

Week at a Glance

Austin Health
Weekly Staff Newsletter

Monday 10 August, 2009

Ngarra Jarra relaunch

Austin Health's aboriginal program Ngarra Jarra is back in operation, after two new Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officers (AHLOs) Robin Munro and Suzanne Nelson started last Monday.

"Most staff have been great – they are really glad that the program is restarting," Ms Nelson said.

She and Ms Munro will provide advocacy and support for aboriginal patients and their families, help to build the aboriginal community's trust in Austin Health, ensure that discharge planning leads on to appropriate care in the community and deliver cultural awareness training to staff.

Manager of Cultural Diversity Pauline Wright said that it is important to understand aboriginal people's spiritual and cultural beliefs in the context of past trauma in order to deliver culturally-sensitive care.

"For example, aboriginal people's concept of family is different to our mainstream one as are their beliefs about death and dying. Coupled with that, many aboriginal people have a lack of trust of government institutions so it's important for them to have someone to turn to who will represent their interests," Ms Wright said.

Ms Wright is looking for staff to act as 'champions' for the program, and encouraged any interested staff to contact her on x3369.

Ngarra Jarra is the Wurundjeri word for 'healing' and was given its name by Wurundjeri leader and elder Aunty Joy Murphy. The program will be officially relaunched in September.

"We're delighted that Aunty Joy has agreed to come and conduct a traditional smoking ceremony for us," said Ms Wright.

Construction begins on FNI



Professors Graeme Jackson, Sam Berkovic, Geoff Donnan and Colin Masters, turn the first sod for the Austin Neuroscience Facility.

Premier John Brumby, Federal Member for Jagajaga Jenny Macklin and State Minister for Innovation Gavin Jennings joined leading neuroscience and mental health experts at the Austin Hospital last Wednesday to turn the first sod for the \$45 million Austin Neuroscience Facility.

The facility will house more than 200 staff from the Florey Neurosciences Institutes, The University of Melbourne, Mental Health Research Institute and Austin Health. Its researchers include authorities in the fields of stroke, epilepsy, brain imaging and Alzheimer's disease, Professors Geoff Donnan, Sam Berkovic, Graeme Jackson and Colin Masters.

Over their combined 110 years of clinical and research experience, the four professors have discovered genes, developed new treatments for disease, published more than 1,000 papers and book chapters and received dozens of international awards.

Director of the Florey Neuroscience Institutes, Professor Geoff Donnan, said that the opportunity to collaborate would result in new discoveries and treatments.

"The new facility will attract leading scientists from around the world and build on Heidelberg's reputation as a leading centre for biomedical research," Professor Donnan said.

CEO Dr Brendan Murphy said that it was an acknowledgement of the project's significance that representatives from both levels of government attended the event.

"It shows great commitment to strengthening Melbourne's reputation as a world centre for biomedical and neuroscience research, and acknowledges the Austin Hospital as a leading research precinct," Dr Murphy said.

The Melbourne Neuroscience Project will also see the construction of a second facility in Parkville.

Research Week deadline extended

Due to last minute demand from researchers, the deadline for submitting abstracts for Research Week 2009 has been extended to **this Friday 14 August**.

More than 180 abstracts have been submitted so far but some areas are yet to submit any, so please help to spread the word to your colleagues in your department or institution and others.

Click on the following link to submit now:
<http://www.austin.org.au/researchweek>

Mental Health Grand Round

What: 'Guidelines on the pharmacological management of behavioral disturbance', presented by Dr James Olver, consultant psychiatrist.

When and where:
lunch 12-12:30pm,
presentation 12:30-1:30pm,
Monday 10 August,
John Lindell Lecture Theatre,
level 4, Lance Townsend
Building, Austin Hospital.

Cancer Services Grand Round

What: 'Radiotherapy accidents', presented by Prof Chris Hamilton, director, Radiation Oncology.

When and where:
4-4:45pm, Monday 10 August,
room 4.1, Education Centre,
level 4, Austin Hospital.
Refreshments provided by Merryl
Burger and Amgen Australia.

Fast falls facts

Do you know that if a patient has a second fall then a member of the Falls sub-group can be called to come and help review the patient, to try to minimise the risk of further falls?

On behalf of Falls sub-group – Clinical Risk Committee.

Healthy Options recipe for August #1

Healthy can still be hearty - follow the link to a delicious recipe for a hearty winter roast:
<http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcrecipes.nsf/pages/Heartywinterroast?Open>

Division of Surgery annual unit audits

What: HPB and Transplant unit.

When and where:
7:30am, Wednesday 12 August,
Lecture Theatre, level 8,
Lance Townsend Building,
Austin Hospital. Breakfast
sponsored by Covidien.

Division of Medicine Grand Round

What: 'Butt out: introducing the smoking cessation policy at Austin Health', presented by Dr Ruwani Mendis, A/Prof Christine McDonald, A/Prof Nick Paoletti and Prof Albert Frauman.

When and where:
12:10pm, Wednesday 12 August,
John Lindell Lecture Theatre,
level 4, Lance Townsend
Building, Austin Hospital,
followed by lunch at 1pm in the
Education Centre breakout
area, provided by Novartis.

Aged Care presents

What: 'Subjective cognitive impairment', presenters include Prof Chris Rowe and A/Prof Michael Woodward.

When and where:
3:30-5pm, Wednesday 12
August, Acacia Room,
Heidelberg Repatriation
Hospital. Refreshments
provided from 3:15pm.

Are you involved in multicentre clinical trials?

Introductory session to the upcoming new multicentre trial ethical review process provided by the Coordinating Office for Human Research Ethics

When and where:
3pm, Wednesday August 12,
Education Centre Lecture
Theatre, level 4, Austin
Hospital Tower.

Austin Health stalls

Level 3, Lance Townsend Building
Austin Hospital:

Monday 10 August
Lacquered pots and dishes
Booteak Imports

Tuesday 11 August
Freshwater pearls
Lyn Yang

Wednesday 12 August
Final winter clearance
Volunteers Auxiliary Market Day

Thursday 13 August
Winter clothing clearance
Ann Lock

Friday 14 August
Mens, ladies, childrens clothing
Louis' Economy Shop

*Only 5 Entertainment Books left
for 2009!*

Around Austin Health last week...



Above: Premier John Brumby and Federal Member for Jagajaga Jenny Macklin took questions from the media on the construction site for the Austin Neuroscience Facility last Wednesday.

Below: Austin Health entered the 500th patient into the international AVERT study (which stands for 'A Very Early Rehabilitation Trial') into stroke. Patient Maureen Hancock celebrated her recruitment into the study with trial coordinator Ros Melling, physiotherapist Niamh McDonagh and nurse Sue Vanselow, who have been participating in the trial for the last two years, looking at ways to help stroke patients recover more quickly.



Below: The Fundraising Department would like to acknowledge some of its long-serving volunteers. Photographed here are Vyvette, Barbra, Jillian, Joan and Claudia - the first point of contact for many people when calling or visiting Fundraising.

Bottom: Ward 10 staff held an 'open house' last Friday, welcoming staff to tour the ward before it begins accepting patients this week. In the top photo, nurse unit manager Carolyn McCarthy welcomes visitors to the new ward. The bottom photo features one of the newly-refurbished single rooms.

