**Research News**

It has been another busy year of research in the department. The monthly research meetings continue to be well attended, and the Physiotherapy Research Symposium, which was presented by Professor Julie Bernhardt, was a huge success. Over the year department staff have published 25 publications in peer reviewed journals and have been awarded a number of grants.

This year has also seen the completion of a new office space for the Director of Physiotherapy Research and the Research Physiotherapist. We are currently seeking options to fund these positions in the longer term, but in the mean time doing everything we can to ensure the department continues its strong research growth. Thanks you to everyone who has contributed to the research activity in the department.

Have a Merry Christmas!!

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<th><strong>NHMRC Success</strong></th>
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<td>Congratulations to Dr. Cathy Said who along with colleagues has received an NHMRC project grant for <em>Can real-time biofeedback of foot clearance data be used to assist with gait rehabilitation following stroke?</em></td>
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<td>Also congratulations to Dr. Catherine Hill who is an AI on the project <em>Telerehabilitation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.</em></td>
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<th><strong>Research Week Awards</strong></th>
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<td>Congratulations to Leona Dowman who won the Austin Medical Research Foundation Research Higher Degree Award for her presentation <em>Effect of disease aetiology on response to exercise training in patients with interstitial lung disease.</em></td>
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<td>Congratulations to Wayne Dite, Zoe Langford and Jannette Blennerhassett for coming 1st in the Consumer Engagement Award for their tremendous work in “Increasing the opportunity to exercise on a weekend during IP rehabilitation.” With a Highly Commended mention to Kristy McRae and Mel Gregory for the quality activity “Wheelchair skills coaching using peers as Recourse for Rehabilitation”</td>
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Research Week Symposium

Research Week highlighted the varied and exciting research taking place in the various departments at Austin Health, and the Physiotherapy Department was no exception.

Sue Berney & Jack Ross with Julie Bernhardt after presenting at the Research symposium: “Where to next for early stroke rehabilitation: The AVERT Trial”.

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:

The Move Trial Team at the Repat

The Avert team at Austin
Research Achievements


Quirky Research

“The stethoscope and healthcare-associated infection: a snake in the grass or innocent bystander?”

- The mean stethoscope contamination rate (CR) across 28 studies was 85.1% (range: 47–100).
- Many studies found that between 12% and 47% of healthcare workers either never cleaned their stethoscope or did so only yearly.
- Even if stethoscopes transmitted organisms during every examination, the vast majority of these organisms would be non-pathogenic. However, multiply resistant coagulase-negative staphylococci and other organisms that are of low pathogenicity may be a risk to those patients who have burns, are immunosuppressed or who have devices in situ.
- Despite the lack of evidence associating stethoscope contamination with HCAI, the degree of contamination of stethoscopes and the potential for transfer of organisms to patients has been clearly established, and the evidence points towards a need for stethoscope decontamination between patients.
- The full article can be accessed from: Stethoscope contamination.pdf

Conferences

Check the conference database for upcoming dates.

H:\General\RESEARCH\Databases\Future Conference Dates.xls

Austin Research Ethics

The Office for Research will not be accepting any new applications or amendments for Human Research Ethics, Governance, Low and Negligible Risk Research (LNRR), Audit Applications, Animal Ethics or IBC applications from Monday 7th December 2015 to Monday 4th January 2016. As email capacity is restricted - please ensure you do no submit applications/amendments during this period as they will automatically be deleted. More information.