

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...!

Nicole Schneider: Nicole is a clinical psychology doctoral student visiting us from George Fox University, USA. We want to say an enormous thank you to her for volunteering her time for an entire month to help us to start up one of our most important studies: Recapture Life-Parents (recruiting soon).



Publications

Our team has 2 new papers:

Returning to school after adolescent cancer. First

author: Jordana McLoone.

We found that young survivors are keen to return to school, but fatigue and anxiety makes school re-entry challenging. Also, changing grade or school (even years later) was a period of unmet need. *Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology.*

Healthy psych review paper. First author: Ursula Sansom Daly. We showed that despite increasing recognition that adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with chronic illnesses experience psychological challenges, there are few interventions specially developed for AYA cancer patients. Skills-based interventions over multiple sessions are effective in this age group and have led us to develop **'Recapture-Life'**: our new online program for survivors aged 15-25. We will be inviting participants very soon! *Health Psychology.*



Currently recruiting....

Grandparents study: We are looking for grandparents to participate in a study about their needs and concerns. (contact: Claire Wakefield, c.wakefield@unsw.edu.au, (02) 9382 1731).

'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) 9382 1731).

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) 9382 1731).



Congratulations to....

Ursula Sansom Daly, who was awarded a John Clarke Memorial Scholarship in Psychology. These are annual scholarships given to students who are undertaking excellent research in an area which is concerned with applying the findings of psychology to ongoing problems in the community.

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