

Behavioural Sciences Unit (BSU) update

The BSU was established in 2001 by A/P Richard Cohn. Our core members include: A/P Cohn, Dr Claire Wakefield, Catharine Fleming, Ursula Sansom-Daly, Sarah Ellis, Jordana McLoone and Jennifer Cohen. We look after research studies that cover all the psycho-social aspects of the paediatric cancer journey, from diagnosis to survivorship and bereavement.

Welcome...!

Emma Doolan: Emma recently finished her statistics degree at UNSW. We want to say an enormous thank you to her for volunteering her time to help us with the wonderful grandparents study (see next page).



Conference update...

The International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP), New Zealand

Claire, Catharine, Ursula and Jennifer braved the post rugby world cup fever in Auckland to attend the 5-day conference. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about the latest research in adolescent and young adult oncology and long term follow up issues from experts around the world. It was also positive to see that the team at SCH are conducting up-to-date research and providing first class care to our patients and families.



End of treatment: What next? Information day

Claire and Jennifer spoke in the Healthy Lifestyle Forum at the recent information day for survivors and their families. Claire presented work by Ursula Sansom-Daly, Carmen Wilson and Lesley Ashton on risky health behaviours in long term childhood cancer survivors, such as alcohol consumption, smoking and exercise. Overall, our long-term survivors are not showing high rates of smoking or heavy drinking, although there is always room for improvement!

International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS), Antalya Turkey In October, Jordana presented some of the findings from the recent BSU study looking at parental sleeping experiences on the ward in Turkey.

Currently recruiting....

'Connectivity' study: This project is looking at the advantages and disadvantages of using videoconferencing technology (e.g. SKYPE™) to connect children with cancer to their home school classroom (contact: Claire Wakefield, c.wakefield@unsw.edu.au, (02) 9385 9870).

Neuropsychology study: Looking at the implementation of neuropsychology reports for children returning to school after treatment for brain cancers (contact: Claire Wakefield, c.wakefield@unsw.edu.au, (02) 9385 9870).

Coming soon....

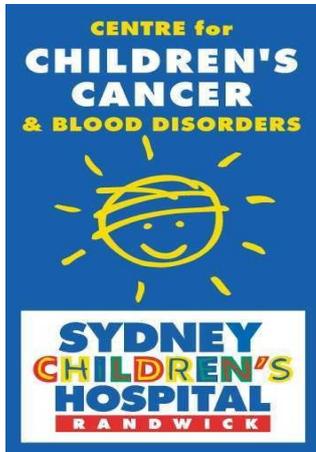
Diet quality in childhood cancer patients recently off treatment. This project is looking at the types of food consumed and feeding behaviors in children who have recently finished cancer treatment.

Recapture Life – Parents: We will be running online sessions aimed at improving quality of life, reducing distress and developing healthy coping in parents of young cancer survivors



Congratulations to....

Dr Claire Wakefield, who was awarded a Cancer Institute NSW Career Development Fellowship. These highly sought after grants are awarded to the very best researchers who demonstrate innovation and leadership in their chosen field. Claire's program aims to prevent and manage the negative impact of paediatric cancer on all members of the family. This fellowship will provide a major source of support for our team over the next 3 years.



Do you know a **GRANDPARENT** of a child with cancer?

The Behavioural Sciences Unit needs your **HELP**

Grandparents often play a vital support role for various members of the family during what is a very difficult time. Therefore we think it is very important to explore better ways of supporting grandparents and the entire family.

A team at Sydney Children's Hospital are looking at the distress, support and information needs of grandparents of a child with cancer. The purpose of this study is to develop an information and support resource specifically designed for grandparents.

We need grandparents of children who have been treated for cancer at Sydney Children's Hospital to participate in study which involves completing a 20 - 30 minute questionnaire.

If you are interested in participating or know someone who may wish to participate please contact Sarah Ellis (02) 9385 9867, email: sarah.ellis@unsw.edu.au



Thank you to all the families who participate in our projects, as we couldn't do our work without you!