

Behavioural Sciences Unit (BSU) update

The BSU was established at the CCCBD in 2001. We look after research studies that cover all the psycho-social aspects of the paediatric cancer journey, from diagnosis to survivorship and bereavement. Thank you to all the families who participate in our projects, as we couldn't do our work without you!

Welcome! To a new member of our team...

Sarah Ellis, our new research officer, who is working full-time with us on our psychosocial studies.



Congratulations!

To Jennifer Suneson-Casey for the award of her PhD on the psychological adjustment of Australian childhood cancer survivors, parents and siblings.

Publications ...

Claire Wakefield, Jordana McLoone and Richard Cohn recently published a paper in the journal, *Pediatric Blood and Cancer*. The paper reviewed all past research studies looking at the impact of completing cancer treatment on parents. The review found that while parents are (of course!) relieved at treatment completion, many can also feel distressed at this time. This is especially the case for mothers. Post treatment concerns for parents can include: worrying about relapse, feeling fatigued and feeling lonely. We found that these issues decrease across the first 12 months off treatment.

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Currently Recruiting....

CanTeen siblings study: CanTeen is still looking for young people (aged 12-24) who have a brother or sister (of any age) who has been diagnosed with or treated for cancer in the last 5 years. If you would like to participate, please call Pandora Patterson on (02) 9262 1431, or email research@canteen.org.au.



We have **2 NEW** studies looking for participants....

The Enteral feeding (NG feeding) study: is looking for patients, parents and healthcare workers to interview about their perceptions of enteral nutrition in paediatric oncology (contact: Jennifer Cohen, jennifer.cohen@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au, (02)9382 1372).

The Grandparents study: we also need grandparents to complete a survey to find out about their needs and concerns. This will help us to develop a booklet specifically for grandparents (contact: Dr Claire Wakefield, c.wakefield@unsw.edu.au, (02)9382 1444,).

Coming soon....

The Connectivity Study: looking at the advantages and disadvantages of using information and communication technology (e.g. SKYPE™) to connect children with cancer to their school classroom of origin. contact: Dr Claire Wakefield, (02)9382 1444, c.wakefield@unsw.edu.au)

