

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, Jennifer Cohen, Catharine Fleming, Ursula Sansom-Daly, Sarah Ellis, Jordana McLoone, Jennifer Cohen and Emma Doolan. We look after research studies that cover all the psycho-social aspects of the paediatric cancer journey, from diagnosis to survivorship and bereavement.



We would like to give a huge thank you to all the people and families that read the BSU update in the newsletter. This is a great way for us to communicate with everyone and has opened many interesting opportunities for parents, survivors and young people who offer to help with our research work as a consumer representatives or participants in individual studies.

Successful funding

The BSU team received some exciting news in December, with confirmation of successful funding from Cancer Australia and Beyond Blue for '**ReCaPTure LiFe**': a 6-week online group intervention to support young survivors and their parents living with the ongoing negative effects of cancer.



Recent publications

Cochrane review: *Nutritional interventions for survivors of childhood cancer.* Jennifer Cohen is conducting a Cochrane review assessing the effectiveness of nutrition interventions in preventing or improving metabolic and cardiovascular complications in childhood cancer survivors.

Congratulations to...Emma Doolan our new research assistant.

Currently recruiting...

Diet quality in childhood cancer patients recently off treatment.



This project is looking at the types of food and feeding behaviors in children who have recently finished treatment.

Assessment of taste and smell function in patients recently finished treatment for childhood cancer: This study is assessing taste and smell function in patients 5-17 years who have recently finished treatment. We are interested in looking at whether taste and smell changes relate to children's food preferences (contact for diet and taste/smell study: Catharine Fleming, (02) 9385 9868 Catharine.Fleming@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au).

Recapture Life—Parents: We will be running a 6 week online program with a psychologist aimed at improving quality of life, reducing distress and developing healthy coping in parents of young cancer survivors (who have finished treatment in the last 5 years). If you would like to participate, please contact Claire Wakefield, c.wakefield@unsw.edu.au, (02) 9385 9870.

Final call...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 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

Coming soon...Are we meeting the needs of bereaved parents in Australia? This study hopes to evaluate areas of unmet need and parental satisfaction with the bereavement follow-up services offered by our centre. (contact: Claire Wakefield, c.wakefield@unsw.edu.au, (02) 9385 9870.

