

Welcome to the first VPRS newsletter. Thanks to everyone for their suggestions regarding format frequency and content. The newsletter will be distributed on a quarterly basis, shortly after each VPRS Governance Group meeting. The next edition will be in December, just prior to Christmas (thus making it not quite quarterly). Please send me any feedback or suggestions you may have for future editions.

Regards,  
Sandra

## **Site Updates**

### **Southern Health**

- Orientation Pack – in the past couple of months distribution has commenced of an orientation pack for inpatients. The pack provides information about what rehabilitation is, the role of rehabilitation team members and facilities at Southern Health. A feedback sheet is included in order to continue to improve the pack. The next project is to develop an information pack for outpatients.
- Outreach services- in April some of the team attended Sale for their first outreach clinic which the families who come from the region were thrilled to attend and avoid a trip to Melbourne. The team who went to Sale consisted of Medical staff, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and the Nurse Co-ordinator. In November the team will be returning to Sale again. As well as the consulting clinic, there will be a Botulinum Toxin list done at Sale Hospital.
- Barry Rawicki has also been to PNG twice this year with Chris Blackburn and Elizabeth Lewis, working with Monash University and Southern Health to try and establish an adult and paediatric rehabilitation service there. This is an ongoing project.
- Staffing changes
  - Dion Rudzki – appointed to the Senior Clinical Psychologist position (0.2 EFT)
  - Amanda Johns – appointed to the Gait Laboratory Engineer position (0.2 EFT). This position will be based at Kingston Centre in the gait laboratory.
  - Dianne Cameron – appointed to the Senior Clinician Gait Lab Physiotherapist position (0.2 EFT). This position will be based at Kingston Centre in the gait laboratory.
  - Recruitment still in process for Neuropsychology and Play Therapy
  - Congratulations to the new staff and welcome to VPRS. For further information about VPRS at Southern Health, please contact Fiona Wilkinson – [fiona.wilkinson@southernhealth.org.au](mailto:fiona.wilkinson@southernhealth.org.au)

### **Eastern Health**

- Ty Gunning has been appointed as Regional Co-ordinator – Eastern. Congratulations Ty and good luck.
- The service in the Eastern region is slowly increasing. There have been a number of new referrals recently, taking the current client list up to around 10 active patients, with some more awaiting interventions prior to becoming active clients.
- The clinicians have been able to utilise the newly built Yarra Ranges Health campus of Eastern Health in Lilydale. This campus is collocated with the local community health service in Lilydale and has fantastic paediatric friendly facilities. Utilisation of this campus has meant the travelling time for some of the clients in the northern part of Eastern Health's catchment has been further reduced. Eastern Health's long term plan is to further expand their VPRS across the Angliss and Yarra Ranges campuses to provide a local and family centred rehabilitation service.
- Eastern VPRS continue to receive some of the resources gained through the DHS Pathways Home Equipment funding project, and look forward to being able to utilise these with their increasing number of clients.
- The VPRS team is working on building networks with the local community paediatric service providers. Formal links have been established with the hospital outpatients, SCOPE, with informal links with CAMHS and local CHC.
- Eastern Health are looking at hosting some open days for the VPRS –Eastern for their main referral sources, or attending their main referral sources for verbal updates on the service's development. Please let the team at Eastern know if you would like to attend an open day, or have their team visit your service. For further information about VPRS at Eastern Health, please contact Ty Gunning – [ty.gunning@easternhealth.org.au](mailto:ty.gunning@easternhealth.org.au)

## The Royal Children's Hospital

- RCH has a new CEO - Christine Kilpatrick.
- Staffing Update
  - SW- Lyndal Hickey (SW) has been seconded to DHS and will retain 0.1 EFT with VPRS at RCH. Backfill of 0.7 EFT is currently being advertised – applications close on 8th October.
  - PT- Tanja Barnes has been appointed to Anne Kissane's maternity leave locum. Tanja will commence on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Leesa Allinson will continue in the locum until Tanja starts. Congratulations to Tanja. Stacy Dimitracopoulos is coordinating the physical rehabilitation service at RCH while Anne is on leave
  - Research Assistant- Jeremy Lim has commence 0.2 EFT  
SP - Jill Steadall has commenced as senior SP 0.6 EFT. Congratulations and welcome back Jill
  - New positions - fixed term positions (until the end of this financial year) will be advertised shortly for a neuropsychologist (0.5EFT) and speech pathologist (0.5EFT) and a permanent part time clinical psychologist (0.4EFT).
  - Inpatient Nurse Coordinator -Fiona Gorrie (inpatient nurse coordinator) will be working full time on the Rehabilitation Development Project for 5 months from October 13. Kate Walley will increase her hours and provide full time backfill.
  - New Hospital - Construction is already underway and the new RCH will open in 2011. Various staff are continuing to attend meetings with the new hospital design team.
- Rehabilitation Development Project at RCH
  - The Rehabilitation Development Project at RCH which was outlined briefly at the VPRS planning day is moving into the Detailed Design & Planning phase (commencing 13/10/08) after completing the Initiate & Evaluate phase that produced some high level ideas about the coordination & streamlining of all rehab type services that are offered across all departments within RCH .
  - Adam Scheinberg has joined the Steering Committee for RDP (Sandra Gates is the other VPRS representative on the committee) and anything that arises from the project work that is relevant to VPRS will be taken to the VPRS Governance Group by Sandra, Adam or Doug Bryan
  - Any queries regarding the project can be directed to Fiona Gorrie via email: [fiona.gorrie@rch.org.au](mailto:fiona.gorrie@rch.org.au)

## Barwon Health

- Approval has been given for recruitment to the positions. They will be advertised on 25<sup>th</sup> October. The positions are 0.4 EFT for Physio, OT and Social Work and 0.2 EFT for Speech Path. All positions are Senior Clinician positions
- Developing relevant policies and procedures

For further information about VPRS at Barwon Health, please contact Therese Clark – [THERECL@BarwonHealth.org.au](mailto:THERECL@BarwonHealth.org.au)

## Bendigo Health Care Group

- The service is currently quite active, averaging a referral every couple of weeks.
- The team is currently organising the first meeting of the Advisory Group. This group will advise and assist with the formulation of how the service will work in partnership in the region. This group is to meet for the first time on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. Key stakeholders have been targeted and other service providers to be part of this group.
- The program has gone through some changes in how services are provided to the client. The team works from a multi-disciplinary approach. All children and families are given the opportunity to have a full assessment conducted in the first meeting. This way, a more comprehensive approach is provided to each individual child's care plans.
- The team is developing a local brochure and home webpage which will be completed in the next few weeks with a very regional flavour.
- For further information about VPRS at Bendigo Health, please contact Sue Tupper – [stupper@bendigohealth.org.au](mailto:stupper@bendigohealth.org.au)

## Overseas work

Barry Rawicki has been to Papua New Guinea twice this year with Chris Blackburn and Elizabeth Lewis, working with Southern Health and Monash University to try and establish an adult and paediatric rehabilitation facility there. This is an ongoing project.

## VPRS Governance Group

Feedback will be provided in the next newsletter following the December governance group meeting, including activity data from all the sites. The last Governance Group was in August, so the information from this meeting is dated

## Upcoming Professional Development Events

### VPRS Clinical Reference Group

- The Clinical Reference Group held its first meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>. A considerable amount of time was spent discussing data and the need to obtain more detailed information regarding clients who are coming through VPRS – particularly reason for referral and some more descriptive information aside from the diagnosis. Data collection spreadsheets have been sent to each site and data collection will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> September until 30<sup>th</sup> November. The data will be discussed at the next Clinical Reference Group meeting.
- There was also some discussion regarding referral processes and the possibility of a central intake system. At this stage, the referral processes will remain unchanged but will be discussed further in the future to determine the optimal referral process.
- The next meeting is on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-3.30pm.
- The intention is for membership of this group to be fluid and for people to opt in and opt out at various times depending on their interest of particular areas being worked on.

- International Cerebral Palsy Conference – Sydney, 18-21 February 2009
- 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual ASSBI conference – Sydney, 7-9<sup>th</sup> May 2009
- Working with Children and Young People with an ABI – 2 day workshop. Contact Christine Neil regarding registrations. Phone 0393855103  
[c.neil@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:c.neil@latrobe.edu.au)
- The VBIRA Breakfast Club "Education Partnerships" – Education programmes post secondary school for people with ABI. Wednesday 15 October 2008
- 8-10am.  
R.S.V.P.to  
[paul\\_ellis@iprimus.com.au](mailto:paul_ellis@iprimus.com.au)
- "Leading the way in continuing care" conference – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008, Melbourne. For further information go to [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ahs/concare](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ahs/concare)

### Research Updates

- Amongst some of the research projects that are occurring at VPRS at Southern Health, members of the team are currently participating in:  
-“A randomised control trial to determine the optimum frequency in Botulinum Toxin injections in the calf in children with cerebral palsy.”  
-“Botulinum Toxin and modified constraint induced movement therapy in the treatment of the upper limb in spastic hemiplegic cerebral palsy”
- There are currently 6 projects that are being undertaken through the RCH team investigating functional outcomes following paediatric TBI.

Two others have been completed in the past 12 months (one investigating participation following paediatric ABI and one about paediatric stroke outcomes). Information about these research projects can be found at: [http://www.rch.org.au/rehab/research.cfm?doc\\_id=9491](http://www.rch.org.au/rehab/research.cfm?doc_id=9491). RCH staff also work closely with MCRI where they are linked to the Critical Care and Neurosciences stream  
<http://www.mcri.edu.au/pages/research/research-group.asp?G=69> . For further information about these projects at RCH, please contact Jane Galvin [jane.galvin@rch.org.au](mailto:jane.galvin@rch.org.au)

## Publications

Recent papers accepted or submitted for publication by VPRS staff include:

- **Galvin, J.**, Froude, E.H., & Imms, C. (In press). Sensory processing abilities of children who have sustained traumatic brain injuries. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*
- **Randall, M.**, Imms, C., & Carey, L. (2008). Establishing Validity of a Modified Melbourne Assessment for Children Ages 2 to 4 Years. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. 4(62).
- Fehlings, D., Russo, R., Berwick, S., Stott, S., Novak, I., **Hoare, B.** (In progress). Botulinum toxin assessment, intervention and after care for paediatric upper limb hypertonicity: Evidence based guidelines. International consensus statement for publication in the *European Journal of Neurology*.
- **Hoare, B.** (In press). Unravelling the cerebral palsy upper limb. Invited Commentary. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*.
- **Hoare, B.**, Wallen, M., Imms, C., Carey, L. (Submitted) Botulinum toxin A as an adjunct to treatment in the management of the upper limb in children with spastic hemiplegic cerebral palsy (Cochrane Review): Update. In: *The Cochrane Library*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
- Holmefur, M., Aarts, P., **Hoare, B.**, Krumlinde-Sundholm, L. (Submitted). Retest and Alternate forms reliability of the Assisting Hand Assessment. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*.

**Congratulations Brian, Melinda and Jane.**

Recent published or submitted book chapters by VPRS staff include:

- **Hoare, B. J.**, Imms, C. (Submitted). Getting Ready for School. In: *Physical and Occupational Therapy for Cerebral Palsy*. Eds. Dodd, K., Imms, C., Taylor, N. McKeith Press.
- **Hoare, B** and Russo, R. (In Press). Botulinum toxin-A in children with cerebral palsy. Treatment of the upper limb following injection. In: *International Handbook of Occupational Therapy Interventions*. Eds. Soderback, I. Springer Publishers. New York
- **Rawicki, B.** (2008), *Management of Painful Spasticity*, in *Clinical Pain Management: Chronic Pain* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Hodder and Arnold Publishers

## Conference and workshop presentations

Several VPRS staff have recently presented at various conferences.

- **Galvin, J. & Randall, M.** Virtual reality in upper limb rehabilitation following paediatric TBI, OT AUSTRALIA 23rd National Conference & Exhibition 2008
- McAleer, J., **Galvin, J.**, & Froude, E., Children's participation in home, school and community life following Acquired Brain Injury. OT AUSTRALIA 23rd National Conference & Exhibition 2008
- **Randall, M.**, Imms, C., & Carey, L., Psychometric properties of 'The Melbourne Assessment of Unilateral Upper Limb Function' based on Rasch analysis. OT AUSTRALIA 23rd National Conference & Exhibition 2008
- **Hoare, B.**, "Botulinum toxin-A in the upper limb in children with cerebral palsy. State of the evidence". Oral Presentation. Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, Brisbane, 10-13th April, 2008.
- **Hoare, B.**, "Activity level assessment of the upper limb in children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy. Treatment innovation and its impact on measurement". Oral Presentation. Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, Brisbane, 10-13th April, 2008.
- **Hoare, B.**, Intensive therapy following Botulinum toxin-A in children with cerebral palsy: A randomized controlled trial of constraint induced movement therapy. Invited Oral Presentation. Southern Health Research Week, Melbourne, 15th April, 2008
- **Rawicki, B.**, "Intrathecal Medication in Spasticity Management". International Neuromodulation Society, Perth, April 2008.
- **Rawicki, B.**, "Intrathecal Baclofen Workshop", Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, Brisbane, April, 2008
- Reid, Johnstone H, **Rawicki, B** and Reddihough, D, "Randomised trial of Botulinum toxin injections into the submandibular and parotid gland to reduce drooling in children with neurological disorders." European Academy of Childhood Disability, Zagreb, May 2008
- **Rawicki, B.**, "Rehabilitation following Neurological Impairment." 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Symposium, Papua New Guinea, September 2008

**Congratulations to Brian, Jane, Barry and Melinda**

## Poster Presentations

- **Hoare, B.**, Wallen, M., Imms, C., Carey, L. (2008). Botulinum toxin-A in the upper limb in children with cerebral palsy: a Cochrane systematic review update. Poster Presentation. European Academy of Childhood Disability, Zagreb, Croatia, June 2008.
- Holmefur, M., Aarts, P., **Hoare, B.**, Krumlinde-Sundholm, L. Retest and alternate forms reliability of the Assisting Hand Assessment. Poster Presentation. European Academy of Childhood Disability, Zagreb, Croatia, June 2008.

## YMCA HEADS TOGETHER: 7-9 NOVEMBER 2008

Camp Coordinator Karen on 0402 477  
962 or [karen.hutchinson@ymca.org.au](mailto:karen.hutchinson@ymca.org.au)

## Health Independence Programs Forum

- Launch of the Health Independence Program Guidelines (Health Independence Programs include SACS, PAC, HARP) occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> September. The idea of the guidelines is to provide guidance to health and community services with direction for more closely aligning health independence programs. Sandra will be meeting with DHS to discuss how these apply to VPRS as they are primarily designed at a health service level rather than for statewide services. A copy of these guidelines will be sent to all CEOs in the next few weeks. Copies are available from <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute/hip-manual08.pdf>

### STAFF PROFILE

Karen Caruana – Admin Officer – Paediatric Rehabilitation Program – MMC

#### About me

1. **What has been the most rewarding thing you have ever done in your life.**  
Having 4 children.
2. **What do you enjoy doing most during your time away from work?**  
Drinking champagne – Oh and of course reading and walking!
3. **Name a great book you have read lately**  
Mao's Last Dancer.
4. **What would you like to be doing in five years from now?**  
Travel anywhere and drink more champagne.
5. **What football team to you follow?**  
Bombers.
6. **What would be your all time favourite movie?**  
Muriel's Wedding.
7. **Which actor/well known person would play you in the movie adaptation of your life?**  
**Who would play your love interest? What would the movie be called?**  
Kate Langbroeke, Dave Hughes – "My Four Sons"
8. **What would be the "good advice" that you choose to live by?**  
Eat and drink!! – in moderation

#### About my Role

1. **What is the most challenging facet of your current job?**  
Managing Barry's diary!
2. **If a magic fairy was to grant you a wish in relation to one thing that you could change in your department, what would it be?**  
More storage/office space for everyone.