

# Behavioural Sciences Unit (BSU) update

The BSU was established in 2001 by A/P Richard Cohn and is currently run by Claire Wakefield. We now have more than 20 members. Those recruiting for studies at present include Ursula Sansom-Daly, Leigh Donovan, Emma Doolan, Alistair Lum, Brittany McGill, Eden Robertson, Christina Signorelli, Lauren Touyz, and Alison Young. Our research studies cover all psycho-social and nutritional aspects of the paediatric cancer journey, from diagnosis to survivorship and bereavement.

Check out our new website! <http://www.behaviouralsciencesunit.org/>



Proudly supported by the  
Kids with Cancer Foundation

## 'Scare Cancer' Fundraiser...



The BSU team held a fundraiser on the 31<sup>st</sup> October to support the Kids with Cancer Foundation 'Scare Cancer' Halloween themed campaign. All of the money raised from the fundraiser went directly to families experiencing financial difficulties due to their child being treated for cancer.



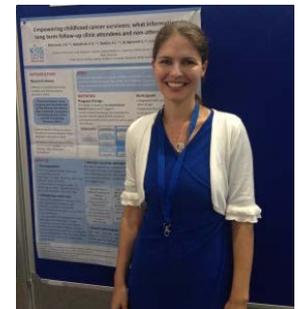
## In the News...



Dr Claire Wakefield and Ursula Sansom-Daly were presented two prestigious awards in August at the annual *Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research* which honours the achievements of those who work across the cancer research space to lessen the impact of cancer. Claire was awarded Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow for 2015, while Ursula received the 2015 Rising Star PhD award. We were all particularly thrilled that the Cancer Institute NSW is clearly recognising the importance of behavioural research.

## IPOS Conference...

Dr Claire Wakefield recently presented at the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) 16th World Congress on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October. She gave a talk about the genetics information needs of childhood cancer survivors and presented a poster focused on empowering childhood cancer survivors, in particular looking at what information survivors who do not attend long term follow-up care need.



## Currently recruiting...

**Grandparents study:** We are looking for grandparents of children with cancer to evaluate a new information booklet designed specifically for grandparents. For further information, please contact Emma Doolan on (02) 9382 3115 or [emma.doolan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:emma.doolan@unsw.edu.au)

**Developing gold standard care for long term survivors of childhood cancer:** This study will help us improve the services provided at the long term follow-up clinic. It investigates the needs, preferences, and barriers to care among survivors. If you would like to participate, please contact Christina Signorelli on (02) 9382 3115 or at [c.signorelli@unsw.edu.au](mailto:c.signorelli@unsw.edu.au)

**Cascade (Cope, Adapt, and Survive after Cancer):** The Cascade program is for parents of young cancer survivors (aged under 15, who have finished treatment in the last 1-12 months). If you would like to participate, please contact Eden Robertson at [eden.robertson@unsw.edu.au](mailto:eden.robertson@unsw.edu.au) or on (02) 9382 3120.

**Recapture Life:** We are running a 6-week program aimed at improving quality of life, reducing distress and developing healthy coping skills in young cancer survivors aged 15-25 (who have finished treatment in the last 1-12 months). This program is led by a psychologist and delivered online. If you would like to participate, please contact Eden Robertson at [eden.robertson@unsw.edu.au](mailto:eden.robertson@unsw.edu.au) or on (02) 9382 3120.



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