they can start their projects. **The CALHN Research Office is offering pre-application scientific review of clinical human research projects by the CALHN HREC Chair, Mr Ian Tindall, with a view to facilitating efficient post-award approval processes.**

For further information and submission please contact the CALHN Research Office on Health.CALHNResearchEthics@sa.gov.au or call 7117 2230

CALHN Human Research Ethics Committee 2022 Submission and Meeting Dates for Applications

A list of all meeting dates can be found on the BHI website

HREC/IDSC Submission deadlines	CALHN HREC Meeting	IDSC Meeting
Monday 17 January 2022	Thursday 10 February 2022	
Monday 31 January 2022	Thursday 24 February 2022	Thursday 24 February 2022
Monday 14 February 2022	Thursday 10 March 2022	
Monday 28 February 2022	Thursday 24 March 2022	Thursday 24 March 2022

The Central Adelaide Local Health Network Human Research Ethics Committee (CALHN HREC) will hold two meetings and with two submission deadlines each month in 2022.

The Investigational Drug Sub-Committee (IDSC) will continue to meet monthly.

Studies involving early phase trial of investigational medicinal products require review and approval from both the IDSC and CALHN HREC.

Supporting documents are to be submitted to CALHN HREC via email Health.CALHNResearchEthics@sa.gov.au

For more information please contact:

Investigational Drugs Subcommittee (IDSC)	**CALHN Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)**
Mr Peter Siobodian or Dr Ada Lam Executive Officer, Specialist Pharmacist Phone: (08) 7074 1430 or (08) 7074 1150 peter.siobodian@sa.gov.au ada.lam@sa.gov.au	Ms Lisa Barrie CALHN HREC Level 3, Roma Mitchell House Phone: (08) 7117 2229 or (08) 8222 6841 Health.CALHNResearchEthics@sa.gov.au

Animal Ethics

Animal ethics applications go through The University of Adelaide Animal Ethics Committee.
Details of meeting and submission dates: www.adelaide.edu.au/research-services/oreci/animal/applications/

Contact details for this committee:
Amanda Camporeale, Senior Animal Ethics Officer
Phone: 8313 6310
Email: aec@adelaide.edu.au

PC2 Laboratory Facility

All laboratory spaces at the BHI, TQEH research facility are PC2 certified by the OGTR and relevant requirements must be adhered to at all times. This is the case even if you are not working with genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Please be aware of the following PC2 requirements:

- All persons within the laboratory should wear a lab coat and closed shoes. If necessary, other appropriate PPE should also be worn and long hair tied back. Protective clothing must be removed after completing laboratory procedures and before leaving the facility.
- Eating, drinking, smoking, shaving and applying cosmetics are prohibited in the facility. Food or drink must not be brought into or stored in the facility.
- All solutions should be labelled according to Chemical Management procedures, i.e. full name of solution, owners name, major risk category. Labels can be downloaded from Chemwatch, accessed via the University of Adelaide or SA Health.
- Researchers using GMOs should ensure proper segregation between other work.
- Lab benches are to be decontaminated at the completion of tasks.
- All floor areas are kept clear (i.e. no storage of boxes) to allow for proper cleaning and decontamination of spills.
- Treat all fluid traps connected to biosafety cabinets as PC2 waste.
- Treat medical waste bins and contents as infectious.
- Researchers should ensure that all spills are cleaned up appropriately.
- All biological material transported out of labs must be sealed in a secondary sealed and unbreakable container (with Infectious Materials sticker on it if containing GMOs).
- Only reading/writing material and computers essential to procedures performed within the facility are permitted on work benches where procedures are performed. Reading and writing material must not be used inside a biological safety cabinet.
- Wash or decontaminate your hands immediately before leaving the facility or before using any reading/ writing areas.


Australian Government
Department of Health
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

PC2 Certified Facility

This Facility Cert-2832 Rooms BH1-001, BH1-002, BH1-004 to BH1-009, BH1-012 to BH1-018, BH1-020 to BH1-024, Level 1, The Basil Hetzel Institute for Medical Research

Cert Num

has been certified as a

PC2 Laboratory from 20/11/2018 to 27/11/2023

unless cancelled, suspended or surrendered

Certification Holder The Queen Elizabeth Hospital

The certification holder must comply with the conditions on the instrument of certification.
Licence holders and persons covered by a licence must comply with the conditions on the licence when conducting licensed GMO dealings.

Dr Raj Bhula
Gene Technology Regulator

Contact OGTR via: Website www.ogtr.gov.au or Freecall 1800 181 030 or Email ogtr@health.gov.au

PUBLICATIONS

If you wish to have a recent publication included, please send details to the BHI Communications Officer
rebecca.anderson@adelaide.edu.au

ANZELA-QI Working Party, James Aitken R, Griffiths B, Van Acker J, O'Loughlin E, Fletcher D, Treacy J, Watters D, Babidge W. Two-year outcomes from the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit-Quality Improvement pilot study. ANZ Journal of Surgery. 91(12):2575-2582, 2021. Dec doi.org/10.1111/ans.17037.

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PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

If you wish to have a recent publication included, please send details to the BHI Communications Officer rebecca.anderson@adelaide.edu.au

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PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

If you wish to have a recent publication included, please send details to the BHI Communications Officer rebecca.anderson@adelaide.edu.au

James Aitken R, Griffiths B, Van Acker J, O'Loughlin E, Fletcher D, Treacy J, Watters D, Babidge W. Two-year outcomes from the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit-Quality Improvement pilot study. ANZ Journal of Surgery. 91(12): 2575-2582, 2021 Dec doi.org/10.1111/ans.17037.

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Double the dream with TWO homes up for grabs!

Our newest Hospital Research Foundation Home Lottery is giving you the chance to win TWO amazing Scott Salisbury homes in Somerton Park!

The $3 million Grand Prize is an Art Deco inspired, fully-furnished home with swimming pool and comes with $500,000 cash!

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Most importantly, by purchasing tickets you are joining the fight for world-leading research, improved treatments and vital healthcare services for our community, including at the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research (BHI) and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Visit www.homelottery.com.au to purchase your ticket today!

Join our circle of heroes

Associate Professor Wendy Ingman, from the BHI's Breast Biology and Cancer Unit, is working to prevent breast cancer and reduce the burden it places on our community.

A/Prof Ingman's PhD student Dr Amita Ghadge has shown that adolescent girls who are a bit chubbier during puberty go on to have less dense breasts, which can then lead to a reduced risk of breast cancer throughout their lifetime. They hope that these insights will lead to better education for young girls about positive body image.

This World Cancer Day, we are fighting for more than 20,000 Australian women who are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. This is a frightening statistic, but A/Prof Ingman and her Circle of Heroes are fighting to change that to save the lives of our mums, daughters, sisters and friends.

Find out more about the Circle of Heroes: https://bit.ly/3gfyhc2

Introducing Captain Cure

We are SO excited to welcome Captain Cure to Team THRF!

Our friendly mascot will be coming along to events and cheering us on in the fight to save lives and improve care.

Cap' can't wait to meet you!

Purchase a basketball and save lives

Our fantastic friends at the Adelaide 36ers and Sportspower Zorich Group are teaming up to sell an exclusive range of basketballs – with all proceeds going to THRF Group!

For just $25, you can join the fight for cures and improved care in hospitals with these unique 36ers "Together Fight" charity balls.

Get yours today! Zorich Group has Sportspower stores at Colonnades, Elizabeth, Harbour Town, Gawler, Glenelg, Marion, Norwood and Renmark.

Get your basketball in store now or order online here:
https://bit.ly/3fkrpd8

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adelaide Biomed City Mini-Reviews

Past ABMC Mini-Reviews can be viewed online

ABMC Research Minireview - CALHN on Bowel Cancer

Tuesday 8th February 2021

Presentations by Professor Tim Price

"Bowel Cancer, more than one disease"

and A/Professor Joanne Young

"Towards Bowel Cancer Screening for Young Onset Type 2 Diabetes"

Chaired by Professor Guy Maddern