

# Saving Lives

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## A MESSAGE FROM

### CEO Robert Hohnen

It is great to see that life is returning to some form of normality at Prince of Wales Hospital. The Foundation is now focused on resetting our goals for the year with a strong commitment to raising funds for the Integrated Acute Services Building set to open next year. But of course we remain focused on other critical areas that continue to need our support. The 2021 Tax Appeal will focus on the Diabetes Centre and we will share the amazing story of Lisa and Ben - parents to three children living with type 1 diabetes.

We also continue to engage clinicians in discussions around how the Foundation can add further value by funding research and innovation. In addition, we are assisting clinicians with government grant applications to further their research and ongoing exploration in a range of clinical disciplines to improve patient outcomes.

With new team members on board, the Foundation will continue to support the hospital to reinforce Prince of Wales Hospital as a recognised leader and centre of excellence.

*Robert Hohnen, CEO*

## PROFESSOR JEFFREY POST

# Consequences of over-use and mis-use of antibiotics

**JEFFREY POST** – Seniors Staff Specialist Infectious Diseases at Prince of Wales Hospital predicts the combination of antimicrobial resistance and the limited development of new drugs to be one of the most significant threats to humanity of the 21st century. A key solution to this problem is to monitor and optimise the use of remaining antibiotic options. However, the misuse of antibiotics continues despite existing stewardship programs. With funding from the Foundation, Dr Post and his team are developing an urgently required evidence base about antibiotic governance. This research study aims to provide a rigorous

qualitative investigation of governance processes around antibiotics in Australian Hospitals and will provide an insight into the full spectrum of surveillance, regulation, and dynamics of external controls thus informing the regulatory processes around antibiotic use.

*“With funding from the Foundation, Dr Post and his team are developing an urgently required evidence base about antibiotic governance.”*

## DIABETES APPEAL

### Vital new OCT machine

Lisa's world turned upside down when her little daughter Ruby was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just two years of age. With no family history and no knowledge of the disease, Lisa and her husband Ben felt overwhelmed by the diagnosis and the life changes ahead. Little did they know that they would face this situation twice more, when their other children Hunter and Jasper would be diagnosed also. During their children's diabetes journey, Lisa and Ben have witnessed firsthand the importance of innovation and research when it comes to managing the disease. The change from daily injections to insulin pumps gave the whole family more freedom, flexibility, and quality of life. However, they still worry about the long-term effects such as heart disease, kidney failure, as well as loss of vision. The Diabetes Centre at Prince of Wales Hospital consists of a multidisciplinary team of health professionals all working hard to provide our patients with the best care and treatment possible. The Diabetes Centre staff needs a new OCT machine – a machine that generates high quality images of the retina using light to detect and monitor any changes in patients with diabetes to prevent vision loss.

To help us fund this vital piece of equipment, please visit [www.powhf.org.au/diabetes](http://www.powhf.org.au/diabetes) or call 9382 4263



### DR CATHERINE MELLER

Ben and Lisa with their children Jasper, Hunter and Ruby

## Facial Nerve and Facial Reconstruction Clinic



**DR CATHERINE MELLER** – a specialist Ear, Nose and Throat and Facial Reconstructive Surgeon - has pioneered a public multidisciplinary clinic for treating patients with facial palsy. The clinic is free for anyone under Medicare and aims to provide a holistic diagnostic and treatment service for patients suffering from facial palsy. Facial palsy generally refers to weakness of the facial muscles, mainly caused by damage to the facial nerve resulting in partial paralysis of the face, which can affect movement of the eye(s) and/or the mouth, as well as other areas. Facial palsy causes many physical problems, including asymmetry of the face, difficulties closing the eye, eating and drinking and trouble with speaking clearly.

It also has devastating emotional effects. Patients lose the ability to smile and are often perceived as 'negative' or 'angry'. Patients with facial palsy may also have trouble displaying emotions, causing miscommunication and self-consciousness. Patients frequently suffer from anxiety and depression as a result of the functional and cosmetic aspects of the condition.

In the clinic, Dr Meller can perform immediate facial nerve tests using a machine that was funded through generous supporters of the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation. Patients benefit from on-the-spot diagnosis and treatments including individualised exercises from physiotherapists, Botox treatments, counselling services and small clinic procedures as well as learn about potential surgical treatments including nerve grafting and other cutting-edge techniques designed to restore facial symmetry and function. Such surgeries have been found to improve quality of life by enabling patients to show emotions that they otherwise would have lost.

## RESEARCH PROGRAM

### Dr Anthony Sammel's Vasculitis clinical research program

Vasculitis, a family of inflammatory diseases in which the immune system erroneously attacks blood vessels, can affect any part of the body including skin, kidney, nerves, eyes, heart, lung and the gut making a multidisciplinary research approach essential. With funding from the Foundation, Dr Anthony Sammel, Rheumatologist and Vasculitis Specialist at Prince of Wales Hospital and his team are developing a vasculitis patient database as a framework for further research. The Foundation's grant will also fund additional PET/CET scans for patients with large vasculitis to monitor the persistence of vascular activity with findings set to improve the understanding of the disease and guide long term treatment decisions.

## WELCOME TO

### Our new team members

The Foundation team welcomed Holly Zomboni and Allie Green earlier this year. Holly Zomboni joined the Foundation earlier this year as Director of Fundraising. She will be focused on developing a strategic plan that will deliver on the Foundation's fundraising goals.

Allie Green is our new friendly face at the engagement desk at the Barker Street entrance of the hospital.

## PATIENT STORY

# New treatment for desmoid tumor patients

**IN 2020**, at the age of just 17, Chris was diagnosed with an invasive desmoid tumor requiring years and years of uncertain chemotherapy. Given these odds Chris and his family looked for alternative options and support.

caner. If successful, this procedure will mean Chris will not have to undergo several years of chemotherapy.

*"By fate we chose to visit Prince of Wales Hospital. Everything a patient and parent dreams of we found in the clinicians there... they were so interactive with Chris with exceptional consultation skills, knowledge, and patient centeredness. There was a determination and positivity that Chris needed to hear and immediately built a rapport with."*



Just before Christmas, Chris' medical team organised an emergency multi-disciplinary meeting to decipher their plan. "We focused on prioritising Chris' future, not just the short term, but years to come. It was the biggest weight off our shoulders knowing we were with a highly competent caring team. It made a significant difference to Chris' outlook and mood."

Chris, his family and his medical team decided to take an uncharted route which will make him the first desmoid patient in Australia to undergo a procedure which is commonly used to treat liver, prostate and melanoma

*"Regardless of the outcome with Chris' tumor, I have faith that Chris will stay the course with his own inner strength and the team around him. The team that Chris has had by his side are two passionate medical professionals who want to achieve excellence for their patients."*

The Foundation wishes Chris and his family all the best and will continue to support our cancer services and Cancer Survivorship Centre to help patients like Chris.



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## Generous in-kind donations from our local partners

Generously donated chocolate Easter bunnies and eggs as well as delicious hot cross buns brought Easter joy to our hard-working healthcare workers. Thank you Lindt and Bakers Delight for putting a big Easter smile on all our faces.

We would also like to thank Breville for donating a state of the art toaster to our staff at the Hematology Ward.



PROFESSOR KEN BUTCHER

## Stroke patient management and data analysis

**FUNDING FROM** the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation allowed Professor Ken Butcher and his team to provide state of the art diagnostic data for acute stroke patients in real time. The team installed hardware and software required to analyse CT Perfusion (brain blood flow images) data and provide meaningful output to clinicians. Sharing these images and the critical computed values about a patients' stroke with the entire clinical team real time allows the team to make the best decisions for stroke patients rapidly. The images

help address questions such as is this a real stroke? Should this patient receive 'clot busting' therapy and lastly, should this patient have an endovascular clot retrieval procedure?

The funding also covers storage and analysis of the data for future research aimed at better treatment strategies and ultimately help more patients in the future. The first project has just been completed and the team was able to show excellent results obtained in clinical trials.



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