



December 2014

**Austin Health**

# *The Christmas R&AP Sheet*

*Research at Austin Physiotherapy*



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Feliz Navidad everyone!

As we fast approach the end of yet another year, we have time for one last Research at Austin Physiotherapy update before things wind down. In our last issue we were eagerly awaiting Austin Research Week. The week highlighted the varied and exciting research taking place in the various departments at Austin Health, and the Physiotherapy Department was no exception.

This year at the Physiotherapy Research Seminar we were lucky enough to hear from Prof Anne Holland discussing her work around Telehealth. We would also like to acknowledge our Physiotherapy Research Award winners. This award is given to members of the department who have proved themselves invaluable to the advancement of Austin physiotherapy research. This year's winners were:

Jannette Blennerhassett, Catherine Hill, Wayne Dite and Guy Metcalfe

Our very own Joleen Rose was an integral part of this year's Great Research Debate this year, successfully arguing that sport is indeed bad for your health.

A new item this year, the e-Poster sessions, saw a great showing by physiotherapy with presentations from Kimberley Haines, Selina Parry and Jannette Blennerhassett. We were also delighted to congratulate Selina Parry, whose presentation won the 'People's Choice' award.

Research week ended on a high with great success from a number of our researchers in securing competitive grant funding. Full detail of these are below.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Research Meeting Dates

**10/2/2015**

**Balance and gait impairment  
in transient ischaemic attack  
and minor stroke**  
presented by  
**Frances Bachelor**

**AND**

**Balance and Falls in people  
with COPD**  
presented by  
**Cristino Oliveira**

**10/3/2015**

**Longer term outcomes  
following critical illness**  
presented by  
**Kimberley Haines**

**21/4/2015**

**19/5/2015**

**16/6/2015**

**14/7/2015**

**11/8/2015**

**8/9/2015**

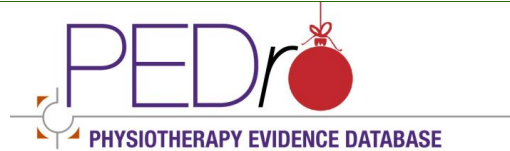
**6/10/2015**

**17/11/2015**

**15/12/2015**

## Research Achievements

**Selina Parry has successfully completed her PhD degree** (Physiotherapy). Please join us in congratulating Selina on receiving her PhD.



**Congratulations to Jannette Blennerhassett and Wayne Dite** who's article "Task-related practice improves mobility and upper limb function early after stroke: a randomised controlled trial. *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* 2004" has been **voted one of the 15 most influential physiotherapy RCTs**.

The list has been released by PEDro (Physiotherapy Evidence Database) and was judged by a panel of international physiotherapy trialists. See the full list [here](#)

### Grant Success

It has been an exciting time for the Physiotherapy Research Department with our researchers and associate researchers having great success in securing competitive grants. We would like to congratulate:

A/Prof Sue Berney	Sue was successful in securing a NHMRC project grant of <b>\$842,520</b> for her project <b>Functional Electrical Stimulation assisted cycling: A novel intervention to improve outcomes in the critically ill</b> .
Dr David Berlowitz	David successfully secured a NHMRC project grant of <b>\$298,462</b> for his project <b>Continuous Positive Airway Pressure for Obstructive Sleep Apnoea in Quadriplegia: A Randomised Trial</b> .
A/Prof Julie Bernhardt	Julie has been awarded a Centre for Research Excellence in Stroke Rehabilitation and Brain Recovery grant of <b>\$2.5 M</b> .
Selina Parry, Linda Denehy, Sue Berney, Raquel Annoni	Awarded <b>\$20,000</b> from the Austin Medical Research Foundation for their project <b>The risk of falls in ICU survivors</b>
Kimberley Haines	Awarded <b>\$10,000</b> from the Austin Medical Research Foundation for her study <b>iCARE</b>

### Recent Publications

Aarti Sarwal, **Selina M. Parry**, Michael J. Berry, Fang-Chi Hsu, Marc T. Lewis, Nicholas W. Justus, Peter E. Morris, **Linda Denehy, Sue Berney**, Sanjay Dhar, Michael S. Cartwright. Inter-observer Reliability of 7 Quantitative Muscle Ultrasound Analysis in the Critically Ill Population. *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine*: In Press

## Upcoming Conferences

4-8 Feb 2015	Enhancing Faculty Development in the Workplace	Singapore
15-18 Mar 2015	Australian Pain Society's (APS) 35th Scientific Conference	Brisbane
26-29 Mar 2015	World Congress on OP, OA and M/skel diseases	Milan, Italy
17-19 April 2015	European Stroke Organisation Conference 2015	Glasgow, UK
23-25 April 2015	4 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Frailty and Sarcopenia Research	Boston, USA

## Quirky Research – BMJ Christmas Edition 2014

**Search for humouristic and Extravagant acronyms and Thoroughly Inappropriate names For Important Clinical trials (SCIENTIFIC): qualitative and quantitative systematic study**

**Objectives** To describe the development of acronym use across five major medical specialties and to evaluate the technical and aesthetic quality of the acronyms.

**Design** Acronyms obtained through a literature search of Pubmed.gov followed by a standardised assessment of acronym quality (BEAUTY and CHEATING criteria).

**Participants** Randomised controlled trials within psychiatry, rheumatology, pulmonary medicine, endocrinology, and cardiology published between 2000 and 2012.

**Main outcome measures** Prevalence proportion of acronyms and composite quality score for acronyms over time.

**Results** 14 965 publications were identified, of which 18.3% (n=2737) contained an acronym in the title. Acronym use was more common among cardiological studies than among the other four medical specialties (40% v 8-15% in 2012,  $P<0.001$ ). Except for within cardiology, the prevalence of acronyms increased over time, with the average prevalence proportion among the remaining four specialties increasing from 4.0% to 12.4% from 2000 to 2012 ( $P<0.001$ ). The median combined acronym quality score decreased significantly over the study period ( $P<0.001$ ), from a median 9.25 in 2000 to 5.50 in 2012.

**Conclusion** From 2000 to 2012 the prevalence of acronyms in trial reports increased, coinciding with a substantial decrease in the technical and aesthetic quality of the acronyms. Strict enforcement of current guidelines on acronym construction by journal editors is necessary to ensure the proper use of acronyms in the future.

[Check out the full christmas edition here](#)