

RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Southern Health Division

June 2011

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Research Week 2011

In collaboration with university and institute partners, Southern Health hosted its annual research week from 9 – 13 May 2011.

The week began with the annual comedy debate chaired by Professor Stephen Holdsworth, as the Surgeons battled against the Physicians on the topic 'to cut is to cure'.

Professor Graeme Clark delivered an insightful and inspiring keynote address on his journey of surgical innovation which led to the development of the Cochlear implant.

The Cochlear implant can restore hearing in patients suffering deafness due to loss of sensory hair cells in their cochlea. In those patients, they can often restore sufficient hearing to allow unaided understanding of speech in a quiet background.

A variety of seminars and presentations were held during the week including a keynote address by Professor Lloyd Sansom on 'Medicines subsidy in Australia – its strengths and challenges'.

Over 140 entries were received for the annual poster competition. Chief Executive Shelly Park presented the [poster winners](#) with their certificates during the Emerging Researcher Fellowship awards ceremony.

We look forward to Research Week 2012.

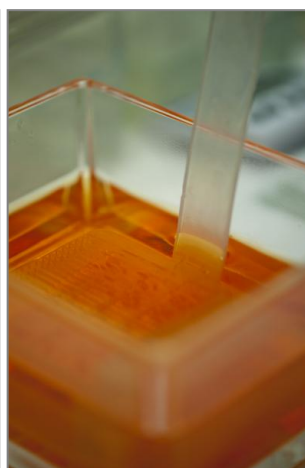
Research Report 2010

The [2010 Research Report](#) was officially launched during Research Week 2011.

This exciting publication includes a number of key feature stories which highlight some of the groundbreaking work happening at Southern Health, as well as updates from our research groups. The report features the following stories:

- [Reducing disability in children with cerebral palsy](#)
- [Cancer prognosis indicator breakthrough](#)
- [Improving dialysis treatment](#)
- [Leading the way in emergency care](#)
- [2010 Emerging Researcher Fellows](#)
- [A calming influence on the stress of dementia](#)

The full online version of the report provides comprehensive information on the research activities for each department, key collaborators and Monash Health Translation Precinct partners.



Above: Mr Bernard Maridas and Ms Lynne Payne, their stories are featured in the 2010 Research Report



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Better Health in Our Community

VMIA Research Governance Workshops

The Research Governance Toolkit was developed to help organisations undertaking clinical research ensure that their research was underpinned by best practice research governance, which includes, amongst a wide range of elements, ethical review and approval.

The Toolkit project was and continues to be supported and coordinated by Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA), insurer of all public hospitals in Victoria, including ours. The Toolkit is a comprehensive handbook which has templates for policies and procedures and checklists for research. Much of the toolkit is designed to help research offices at research institutions develop their own policies and templates for managing and monitoring their research. The greatest challenge of the toolkit is to ensure it has a real and beneficial influence across institutions and for all people involved in the research endeavour, especially the researchers themselves. This is where the Research Governance Toolkit seminar series comes in, details are as follows:

- **20 July** - Data, Tissue Banking and Radiation
- **7 September** - Legal & insurance, Research Risk Management, IP & Publications
- **2 November** - Research Finance Management

There is no cost to attend the workshops and further details are available [online](#). If you would like to be kept informed about our events and seminars please email your details to: research@southernhealth.org.au.

Grants Calendar 2011

The Research Directorate has put

together a [grants calendar](#) to assist researchers to plan ahead for grant applications.

Please keep in mind that your administrative institution may require you to submit your application in-house for administrative protocols and these dates may be up to a month earlier than the closing date of the grant. The [grants calendar](#) is available [online](#).

BioGrid e-learning modules

The recent developed web-based learning modules are now available on the [BioGrid website](#) to assist with the understanding and usage of the BioGrid platform.

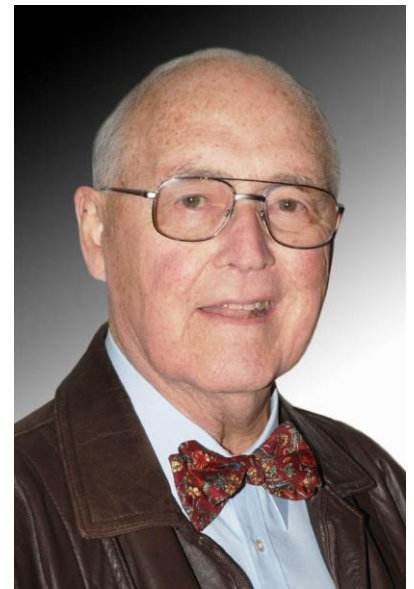
Funded by the Victorian Cancer Agency and developed by Phil Henenberg from BioGrid, these web-based modules will enable users to see how BioGrid can assist with their research, particularly with how to access data using the analysis and reporting tools available through BioGrid.

The e-Learning modules will be valuable reference tools for current or potential users having the capacity to increase users' capability to use record linked data in translational research and facilitate research and patient treatment outcomes. To find out more visit the BioGrid [website](#).

Biostatistical Consulting Service

We are delighted to advise that Southern Health and Monash University's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) have established a [Biostatistical Consulting Service](#) for Southern Health clinical staff.

Staff employed by Southern Health at any campus are now eligible to access the service at no cost for an initial consultation. The [Biostatistical Consulting Service](#) will provide



Above: Professor Bob MacMahon

advice on statistical rigour and sample size and general advice on study design and grant writing.

An [application form](#) and further information is available [online](#).

Professor Bob MacMahon

The Research Directorate are deeply saddened by the passing of Professor Bob MacMahon who had worked with the department as the Chair of the Human Research Ethics Council B. He was a pioneer in the nutritional support of small babies and assisted several community sporting organisations. His leadership skills were recognized both within our institution and nationally.

He was President of the Australasian Association of Paediatric Surgeons and foundation President of the Australian Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. His devoted wife, Bessy and his daughters willingly supported a pioneer in Australian Paediatric Surgery, Bob was highly intelligent, a true motivator and an innovator of his profession.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family.



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