

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, Alistair Lum, Brittany McGill, Eden Robertson, Christina Signorelli, Lauren Touyz, and Joanna Fardell. Our research studies cover all psycho-social and nutritional aspects of the paediatric cancer journey, from diagnosis to survivorship and bereavement.

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



Proudly supported by the Kids with Cancer Foundation

Welcome! To the new members of our team...



Dr Joanna Fardell
Grandparents and Bereavement Studies



Gabrielle Georgiou
ILP Student
Personalised medicine



Mona Sajeev
Honours Student
Paediatric nutrition
decision aids



Ayus Kumar
ILP Student
Survivorship e-tools



Merry Lin
ILP Student
Health literacy

New publications...

Congratulations to Dr Ursula Sansom-Daly who recently published a paper on the challenges of delivering cognitive-behavioural therapy to groups of adolescents and young adults. Congratulations also to Ms Christina Signorelli who recently published a paper on the oral hygiene practices of childhood cancer survivors.

Publication references:

Sansom-Daly, U.M., Wakefield, C.E., McGill, B.C., Patterson, P. (2015). Ethical and clinical challenges in delivering group-based cognitive-behavioural therapy to adolescents and young adults with cancer using videoconferencing technology. Invited paper for the *Australian Psychologist* Special Issue on Tele-Psychology and Mental Health: Research and Practice. In press: accepted 8th February, 2015. Manuscript ID APSYCH-2014-0082.R1.

Signorelli, C., McLoone, J. K., Wakefield, C. E., & Cohn, R. J. (2015). Dental hygiene in childhood cancer survivors: The importance of tertiary long term follow-up care. *Pediatric blood & cancer*, 62(5): 921.

In the News...

Dr Sansom-Daly recently attended the World Cancer Congress in Melbourne where she presented on the Recapture Life and Life Narratives studies. She also presented her innovative work on the Recapture Life online intervention at the TeleMental Health Research & Practice Conference 2015 in Adelaide.



New study!

The study aims to examine the impact of serious illness on students' academic, social, and emotional factors within school as well as identifying school-related factors that prevent and promote student wellbeing and educational functioning. To participate, please contact Alistair Lum at a.lum@student.unsw.edu.au.



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 Dr Joanna Fardell at j.fardell@unsw.edu.au or on (02) 9382 3115.

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 or on (02) 9382 3120.

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 or on (02) 9382 3120.

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 at c.signorelli@unsw.edu.au or on (02) 9382 3115.



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