



WELCOME!

We hope you enjoy reading about our latest research updates from the Centre for Kidney Research!

QuiCK Study

Some of our researchers are involved in the new QuiCK (Quality of Life in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)) Study, learning more about the needs of patients with CKD. This novel research is being undertaken by Nephrologist Dr Germaine Wong and others to gain a better understanding of the needs of people living with CKD at all stages of illness and assess patients' perspectives on cancer awareness and prevention.

Centre for Kidney Research staff and staff at the Blacktown Dialysis Unit recently arranged a workshop to provide an opportunity for CKD patients who are on peritoneal dialysis to gain some new information from Allied Health Professionals and to meet other patients on peritoneal dialysis. Around 60 people attended the workshop to gain some valuable information and providing some valuable support and education for these patients. We would be interested to receive any feedback from anyone who attended, to assist us with any future workshops like this.

Did you know...

In 2006-07, CKD contributed to over 1.1 million hospitalisations, most of which were for regular dialysis

NEAT Study

The NEAT (Nocturnal Enuresis Alarm Therapy) Study is a NHMRC funded study developed to test the effectiveness of a new wireless bed-wetting alarm device, designed by staff at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, against a quality commercially available alarm. 350 school-aged children who suffer from significant bed-wetting issues will be recruited to this study. The study commenced recruiting in May 2009 and by early December 2009, 125 children have been enrolled. Of these children, 67 have completed alarm training and we will continue to monitor their progress for a full year. The NEAT Study team can be contacted on 0429 468 883 or by email MariannK@chw.edu.au. We would like to thank the families who have become part of the NEAT Study and we wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Did you know...

Ten per cent of school-aged children suffer from bed-wetting and, unfortunately, only one third of these children and families seek medical help for this debilitating problem.

ARDAC Study

The ARDAC (Antecedents of Renal Disease in Aboriginal Children) Study began in 2002 and has been monitoring kidney and cardiovascular health of approximately 2000 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and young people. We hope to discover why Australia's Aboriginal population experience such a high burden of chronic kidney disease.

Our study participants come from schools and communities all over NSW. Kidney and cardiovascular health checks are performed every 2 years. This year we have screened 850 participants from areas such as Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Wagga Wagga, Batemans Bay, Ballina, Newcastle and Dubbo. In 2010, we plan to screen in remote areas of NSW such as Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Bourke and Walgett.

To conduct such a large study, the ARDAC team relies on the support and assistance of schools and communities that we visit. Aboriginal Education Officers and Health Workers, families and school staff are all vital to the success of the ARDAC study. The ARDAC Team has 7 NSW screening trips planned for 2010 and look forward to another busy year of kidney health screening!!

Did you know...

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were treated for end stage kidney disease at 6 times the rate of other Australians in 2007

CKR Laboratory

The laboratory research has continued on the twin areas of tolerance in transplantation and kidney disease and the genetics of renal disease. In 2009 we were awarded 2 prestigious NHMRC grants for work on tolerance in kidney disease in collaboration with Prof Harris at Westmead and a second grant to study the dynamics of T cell function with Prof Ian Alexander. We have also been joined by Dr Anne Durkan, a nephrologist with an interest in chemokines and atherosclerosis. We have identified a number of new mechanisms of tolerance in kidney disease. We have expanded our work on tolerance to study kidney and heart transplants. We continue to be part of the human trials in islet transplantation and research on unique individuals who have developed clinical tolerance. We have continued our genetic studies on both structural kidney disease and functional kidney disease and had Prof Juepner as a visiting Harvard scholar to help with these studies and are incredibly grateful to the families that participate in these studies.

CKR NEWS

FEVER Study

The FEVER Study has involved a trial of a decision support system for clinicians in the emergency department over a two year period. This decision support system was implemented to assist doctors with the assessment and diagnosis of urinary tract infection, bacteraemia and pneumonia in children with a fever. Over 16000 visits to emergency have been followed up and the data we have collected is currently undergoing analysis.

Did you know...

Cystitis is the most common type of urinary tract infection. Occasionally the infection spreads to the kidneys; this is called 'pyelonephritis' and may cause kidney damage.

TULIP TIME SUCCESS FOR CKR!!

The Tulip Time Festival in Bowral was a great success with over \$40000 raised for CKR through the Sydney Cycling Club's Ride for a Reason. Thank you to Sydney Cycling Club and to Tulip Time organisers for your generous support this year. Our hats go off to those cyclists who were brave enough to face the dust storms all day to ride from Centennial Park to Bowral!!

Thanks also to the staff of the Centre for Kidney Research, Fundraising staff of The Children's Hospital at Westmead and all of our friends who helped out at the festival. Even 9 year old Emily, who had recently undergone a kidney transplant, spent the day with mum at our marquee at the festival in the freezing cold!! Unfortunately the dust storm, rain, hail and cold weather kept some people away, but many busloads of Tulip-lovers were there to enjoy themselves – some even found a spot of midweek sunshine!



PRIVENT Study

CONGRATULATIONS to the Patients, Families, Doctors and Researchers involved in the PRIVENT Study – 'Antibiotic Prophylaxis and Recurrent Urinary Tract Infection in Children' – the largest study of its kind in the world - has been published in New England Journal of Medicine – a premier medical journal - very prestigious!



The **NEW ENGLAND**
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

CKR Staff Profile

Dr Germaine Wong is a Research Fellow at Centre for Kidney Research and works part time as a Nephrologist in the Western Sydney Area Health Service (WSAHS). She completed and was awarded her PhD last year. Her particular interests include renal transplant medicine, quality of life and health economics research. These interests led to her developing the QuiCK Study to better understand the needs of the patient with CKD.

Last year, Germaine was awarded two highly respected awards for her research into cancer screening in the CKD population:

- Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) Clinical Science Young Investigator Award
- Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Young Investigator award



Above: Dr Germaine Wong (left) with Anh Kieu, one of the QuiCK researchers

Further information

For any questions regarding the **CENTRE FOR KIDNEY RESEARCH Newsletter**, please contact Narelle Williams on 02 9845 1473 or email narellw4@chw.edu.au.

OUR NEW WEBSITE!!

For further information about CKR you may like to visit our new website at: www.kidney-research.org