

Sydney Health Partners Newsletter

November 2017



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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the final edition of our newsletter for 2017. It has been a busy few months. It was our privilege to host, on behalf of our partners and affiliated organisations, our successful annual forum in October. The forum showcased a number of translational research projects being conducted by Sydney Health Partners members, including the three recipients of last year's SHP funding. The SHP Round 2 grant initiative was also launched at the forum and we look forward to working with you all on this initiative. More information on the forum can be found later in this newsletter.

Our work this year has focused on the implementation of research, data harmonisation and greater activity and efficiency in clinical trials. Delivering patient and public benefit by accelerating the transfer of research innovations into health care improvements is at the heart of the work of SHP. Clinical trials are an essential tool in achieving this. SHP and the NSW Office for Health and Medical Research (OHMR) are working to develop more effective governance structures for the approval and management of clinical trials. We have also been liaising with our local clinical trial partners and other key stakeholders in this area.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to a new SHP stream addressing clinical respiratory research led by Professor Carol Armour, Director of the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, and Professor Jennifer Allison, of the University of Sydney and Sydney Local Health District.

In November 2017 we held our first meeting with the Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres (AHRTCs) and the Centres for Innovation in Regional Health (CIRH). There are now nine Centres designated by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as either AHRTCs or CIRHs. We are working with them all to develop national frameworks in four main areas: health services research; vulnerable populations especially Indigenous Australians; better health through data harmonisation and linkage; and community and consumer involvement in health and medical research. This last area is a key priority for SHP. We will continue to work with all AHRTCs, partners and key stakeholders to ensure we have strong community involvement in health and medical research.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Professor Garry Jennings AO
Executive Director



Sydney Health Partners Annual Forum

A very successful annual forum was held at the Kerry Packer Education Centre on 18 October.

Over 150 researchers, clinicians, leaders, policy makers, members of SHP, partner and affiliated organisations gathered to collaborate, network, learn and share knowledge. This year's focus was on transforming health through innovative research. Professor Garry Jennings, SHP Executive Director and Paul McClintock, SHP Chair opened the forum. Dr Antonio Penna, Director of the NSW Office of Health and Medical Research presented on current and future initiatives in health and medical research. The recipients of Accelerator and Launch Pad funding in 2016 presented updates on their projects. The SHP Round 2 grant initiative was also announced at the forum by the Executive Director, Garry Jennings. The afternoon session was followed by a networking function. Feedback from participants was that the event was a great opportunity to network and collaborate.

In an online evaluation, 89 per cent of participants rated the forum as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

One participant said: "It was a wonderful event to get a great mix of people together... Felt we could really make some decisions and move forward in a joint cause".

A detailed evaluation report can be found on the SHP website.



Clinical Trials and launch of ClinTrial Refer app

Associate Professor Judith Trotman from the University of Sydney was a recipient of the Accelerator and Launch Pad funding in 2016. She has led a project to develop a smartphone app that links clinicians, patients and researchers across SHP clinical trials. The app was launched at the SHP annual forum in 2017.

The app lists trials across a wide range of health specialties, including cardiology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, respiratory and renal medicine, that are underway across SHP. Patients are often looking to take part in clinical trials to improve their quality of life, chances of recovery and in many cases, survival.

Ken, a patient from Epping, was recently referred to an international trial for the management of his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"Without the app, I may not have found out about this trial. I actually got in just a week before it closed. I'm so grateful to have been accepted into it," he said.

"It's only through trials that health professionals have been able to find out what works and doesn't work. It's great they can improve treatment for the next generation."



Clinical research nurse Paige Stapleton and Associate Professor Judith Trotman.



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Progress on collaboration with the NSW Office of Health and Medical Research (OHMR)

SHP and the NSW Office for Health and Medical Research (OHMR) are working to strengthen support structures for clinical trials, research translation and commercialisation across NSW.

In September 2017, SHP, Sydney Partnership for Health Education Research and Enterprise (SPHERE) and the NSW Regional Health Partners Centre for Innovation in Regional Health provided high-level four-year plans to OHMR. In addition, SHP is working with SPHERE and NSW Regional Health Partners to identify opportunities to harmonise, streamline and scale up clinical trial and translational support activities.

Australian Health and Research Alliance (AHRA)

The Australian Health Research Alliance (the 'Alliance') comprises the Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres (AHRTCs) and the Centres for Innovation in Regional Health (CIRH). A list of AHRTCs is below.

SHP has committed to stronger consumer and community involvement within its governance structure, research and translation activities. The Alliance has also identified consumer and community involvement as one of its national priority areas, and has convened a national steering committee to oversee joint work. The committee is co-chaired by the Chief Executives of SHP and the Western Australian Health Translation Network (WAHTN). The first meeting, held on 3 November, had great representation and participation from all AHRTCs. SHP would like to take this opportunity to welcome and thank all the representatives for their participation and sharing their experience in involving the community in health and medical research.

List of AHRTCs	CIRH
Alfred Health and Monash Health and Partners (Monash Partners)	Central Australia Academic Health Science Centre
Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH)	NSW Regional Health Partners (NSW RHP)
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)	
Sydney Health Partners (SHP)	
Western Australian Health Translation Network (WAHTN)	
Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners (BDHP)	
Sydney Partnership for Health Education Research and Enterprise (SPHERE)	



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Sydney Health Partners Implementation Research Symposium, 28 November 2017

The research symposium was well attended by over 150 people. The afternoon café style round table discussions led to plenty of suggestions for moving forward to support translational research.

Member news

Congratulations to the following SHP members who were recently announced as Fellows of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Clinical Professor Jeremy Chapman,
Westmead Clinical School

Professor Jacob George,
Westmead Clinical School

Professor Roger Reddel,
Children's Medical Research Institute

Professor Markus Seibel,
Concord Clinical School

Welcome to new clinical stream members

SHP's Governing Council recently approved the addition of a new clinical respiratory stream led by Professor Carol Armour, Director of the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, and Professor Jennifer Allison, of the University of Sydney and Sydney Local Health District. The stream includes four themes: asthma, COPD, pulmonary fibrosis and pulmonary vascular disease, and cystic fibrosis and bronchiectasis.

Staff news

SHP is undergoing several staffing changes. Three new positions were recently advertised - Chief Operating Officer, Communications Manager and Administrative Support Officer. SHP also acknowledges the significant work of Vanessa Williams, former EA to Professor Garry Jennings and Anna Bradley, former Media and Communications Officer. We also welcome Mamta Porwal and David Tunnicliffe, who recently joined us to assist with a range of projects.

