



Chris O'Brien
Lifehouse

Head & Neck Review 2016

Professor Chris O'Brien AO

MS MD FRCS (HON) FRACS (3 Jan 1952 – 4 Jun 2009)

Chris O'Brien was a man of leadership, vision and courage. He inspired people, both through his work as a cancer specialist and through his own three-year battle with an aggressive brain tumour.

Chris transformed his personal adversity into a national opportunity, using his experience to fight so much harder for cancer patients and their families. Chris' vision was for an integrated cancer treatment centre, where patients will no longer have to navigate their way through all the different elements of dealing with their illness alone. His vision was realised with the opening of Chris O'Brien Lifehouse to patients on 19 November 2013.



Head and Neck vision, mission and values

Vision

Our vision is to become a leader in the management of head and neck cancer in order to improve the quality of life of our patients and their families and care givers.

Mission

Our team is committed to providing the highest level of personalised care to patients with head and neck cancer. We believe this is achieved through an outstanding multidisciplinary team focused on:

- Raising awareness, developing prevention strategies and delivering prompt, evidence-based and personalised multidisciplinary care to our patients.
- Conducting cutting-edge research into the prevention, screening, diagnosis and best treatment of head and neck cancer.
- Participating in training and education of our future workforce, medical colleagues and, importantly, our patients, families and care givers.
- Innovative treatment approaches.
- Clinical excellence.

Values

Respect, Compassion, Excellence, Innovation, Optimism, Reliability, Empathy

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Director's Report



Associate Professor Carsten Palme

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Head and Neck Service at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. We are a group of leading specialists including surgeons, radiation and medical oncologists, clinical fellows, researchers, clinical nurse specialists and allied health professionals whose primary aim and dedication is to provide state-of-the-art treatment to patients affected by head and neck cancer.

We aim to achieve this by delivering prompt, evidence-based, compassionate and personalised clinical care, participating in cutting-edge research and providing up-to-date education and training. We are unique at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, given our close and successful partnership with the Sydney Local Health District and NSW Health, in being able to provide this service to both public and private patients alike.

Our first year at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse has been very exciting and productive. We are proud to have been able to deliver a number of "firsts" not only for our institution but also for the head and neck community in general.

We have been very busy clinically, carrying out well in excess of 1,000 major surgical procedures. Our experts are able to deliver all aspects of ablative head and neck surgery and practice the latest in reconstructive techniques. This includes minimally invasive endoscopic keyhole procedures utilising the

latest technologies including the CO2 Laser and da Vinci Xi Robot. In fact, our head and neck team was the first to perform robotic surgery at Lifehouse using the most current and latest Dual Console da Vinci Robot available in Australia.

Our head and neck team comes together during the weekly multidisciplinary team meeting where all patients are discussed in a welcoming and open environment, deciding on the most appropriate treatment plan for each individual patient. We practice in a multidisciplinary environment at Lifehouse and in our first year we have already seen several thousand patients. We have expanded our clinical service by establishing the first specialist multidisciplinary clinic for patients with malignant facial nerve disorders in Australia. Most recently we have commenced a dedicated multidisciplinary speech and swallow clinic in order to manage the common side effects that patients with mouth and throat cancer experience during and after treatment.

Research is very important to us in our tireless search for a cure and improvement of quality of life. We believe that this will be achieved by our world-class research team who lead a very active, robust and busy bench-to-bedside research program at Lifehouse. We are pleased to report that our department is currently conducting over 50 basic science and clinical research projects in conjunction with both the University of Sydney and several other academic and research facilities across New South Wales. This includes supervising a number of PhD, Masters, Honours and MD students. A number of our projects have received international awards and in the past year we have published numerous papers in the most prominent national and international peer reviewed journals. In addition, we have produced many books and chapters on a variety of head and neck conditions.

The training of our future work force is a vital component of our department's aim and philosophy. Each year we train many students, residents and registrars attached to our program. We run a very successful and competitive international fellowship program for surgeons from all over the world wishing to expand their expertise in head and neck cancer management. Each year we have three positions available, which are always popular and filled well ahead of time. Over the past year our service has hosted many visitors and observers from all over the world including the UK, Europe, the US, South America and Asia.

Our department conducts monthly multidisciplinary head and neck teaching for clinicians and academics across Sydney, again a first for our community. This is

Director's Report (continued)

a very popular and well-attended meeting. Providing up-to-date education to our colleagues, primary care givers and our patients is very important to us. One of our major achievements this past year has been the development of a dedicated head and neck cancer patient education website, www.beyondfive.org.au, again an Australian first. We have been pleased to develop this in collaboration with Beyond Five, a not-for-profit charity dedicated to patients suffering from head and neck cancer. We hope that this will lead to greater understanding, reduce anxiety and help to demystify head and neck cancer for our patients and their care givers.

We have organised many clinical courses and conferences. Our specialists have been regular invited speakers and faculty members at many national and international meetings, including;

- 3rd World Larynx Cancer Congress, Cairns
- ENT Masterclass Annual Meeting, London
- Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Scientific Meeting, Sydney
- 1st ENT Masterclass China, Beijing
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Annual Conference, Brisbane

- Annual Head and Neck Dissection Course, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane
- 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer in Seattle
- American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, San Diego
- Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society meeting in Auckland

Over the next few years we will continue to establish Chris O'Brien Lifehouse as the premier head and neck cancer facility in Australia by focusing on patient care and attracting world-class clinicians and researchers. We are working to expand our service across rural, national and international regions to realise our aim in becoming a well-respected world-class referral centre for the management of head and neck cancer.

We are very thankful for all the support we have been given by our government, the administration at Lifehouse and importantly our donors. Finally, I would like to thank and acknowledge the great work done by all the members of our head and neck team. I am incredibly proud of our team and this past year's achievements would not have been possible without their tireless work and generous contributions.

Carsten E Palme

2016 Highlights

- Carsten Palme was appointed Director of the Head and Neck Department.
- Jonathan Clark was promoted to Clinical Professor at the University of Sydney.
- We performed 1,533 major surgical procedures.
- The Dual Console da Vinci Xi Surgical System was the first of its kind to be acquired in the Southern Hemisphere and is one of the most advanced pieces of surgical hardware in the world today.
- Our department was the first to perform robotic surgery at Lifehouse.
- The first specialist multidisciplinary clinic for patients with malignant facial nerve disorders in Australia was established at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in conjunction with the Sydney Facial Nerve Service.
- A dedicated multidisciplinary speech and swallow clinic for management of mouth and throat cancer side effects commenced.
- We conduct monthly multidisciplinary head and neck teaching for clinicians and academics across Sydney, a first for our head and neck community.
- Australia's first dedicated head and neck cancer patient education website, www.beyondfive.org.au, was launched at the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society meeting in October.
- The first head and neck immune check point inhibitor trials commenced in 2016. The therapies have shown tremendous promise in melanoma and lung cancer. We have already seen some remarkable responses in head and neck cancers that were otherwise incurable.
- Lydia Zammit was appointed as the department administrator.
- Dr Sherilyn Goldstone (PhD) was appointed as research co-ordinator and grant writer in December.

Head and Neck in numbers




1534
Surgeries

3
CLINICAL
TRIALS



162
free flap
reconstructions

16 robotic
surgeries



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13 grants
awarded

26,114
bed days



56
PUBLICATIONS

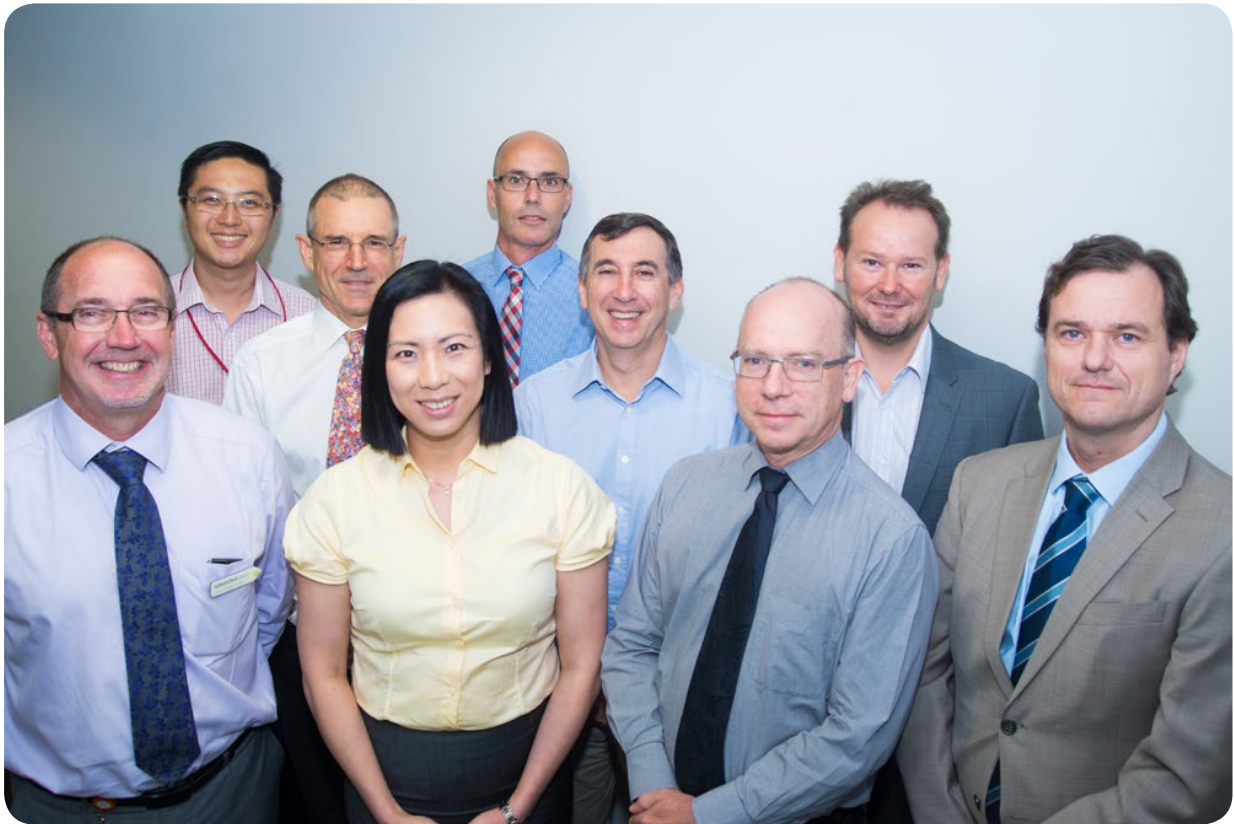
17 guests

5 ★ prizes for
presentations
and posters

Head and Neck procedures

Type of Surgery	No of cases
Ablative	
Laser resection and microlaryngoscopy	47
Mucosal resection including mandibulectomy/maxillectomy	150
Wide excision of tumour (non-mucosal)	257
Neck dissection (unilateral or bilateral)	204
Transoral robotic resection	16
Thyroidectomy (hemi or total)	183
Parotidectomy (with or without temporal bone)	140
Parathyroidectomy	21
Submandibular gland excision	18
Total	1036
Reconstruction	
Free flap reconstruction	162
Non-free flap reconstruction	100
Other reconstructive procedures	50
Total	312
Other	
Biopsy/Microlaryngoscopy/EUA/Tonsillectomy/Other	136
Sentinel/lymph node biopsy	50
Total	238
Total no of surgeries	1534

Our people



**The Head & Neck MDT team:
Left to right are radiation oncologist Chris Milross, surgeons Hubert Low,
Anthony Clifford, Sydney Ch'ng, Michael Elliott,
medical oncologist Michael Boyer, and surgeons Kerwin Shannon,
Jonathan Clark and Carsten Palme.**

Our people (continued)

Surgical Staff



**Associate Professor
Carsten Palme**

Director, Head and Neck Surgery
Otolaryngology,
Head and Neck Surgeon

Dr Carsten Palme is an otolaryngology, head & neck surgeon and Clinical Associate Professor in Surgery at the University of Sydney with over 20 years of experience. Dr Palme is the Director of Head and Neck Surgery at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and a senior member of the head and neck service at Westmead Hospital.

After attending medical school at the University of Sydney Dr Palme completed four years of advanced training in otolaryngology head and neck surgery and obtained his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 2002. Dr Palme completed post-training fellowships in the American Head and Neck Oncology Program, University of Toronto, Canada and in Laser Surgery, University of Göttingen, Germany. Dr Palme is the inaugural recipient in 2009 of the Chris O'Brien Travelling Fellowship Award. In 2011 Dr Palme was awarded the Coman Kennedy Laser Scholarship. In 2012 the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons presented Dr Palme with a "Certificate of Outstanding Services".

Dr Palme is active in both research and education and has convened and organised many national and international courses and conferences. He has published widely in peer reviewed journals,

written many book chapters and recently edited a book on skin cancer of the head and neck. Dr Palme is a much sought after and regular invited speaker both at national and international meetings.

Dr Palme has particular interest and expertise in thyroid and parathyroid surgery, salivary gland disorders and tumours, advanced skin cancer and all aspects of head and neck cancer. Dr Palme is particularly well known for his extensive experience in minimally invasive head and neck surgery and practices both transoral laser and robotic surgery.

Dr Palme is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and a member of the Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery, the Australian and New Zealand Society of Head and Neck Surgery, the American Head and Neck Surgery Society and the Laryngological Society of Australia.



Professor Jonathan Clark

Director of Fellowship Program and Research
Head and Neck Surgeon

Professor Clark has held consultant positions in head and neck surgery at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital since 2006. He directs the international clinical fellowship program at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse which trains three international fellows in head and neck surgery and microvascular reconstruction each year and has trained over 20 international fellows.

He leads the clinical research program at the Sydney Head

and Neck Cancer Institute which undertakes collaborative research across Sydney and supervises the largest head and neck database in Australasia. He holds a Clinical Professor appointment with the University of Sydney and has over 150 peer review publications and 15 book chapters principally on advanced skin cancer, microvascular reconstruction of the head and neck, prognostication in oral and oropharyngeal cancer and salivary gland tumours. He co-founded the Sydney Facial Nerve Service and established the first dedicated facial nerve clinic in Australia.

Dr Clark serves on the international editorial board of multiple head and neck journals and is the regional director representing Australia in the Global Fellowship for the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncological Societies (IFHNOS) and founding member AO Craniomaxillofacial Australasia (AOCMF). Dr Clark is the co-founder and chairman of Beyond Five which is the first dedicated head and neck cancer charity focussing on the development of online patient educational resources, along with providing support to head and neck cancer patients and their carers.



**Associate Professor
Michael Elliott**

Otolaryngology,
Head and Neck Surgeon

Associate Professor Michael Elliott graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1997 and commenced

his basic surgical training in 1998. In 2000 Michael and his family moved to Sydney where he completed his basic surgical training. In 2003 Michael undertook a research year at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and was awarded a Masters of Philosophy in the Field of Medical Science. Following this Michael commenced advanced surgical training in otolaryngology, head and neck surgery in Sydney (completed in January 2008) and was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

In May 2008 Michael commenced a Head and Neck Fellowship with Guys and St Thomas NHS Trust in London. Upon his return to Sydney, Michael was appointed to the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and has a cross-appointment at Concord General Repatriation Hospital.

Michael's main areas of interest are benign and malignant conditions the Thyroid and Parathyroid Glands. Michael chairs the Thyroid Multidisciplinary Meeting and is actively involved in a number of clinical and translational thyroid research projects. Michael also treats other benign and malignant conditions of the head and neck including salivary glands. Additionally, Michael coordinates research activities with the Sydney University and the SHNCI, and actively participates and enjoys teaching of registrars and other junior medical staff.

Associate Professor Elliott consults in both Newtown and Crows Nest.

Michael's interests outside of work are spending time with his wife (Angela) and sons (James and Samuel) and surfing.



Associate Professor Sydney Ch'ng
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon
Head and Neck Surgeon

Associate Professor Sydney Ch'ng is a fully qualified plastic, reconstructive and cosmetic surgeon and leading surgical researcher. She is one of a few surgeons fully trained in both plastic surgery and head and neck surgery. Her current work includes cancer surgery (head and neck cancer, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers), reconstructive surgery, cosmetic surgery, and academic work as Associate Professor of Surgery at The University of Sydney.

Dr Ch'ng studied medicine at the University of Melbourne. During her surgical training, she participated in the Surgeon Scientist Program through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). She performed two years of fulltime research into the biology of skin cancers, publishing many scientific papers, and presenting her research at both national and international conferences. Dr Ch'ng won a number of awards including the Young Investigator Award presented by the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society (ANZHNCS), Best Proffered Paper at the ANZHNCS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), the Louis Barnett Prize for best free paper at the RACS (NZ) ASM, and Best Scientific Poster at the RACS Annual Scientific Congress (ASC). This research culminated in the awarding of a PhD, and contributed to changes in global guidelines for staging of skin cancers.

Following this, Dr Ch'ng completed training in plastic and reconstructive surgery, obtaining Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS).

She undertook further training in head and neck surgery at the Sydney Head and Neck Cancer Institute and Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital. This allowed her to gain extensive experience in both resection and reconstructive surgery for all types of head and neck benign and malignant (cancer) pathology.

Dr Ch'ng then completed a fellowship specialising in Adult Craniofacial (Facial Trauma and Facial Cosmetic) Surgery at the renowned Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan, working with world leaders in this field.

Subsequently, Dr Ch'ng went to the premier cancer hospital in USA, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, as a fellow on the highly competitive American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery Program. There she learnt the latest techniques in cancer surgery such as advanced microsurgery, robotic surgery, and lymphoedema surgery.

Dr Ch'ng collaborates with experts in medical oncology, radiation oncology, pathology, and allied health when caring for head and neck cancer and melanoma patients. Her interests include facial skin cancers (especially those involving the ear, nose, eyelids and lips), advanced skin cancers requiring complex reconstruction following resection with a focus on obtaining the best cosmetic outcome and restoring function, surgery for parotid tumours (including nerve integrity monitoring and mini-facelift incisions), and blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery).

In addition to her clinical work, Dr Ch'ng is Associate Professor

Our people (continued)

of Surgery at the Institute of Academic Surgery, The University of Sydney. She is the Research Lead for Plastic Surgery at RPA Hospital. She has authored numerous scientific papers and book chapters, and been awarded a number of successful research grant applications. She is an examiner for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and a reviewer for highly regarded scientific journals. In 2015, she was recognised with the inaugural Young Researcher Award by the Sydney Local Health District Innovation and Research Symposium. In the same year, she was named one of the Westpac and Australian Financial Reviewer 100 Women of Influence.

Dr Ch'ng is actively involved in the supervision and training of local and overseas surgeons, trainees and medical students. She is a council member of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons. She convened the 17th International Course on Perforator Flaps in Sydney in November 2016, and is the Plastic Surgery Section Convenor for the RACS ASC 2018.

Dr Ch'ng is married to a Kiwi transplant anaesthetist, and is a passionate mother of two.



Dr Anthony Clifford
Otolaryngology,
Head and Neck Surgeon

Anthony was born in 1957, the son of a surgeon working for rural people in the small African country of Lesotho. Anthony graduated from both dentistry and medicine

at Sydney University and in 1991 completed specialist training in otolaryngology and head and neck surgery. Two one-year overseas head and neck oncology fellowships followed. These were at St Michael's Hospital in Toronto (Canada) and at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore (USA).

Anthony has been a part of the Head and Neck Unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital since 1994. His dental and otolaryngology background have resulted in a strong interest in oral and laryngeal pathology. Other areas of interest include the management of salivary gland tumours and paranasal sinus malignancy.

Anthony has a strong commitment to strive to provide patient care of the highest possible standard. Dr Clifford is the Head of the Head and Neck Department at RPA and his interests outside medicine include cycling and cabinet making.



Dr Kerwin Shannon
Head and Neck Surgeon

Dr Shannon graduated in Medicine from the University of Sydney in 1987. After training in General Surgery at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and being awarded Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1995, he undertook a year as Associate Lecturer in Surgery at the University of Sydney with a clinical appointment to the Sydney Melanoma Unit.

He subsequently undertook a twelve month Fellowship in Head and Neck Surgery at the University

of Hong Kong, followed by a two-year Fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, under the auspices of the American Head & Neck Society. Returning in mid-1999, he was appointed to the Department of Head and Neck Surgery of the Central Sydney Area Health Service and also resumed his association with the Sydney Melanoma Unit.

With a principal clinical focus in head and neck oncology, Dr Shannon is involved in the comprehensive management of mucosal malignancies of the upper aerodigestive tract, melanoma and cutaneous malignancy, salivary gland diseases, and surgery for thyroid and parathyroid diseases. Research interests include organ preservation protocols, the use of regional chemotherapy for advanced head and neck cancers and sentinel node biopsy for melanoma of the head and neck. This is combined with a strong interest in teaching at all levels of medical training.

Dr Shannon is happily married and likes to spend time with his family as well as kayaking and playing the violin.



Dr Hubert Low
Otolaryngology,
Head and Neck Surgeon

Dr Hubert Low is an Otolaryngology Head and Neck surgeon specialising in microvascular, reconstruction, facial nerve rehabilitation and transoral robotic surgery at

Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. Dr Low heads the education program at the Lifehouse Head and Neck Department and is also a senior clinical lecturer at the University of Sydney. His responsibilities include training and supervision of fellows and surgical registrars and coordinating the rotation of medical students from Sydney University and Western Sydney University to the Head and Neck Department at Lifehouse. He also organises and chairs the monthly multidisciplinary head and neck teaching program.

Dr Low's clinical interests include management of head and neck cancer, advanced skin cancer, salivary gland tumours, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, and head and neck oncological reconstruction.

He began his career in general surgery at Royal North Shore Hospital and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (under the late Professor Chris O'Brien) in Sydney before undertaking his otolaryngology head and neck surgery training in Adelaide, then Sydney Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, John Hunter Hospital and finally at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Hubert undertook further fellowship training in head and neck oncology/sleep apnoea surgery at Royal Perth Hospital (Western Australia) followed by Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (Taiwan, under Prof Fu Chan Wei). Subsequently, to further his training in microvascular/ head and neck reconstruction, facial nerve rehabilitation and transoral robotic surgery Hubert completed his fellowship training at Victoria Hospital (London Ontario, Canada, under Prof John Yoo).

Dr Low is a member of the Australasian Head and Neck Society, Australasian Facial Plastic Surgery, and Academy of Surgical Educator; as well as a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

He has presented at conferences all over the world, and has published a large number of peer-reviewed research articles. He currently collaborates in various research projects with the Bioengineering Department (UNSW), Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi (India) and London, Ontario (Canada). He also supervises Master candidates from both Sydney University and the University of Edinburgh.

Clinical Associates

Head and Neck Surgeons

Dr Bruce Ashford

Associate Professor Ardalan Ebrahimi

Dr John McGuinness

Associate Professor Navin Niles

Dr Daniel Novakovic

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Dr Lydia Lim

Dr Jasvir Singh

Oral Medicine

Dr Sue-Ching Yeoh

Associate Professor Mark Schifter

Radiation Oncologists

Associate Professor

Christopher Milross

Director of Radiation Oncology and Medical Services

Associate Professor Kerwyn Foo

Dr Mo Mo Tin

Medical Oncologists

Professor Michael Boyer

Director of Clinical Services

Dr Steven Kao

Pathology

Associate Professor Ruta Gupta

Radiology

Dr Geoffrey Parker

Nursing and Allied Health

Justine Oates

Sarah Davies

Clinical Nurse Consultants

Joan Ryan

Palliative Care Nurse

Merran Findlay

Lara Mathers

Senior Oncology Dietitians

Katrina Blyth

Emma Charters

Senior Speech Pathologists

Administrative Staff

Kan Gao

Data Manager and Analyst

Sherilyn Goldstone

Grant Writer

Nadia Rosin

Business Development Manager

Lydia Zammit

Departmental Administrator

Fellows

Dr Fiona Smithers

Dr Nikolaus Mockelmann

Dr Rahul Jayaram

Residents

Dr John Holbrook

Dr George McClintock

Dr Guru Sandhu

Dr John Delaney

Dr Shawn Booth

Registrars

Dr Doug Shaw

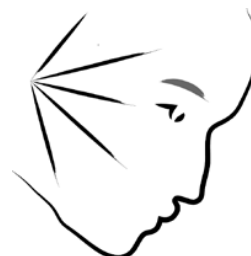
ENT Registrars

Zara Watson

Murray Thompson

Alok Mohirakar

Affiliations



- University of Sydney
- Sydney Head and Neck Cancer Institute
- Illawara Health and Medical Research Institute / University of Wollongong
- University of New South Wales
- Sydney Facial Nerve Service
- Centenary Institute
- Beyond Five
- Department of Tissue Pathology and Diagnostic Oncology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
- New South Wales Health Pathology

Our research

The Team

Professor Jonathan Clark –
Research Program Director

Research Program Co-ordinator

Dr Sherilyn Goldstone

Pathology

Associate Professor Ruta Gupta
– Pathological, genomic and
molecular research

Surgeons

**Associate Professor
Carsten Palme** –
Director, Department of Head and
Neck Surgery

**Associate Professor
Michael Elliott** – Thyroid cancer
research

Dr Bruce Ashford – Skin cancer
translational research

Dr Hubert Low – Data supervisor

Dr Kerwin Shannon – Melanoma
and CHANCES

Associate Professor Sydney Ch'ng
– Melanoma, RPA AIS

Dr Daniel Novakovic –
Laryngology

**Associate Professor Ardalan
Ebrahimi** – Data analysis

Data Management

Mr Kan Gao – Data manager

Scientists

Professor Marie Ranson –
University of Wollongong

Associate Professor Guy Lyons –
University of Sydney

Dr Nham Tran – University of
Technology, Sydney

**Associate Professor Sue
McLennan** – University of Sydney

PhD Candidates

Dr Bruce Ashford – Molecular
mechanisms in metastatic
cutaneous SCC, IMHRI, University of
Wollongong

Dr Timothy Eviston – Facial nerve
excitability, University of NSW –
Completed 2016

Dr Joe Jabour – CHANCES
program, University of Sydney

Dr Muzib Abdul Razak – Sentinel
node biopsy in oral SCC, University
of Sydney

Masters Candidates

Dr Tharsiga Ganasekaran –
NanoString mRNA sequencing in
high risk cutaneous SCC

Dr Joel Hardman – miRNA profiling
in thyroid cancer in solid tumours
and serum

Dr Rivthik Reddy – Young oral
squamous cell carcinoma

Dr Dulshan Preena – Validation
of OSCC Beyondfive.org.au
information sheet

Dr Eric Luu – Quality of Life after
Radical Parotidectomy.

Students

Honours

Simone Visage – Isolated tumour
cells

Tanya Maniolas – RNA predictors
of metastases in cutaneous SCC

Brodie Hawkins – miRNA profiling
in low, intermediate and high risk
papillary thyroid cancer

MD Students (USyd)

Thomas Beddow – CHANCES
program

Catherine Zilberg – Molecular
markers of metastatic cutaneous
SCC

Matthew Lee – Molecular markers
of metastatic cutaneous SCC

Timothy Khoo – Molecular markers
in high grade SGC

Angus Clark – Molecular markers
in high grade SGC

Andrew Kynaston – Genomic
analysis of head and neck cancer

Matthuson Veerasingam –
Genomic analysis of head and neck
cancer

Gianni Perano – Genomic analysis
of head and neck cancer

Tandeep Singh – Genomic analysis
of head and neck cancer

ILP Students (UNSW)

Lauren Chong – Facial Nerve Clinic

Joo Hyen Ahn – BLINC project

Patrick Krakovsky – BLINC project

Shaun McPherson – BLINC project

Research Students

Noel Chia – Biobanking

Jun Hee Hong – Metformin in
cSCC

Tae Young Kim – Metformin in
cSCC

Ying Kai Tou – OSCC staging

Karthik Vasan – Lymph node ratio
in cSCC

Head and Neck Fellows

Dr Gregor Heiduscka – OSCC and
cSCC

Dr Joel Smith – Mutational analysis
and cSCC

Dr James Badlani – Salivary gland
tumours

Dr Fiona Smithers – Whole section
margin analysis in OSCC

Dr Rahul Jayaram – Algorithm for
maxillary reconstruction

Dr Niko Mockelmann – Staging in
OSCC and cSCC

Our research (continued)

Radiation Oncology

Associate Professor Angela Hong
– Human papilloma virus

Associate Professor Kerwyn Foo –
Radiobiology and quality of life

Associate Professor Christopher Milross – CHANCES program

Dr Puma Sunderasen –
CHANCES program

Psycho-oncology and Health

**Education –
CHANCES Program**

Dr Haryana Dhillon

Dr Heather Shepherd

Nursing

Ms Cate Froggatt – CHANCES
program

Ms Sarah Davies – SNIC trial

Ms Justine Oates – quality of life

Dietetics

Ms Merran Findlay – Translating
research into practice

Speech Pathology

Dr Katrina Blyth – Ultrasound in
dysphagia rehabilitation

Ms Emma Charters

Bioengineering – BLINC project

Prof Gregg Suaning

Prof Nigel Lovell

Head and Neck Cancers

Head and neck cancers represent a diverse group of tumours linked through anatomical proximity.

These cancers have a low public profile and receive minimal research funding within Australia.

There are almost no effective second line therapies for patients with recurrent disease.

Head and neck cancers cause severe functional and aesthetic problems, including difficulties with breathing, swallowing, vision, hearing and communication. Many patients face social isolation, debilitating anxiety and chronic distress.

There is a lack of community awareness regarding the devastating nature of head and neck cancers. This is because many patients are socioeconomically disadvantaged and there are few advocates to champion their cause.

Types of Research

Research at Lifehouse is conducted using the Sydney Head and Neck Cancer Institute database, which currently includes 14,000 cases. The Lifehouse head and neck unit has traditionally focused on two areas:

- Disease outcomes following surgery and radiotherapy
- Patient-reported outcomes on quality of life

More recently, the database has facilitated a strong translational research program exploring the pathological and molecular markers of metastases and prognosis in head and neck cancer. This has been possible through collaborations with the Department of Anatomical Pathology at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, the Illawarra Medical Health and Research Institute at the University of Wollongong and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

The head and neck unit has successfully developed and maintained a biobank of head and neck tumours, including blood, fresh tissues (normal and malignant) and concurrent formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissues and cognate clinicopathologic data.

In 2016 the head and neck unit ran new clinical trials to investigate immune checkpoint inhibitors in unresectable and metastatic head and neck cancers. In addition, the unit has a growing interest in patient education, through collaborations with the University of Sydney, as well as bionic facial reanimation through the University of New South Wales.

Research Focus

While the unit continues to work on a variety of research projects and to support individuals with particular interests, there are five main areas of focus:

- Advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma
- Aggressive salivary gland cancers
- Oral squamous cell cancer
- Patient education through the Comprehensive Head and Neck Education and Support (CHANCES) program
- Maintenance of a biobank of fresh tissues, blood, saliva and cognate data

Goals

The Lifehouse head and neck research group seeks to become a hub of head and neck cancer research activity in Australasia and to facilitate research in other Australasian centres.

Reaching this goal will require:

- A multi-centre biobanking facility
- A head and neck clinical trials group
- A basic science and translational network infrastructure with aligned goals
- Appointment of a clinician-scientist to head the basic science research program
- A central basic science laboratory to support the above

2016 Overview

We continued to work on a variety of research projects with special focus on our areas of priority:

Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC)

- University of Sydney MD students Catherine Zilberg and Matthew Lee presented their work on somatic mutations in high risk cSCC at the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society meeting in Auckland, New Zealand in October. Catherine was awarded an ANZHNCS grant to investigate the genomic landscape of metastatic cSCC.
- “A first look at the genomic landscape of non-metastatic cSCC” was accepted for a podium presentation by Associate Professor Ruta Gupta at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology in March.
- Masters Student Dr Tharsiga Gnanasekaran was successfully awarded an ANZHNCS grant to investigate the use of nanostring for sequencing of metastatic cSCC.
- Dr Edward Roper received first prize in the poster section for his work on “programed cell death ligand-1 in high risk cSCC of the head and neck” at the Ninth International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer in Seattle, Washington in July.
- Tissue microarrays for cSCC treated at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital were constructed by Associate Professor Gupta to facilitate future translational studies of predictive and prognostic biomarkers.

- Dr Bruce Ashford continues to lead the translational research program focusing on mutational analysis in cSCC with the aim of identifying biomarkers of metastases. At the University of Wollongong, the research effort has successfully cultured novel metastatic cSCC cell lines and transplanted these into a mouse model. The genomic analysis of metastatic cSCC is the central theme of his PhD under the supervision of Professor Marie Ranson at IHMRI, Associate Professor Gopal Iyer at the National Cancer Institute (Singapore), Associate Professor Ruta Gupta and Professor Jonathan Clark. He presented his work at the Ninth International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer in Seattle in July. Of note, Dr Ashford’s research on circulating tumour cells in metastatic cSCC was published in *Oncotarget (IF 6.6) in July*.

Salivary gland cancers

- University of Sydney MD students Timothy Khoo and Angus Clark presented their work on the “genomic mutational landscape of salivary duct carcinoma and potential therapeutic targets” at the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society meeting in Auckland, New Zealand in October. They were awarded the prize for best oral presentation at the meeting. A manuscript has been submitted for publication.
- Dr Peter Luk received the best paper award, pathology section 2016, for the Triple O Journal for his paper on the diagnostic and prognostic utility of mastermind-like 2 gene rearrangement detection by FISH in mucoepidermoid cancer of the salivary glands.

Our research (continued)

Oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC)

- In 2015 important studies from the International Consortium for Outcome Research (ICOR) in Head and Neck Cancer were published on staging of OSCC with Associate Professor Ebrahimi as the lead author and Professor Clark as a senior author. This led to changes in the eighth edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) TNM staging manual for OSCC that was published in 2016.
- Work began on identifying prognostic markers in young patients with OSCC and a multi-centre database was established to identify what pathological predictors are of significance in this growing patient cohort. Tissue microarrays for OSCC treated at RPA have been constructed by Associate Professor Gupta to facilitate future translational studies, with a focus in 2017 on exploring the mutational profile in young patients with OSCC.
- Dr Satgunaseelan has expanded our work on p16 as a biomarker for OSCC and published 'p16 Expression Independent of Human Papilloma Virus is Associated with Lower Stage and Longer Disease-free Survival in OSCC' in Pathology in June 2016. Dr Satgunaseelan has also worked on the immune checkpoint ligand PD-L1 in OSCC. This work was also recently published in Pathology (in October 2016).

Facial nerve rehabilitation

- The Lifehouse facial nerve clinic commenced in early 2015 and has continued to grow, with 55 patient visits in 2016. University of New South Wales ILP student, Lauren Chong, collected pre- and post-intervention data on all patients who attended the clinic in 2016 and her work on validating the clinician graded facial function scale, eFACE, was accepted for publication in *Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery (IF 3.1)* in December 2016. Lauren has also successfully published on the innervated segmented vastus lateralis for mid-facial reanimation during radical parotidectomy in *Head and Neck*, accepted in November.

Laryngeal cancer

- University of Sydney MD student Thomas Beddow received ethics approval to assess the effectiveness of the laryngeal cancer resource in 2017.

Thyroid cancer

- Associate Professor Michael Elliott leads the thyroid translational research program in conjunction with Dr Elizabeth Chua and Associate Professor Sue McLennan (USyd). He continues his work on genetic changes in thyroid nodules and in patients with thyroid cancer.
- Associate Professor Elliott is supervising Masters of Surgery student, Dr Joel Hardman, who is investigating miRNA expression in the tumour and serum of patients with papillary thyroid cancer. He is also an associate investigator with Ms Brook Nickel examining communication and treatment decision-making in papillary thyroid cancer.

Research Infrastructure

Sydney Head and Neck Cancer Institute Database (SHNCI)

The SHNCI clinicopathological database was established by Chris O'Brien in 1987. It contains prospectively collected data on over 14,300 patients and has facilitated approximately 200 research publications. Mr Kan Gao is a full-time data manager who enters, maintains and analyses data from the database. In 2016 an overarching ethics application for the database was granted.

The database was designed in 1985 using the best available data managing system. In 2017 we will migrate the database to a new SQL-based data management system to allow linkage to current data software and systems to improve patient follow-up and data extraction.

We will also be seeking funding to employ additional personnel to automate data management as much as is possible.

Tumour Biobank

The SHNCI has been prospectively collecting fresh frozen tumour samples since 2005. The protocol for tumour collection, consent and storage was reviewed in 2013–2015 and optimised under the supervision of Associate Professor Ruta Gupta. A biobank audit has been undertaken to determine the quality of specimens stored and to examine processes to improve the quality of tumour banking. The results were published in *ANZ Journal of Surgery* in 2016.

Education and Support

In October, we launched Australia's first head and neck cancer patient education website, www.beyondfive.org.au. This was the culmination of two years of work on the development of multimedia content (illustrations, handouts, animations and videos).

Dr Joe Jabour continues his PhD thesis on determining the deficiencies in head and neck education and how they can be addressed. Dr Jabour is supervised by Professor Clark, Associate Professor Milross, Dr Haryana Dhillon, Dr Puma Sunderasan and Dr Heather Shepherd. He presented his work at several international meetings in 2016, including the Ninth International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer in Seattle in July. His work on 'Head and Neck Cancer Patient Education and Support Needs—A Multi-institutional Study', was accepted for publication in *Cancer* (IF 5.6) in December.

The Bionic Lid Implant for Natural Closure (BLINC) Project was commenced in 2014 in conjunction with Professor Nigel Lovell and Professor Gregg Suaning from the Bionic Eye program at UNSW. Our first ILP student, Shaheen Hasmat, has decided to undertake a PhD starting in 2017 to further develop an electromagnetic actuator for eyelid closure. An NHMRC project grant application was submitted in 2016, but was unsuccessful. In 2016 three ILP students worked on the infrared blink detecting glasses, anatomical aspects of implantation and overcoming energy transfer using the transcutaneous induction coils. Another submission will be made to the NHMRC in 2017.

Dr Timothy Eviston completed his PhD entitled 'Mechanisms of Axonal Dysfunction in Facial Nerve Disorders'. This body of work developed and applied advanced clinical neurophysiology techniques to the study of facial nerve injury in health and disease. The work was enabled by a nerve injury research collaboration between the Neuromuscular Research Unit of Prince of Wales Clinical School, UNSW and Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

Grants, recognition and publications

Grant Applications 2016

1. Bionic Lid Implant for Natural Closure (BLINC). NHMRC Project Grant. Chief Investigator (CI) Prof Jonathan Clark.
2. Characterising the genetic landscape of high risk cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma: Defining prognostic markers of metastasis. NHMRC Project Grant. CI Prof Marie Ranson.
3. Tailored information prescription of the Comprehensive Head and Neck Cancer Education and Support (CHANCES) program. HCF Research Foundation 2016. CI Dr Joe Jabour.
4. Development of shared decision aids in cancer of the head and neck through the Comprehensive Head and Neck Cancer Education and Support (CHANCES) program. ANZHNCs Research Grant 2016. CI Dr Joe Jabour.
5. Bionic Lid Implant for Natural Closure (BLINC). Garnett Passe. CI Dr Hubert Low.
6. CINSW Research equipment Grant. CI A/Prof Ruta Gupta.
7. CINSW Research infrastructure Grant CI A/Prof Ruta Gupta.
8. Multi-institutional head and neck biobanking. Garnett Passe. CI Prof Jonathan Clark.
9. Aggressive salivary gland tumours. Garnett Passe. CI Prof Jonathan Clark.
10. RNA sequencing of metastatic cutaneous SCC with NanoString. Sydney Catalyst Research Grant. CI Tharsiga Gnanasekaran.
7. Fast linear laser scanning technology: The ZEISS LSM 800 confocal microscope for open access, Bosch Institute Advanced Microscopy Facility. Cancer Institute NSW, AUD 300,000 (2016). CIs D. Richardson, R. Scolyer, F. Braet F, T. Chan-Ling, R. Mason, GM Halliday, S. Byrne, R. Bourne, JG Lyons, K Charles.
8. X-CLARITY tissue clearing system. NHMRC Equipment Grant, AUD 74,457 (2016). CIs D Johnstone, J Stone, JG Lyons.
9. Head and neck cancer patient education and support needs—A multi-institution study. Westmead Association Research Travel Grant, AUD 1,000 (2016). CI Dr Joe Jabour.
10. Head and neck cancer patient education and support needs—A survey of patients and clinicians. Postgraduate Research Support Scheme Scholarship, University of Sydney, AUD 1,480. CI Dr Joe Jabour.
11. Somatic mutations in salivary duct carcinoma and therapeutic targets. Dean's Scholarship Fund for Conference Support, University of Sydney, AUD 400 (2016). CI Mr Timothy Khoo.
12. Genomic landscape of metastatic cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. ANZHNCs Research Grant, AUD 5,000 (2016–2017). CI Bruce Ashford.
13. Methods of detection of isolated tumour cells in neck dissection specimens. Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Scholarship. CI Simone Visage.
6. Targeting the tumour immune microenvironment to enhance immune-stimulating effects of chemoradiotherapy. Cancer Research Institute, New York, USD 499,000. CI Dr Nham Tran.
7. miLIFE-Biomarkers for the early detection of oral cancer. SPARK Sydney, AUD 80,000 (2015–2016). CI Dr Nham Tran.
8. CHT Grant, University of Technology, Sydney, AUD 20,000 (2015). CI Dr Nham Tran.
9. Head and Neck Hardship Fund, Ford Foundation, AUD 300,000 (2014–2016).
10. Best evidence to best practice: Implementing an innovative model of care for nutritional management of patients with head and neck cancer. National Health and Medical Research Council & Cancer Institute NSW Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship, AUD 273,000 (2015–2017). CI Ms M Findlay.

Grants Awarded 2016

1. CHT Seed Grants, University of Technology, Sydney. AUD 5,000 (2016). CI Dr Nham Tran.
2. UTS FEIT Data Arena Grant. University of Technology, Sydney. AUD 10,000 (2016). CI Dr Nham Tran.
3. Genetic profiling of high grade salivary malignancies. Equity Trustees INV2016F00, AUD 20,000 (2016). CI Prof Jonathan Clark.
4. Next generation sequencing for metastatic cutaneous SCC. ANZHNCs Foundation, AUD 5,000 (2016). CI Dr Bruce Ashford.
5. Markers of metastases in cutaneous SCC using NanoString. ANZHNCs Foundation, AUD 5,000 (2016). CI Prof Jonathan Clark.
6. Genetic changes during oral carcinogenesis. Worldwide Cancer Research Project Grant, AUD 505,011 (2016–2018). CIs Dr JG Lyons, Prof GM Halliday.

Ongoing Grants 2016

1. Measuring the genomic architecture and evolution of papillary thyroid cancer by multi-regional sequencing. The Midlands Institute of Otolaryngology, AUD 5,000 (2015). CI Dr Joel Smith.
2. Genetic stratification of tumours of the head, neck, pituitary and skull base—Identifying prognostic and new therapeutic targets. Cancer Council NSW, AUD 360,000 (2015–2017). CI A/Prof Marcel Dinger.
3. Understanding the molecular and genetic changes that lead to metastasis in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. IMHRI, AUD 25,000 (2015). CI Dr Bruce Ashford.
4. Comprehensive Head and Neck Cancer Education and Support (CHANCES) program. Private donation, AUD 1,000,000 (2015). CI Dr Jonathan Clark.
5. Isolated tumour cells in neck dissection for squamous cell carcinoma. Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Project

Prizes for Presentations and Posters

1. *PD-L1 (Programmed Cell Death Ligand-1) in High Risk Cutaneous SCC of the Head and Neck*
Roper E, Lum T, Palme C, Ch'ng S, Boyer M, Clark JR, Gupta R
9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA.
First Prize Poster Section 2016
2. *Diagnostic and Prognostic Utility of Mastermind-like 2 (MAML2) Gene Rearrangement Detection by Fluorescent in situ Hybridization (FISH) in Mucoepidermoid Carcinoma of the Salivary Glands*
Luk PP, Wykes J, Selinger CI, Ekmejian R, Tay J, Gao K, Eviston TJ, Lum T, O'Toole SA, Clark JR, Gupta R
Journal of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology and Oral Radiology
Best Paper Awards, Pathology Section 2016
3. *Somatic Mutations in Salivary Duct Carcinoma and Potential Therapeutic Targets*
Khoo TK, Yu B, Smith J, Clarke AJ, Luk PP, Selinger CI, Mahon KL, Kraitsek S, Palme C, Boyer MJ, Dinger ME, Cowley MJ, O'Toole SA, Clark JR, Gupta R
Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society
Best Oral Presentation Award 2016

4. *Who Are We Really Treating? Computed Tomography-defined Sarcopenia in Patients with Head and Neck Cancer: Implications for Outcomes and Practice*
Findlay M, Rankin N, Shaw T, Bauer J
9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA.
Honourable Mention Functional Outcomes Category 2016
5. *Validation of the Clinician-graded Facial Function Scale (eFACE) for the Assessment of Facial Palsy*
Chong L, Eviston T, Low H, Clark JR
University of New South Wales Medicine 3-Minute Thesis
Competition Finalist
People's Choice Award, and Judges' Choice Award

Oral Presentations (Invited or Research)

A/Professor Carsten Palme

Transoral laser surgery for early glottis cancer. Faculty, ENT Masterclass Annual Conference, London, 29–31 January 2016.

Techniques of thyroidectomy. Faculty, ENT Masterclass Annual Conference, London, 29–31 January 2016.

State of the art management of metastatic skin cancer. Grand Rounds Presentation, ENT Department, CHUV, Lausanne, Switzerland, 4 February 2016.

Co-convenor, ENT Masterclass, Australia, Westmead Hospital, April 2016.

Laryngeal cancer in the Australian Indigenous population. Faculty, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Meeting, Brisbane, 4 May 2016.

Transoral laser surgery for early glottis cancer and techniques of parotidectomy. Faculty, 1st ENT Masterclass, Beijing, China, 27–29 May 2016.

Transoral laser surgery for early glottis cancer and techniques of parotidectomy. Faculty, 1st ENT Masterclass, Hong Kong, 30 May 2016.

Visiting Professor, Introductory workshop on TOLM and Head and Neck Dissection Course, Brisbane, 14–16 July 2016.

Session Chair and International Advisory Committee, 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, American Head and Neck Society, Seattle, USA, 16–20 July 2016.

Instructor and Faculty, Transoral laser surgery for early glottis cancer instructional course. American Academy of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, San Diego, USA, 18–21 September 2016.

Expert Panel, Larynx Cancer, Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society Annual Meeting, Auckland, NZ, 25–27 October 2016.

Instructor, Head and neck anatomy. FRACS Short Course, University of Sydney, Sydney, March 2016.

Course Director, Inaugural Laser Safety Course, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, Sydney, 3 September 2016.

Dr Hubert Low

The infraclavicular pedicled adipofascial flap for recontouring the neck following neck dissection. Low TH, Tam S, Partridge A, Fung K, Nichols A, MacNeil D, Yoo J. ASOHNS, Melbourne, 2016.

A surgical algorithm for management of retrosternal goitre—Expanding role of video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery. Low TH, Incullet R, Fung K, Nichols A, MacNeil D, Yoo J. ASOHNS, Melbourne, 2016.

Shoulder function after scapular free flap. Low TH, Partridge A, Patel K, MacNeil D, Nichols A, Yoo J, Fung K. ASOHNS, Melbourne, 2016.

Subtotal parathyroidectomy with relocation of the parathyroid remnant for refractory renal hyperparathyroidism. Low TH, Yoo J. ASOHNS, Melbourne, 2016.

Prior radiotherapy and age strongly predict survival after salvage surgery for recurrent oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma—A recursive partitioning analysis. Patel K, Low TH, Partridge A, Angel D, Belzile M, MacNeil SD, Yoo J, Nichols A, Fung K. AHNS, Seattle, USA, 2016.

Implantable Doppler ultrasound—Balancing the harms and benefits from this technology. Low TH, Fung K, Nichols A, MacNeil D, Yoo J. ANZHNC, Auckland, NZ, 2016.

A/Prof Sydney Ch'ng

Perforator flap reconstruction of head and neck defects. 17th International Course on Perforator Flaps, Sydney, November 2016.

Dr Rivthik Reddy

The clinical and prognostic correlations of PD-1 and PD-L1 expression in nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC). Reddy R, Skanthakumar T, Low TH, Clark J, Iyer NG, Gupta R. ANZHNC, Auckland, NZ, 2016.

Dr Nham Tran

Invited research seminar at the Garvan Institute, Sydney, 24 June 2016.

Three oral presentations at the World Cancer Congress, Paris, 2 November 2016.

Dr Daniel Novakovic

Voice outcomes following thyroid surgery with intraoperative nerve monitoring: a study of acoustic and quality of life measures. Laryngological Society of Australasia Meeting, Byron Bay, November 2016.

Pharmacological neuromodulator therapy for treatment of chronic cough and throat irritation. Laryngological Society of Australasia Meeting, Byron Bay, November 2016.

The larynx and vocal cord dysfunction. Airways 2016 Meeting Sydney, July 2016.

An Australian national prospective study of the incidence of juvenile onset recurrent respiratory papillomatosis. European Laryngological Society Meeting, Genoa, Italy, July 2016.

What is the future of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis in the age of HPV vaccination? European Laryngological Society Meeting, Genoa, Italy, July 2016.

An Australian national prospective study of the incidence of juvenile onset recurrent respiratory papillomatosis. Royal Australian College of Physicians Congress, Adelaide, May 2016.

The surgeon's approach to muscle tension dysphonia. Australian Society of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery Voice Seminar. Melbourne, March 2016.

Hidden vocal fold pathology. 11th Annual Advanced Practices in Voice and Dysphagia, Las Vegas, February 2016.

Recurrent respiratory papillomatosis—Is the HPV vaccine working? 11th Annual Advanced Practices in Voice and Dysphagia. Las Vegas, February 2016.

Ms Merran Findlay

Designing and implementing an innovative model of care for nutritional management of patients with head and neck cancer—Pre-implementation phase findings. Findlay M, Rankin N, Shaw T, White K, Boyer M, Milross C, Beale P, Coll J, Bauer J. Australia and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society ASM/IFHNOS World Tour, Auckland, NZ, 2016.

Grants, recognition and publications (continued)

Best evidence to best practice—Implementing an innovative model of care for nutritional management of patients with head and neck cancer: Pre-implementation phase findings. Findlay M, Rankin N, Shaw T, White K, Boyer M, Milross C, Beale P, Coll J, Bauer J. Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer, Adelaide, 2016.

Consensus review of optimal perioperative care in major head and neck surgery with free flap reconstruction: Enhanced recovery after surgery recommendations—A focus on optimising perioperative nutrition care. Dort J, Farwell G, Findlay M, et al. Australia and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society ASM/IFHNOS World Tour, Auckland, NZ, 2016.

Consensus review of optimal perioperative care in major head and neck surgery with free flap reconstruction: Enhanced recovery after surgery recommendations. Dort J, Farwell G, Findlay M, et al. 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA, 2016.

Dr Guy Lyons

Chaired Session on Transitional Zones and Presented Poster, The importance of stem cell location to the maintenance of corneal epithelial homeostasis, UV radiation responses and transplantation. Lobo EP, Delic NC, Richardson A, Raviraj V, Halliday GM, Di Girolamo N, Myerscough MR, Lyons JG. Gordon Research Conference on Tissue Niches and Resident Stem Cells in Adult Epithelia, Hong Kong, 7–12 August 2016.

The importance of stem cell location to the maintenance of corneal epithelial homeostasis, UV radiation responses and transplantation. Lobo EP, Delic NC, Richardson A, Raviraj V, Halliday GM, Di Girolamo N, Myerscough MR, Lyons JG. Molecular and Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, 7–9 November 2106.

Reelin suppresses TGF beta-mediated epithelial-mesenchymal transition in squamous cell carcinoma cells. Raviraj V, Halliday GM, Lyons JG. Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Conference, Sydney, 20–23 November 2016.

Dr Timothy Eviston

Mechanisms of axonal dysfunction underlying surgical nerve injury. Eviston TJ, Clark JR, Krishnan AV. ANZHNC Annual Scientific Meeting and IFNOS World Tour 2016, Auckland, NZ, 25–27 October 2016.

Dr Fiona Smithers

Perforator flaps: Does the end justify the means? 17th International Course on Perforator Flaps, Sydney, November 2016.

Dr Joe Jabour

Head and neck cancer patient education and support needs—A multi-institution study. American Head and Neck Society International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA, 2016.

Head and neck cancer patient education and support needs—A survey of patients and clinicians. Australia and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society Annual Scientific Meeting and International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) 2016 World Tour. Auckland, NZ, 2016.

Prof Jonathan Clark

Tambwekar Lecture (in memory of the founding president of the ISRM). Biennial Meeting of the Indian Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, Kochi, India, May 2016.

Assessment of head and neck cancers. ENT Masterclass Teaching Day, Sydney, April 2016.

My life as a surgeon. UNSW Surgical Society. Sydney, March 2016.

Robotic surgery: Present and future. Healthcare of the Future Conference, University of NSW, Sydney, March 2016.

Head and neck anatomy. FRACS Short Course, University of Sydney. Sydney, March 2016.

Advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. International Advisory Committee, Faculty and Moderator, American Head and Neck Society, 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA, July 2016.

Head and neck reconstruction and launch of the beyondfive.org.au patient education website. Australian and New Zealand and Head and Neck Cancer Society and IFHNOS World Tour, Auckland, NZ, October 2016.

To cut is to cure. Surgeons versus Physicians Debate, Sydney University Surgical Society, RPA Hospital, Sydney, October 2016.

Functional reconstruction of the mandible and maxilla. 17th Annual International Course on Perforator Flaps, Sydney, November 2016.

The genomic mutational landscape of salivary duct carcinoma and potential therapeutic targets. American Head and Neck Society, 9th International

Conference on Head and Neck Cancer. Seattle, USA, July 2016.

Dr Haryana Dhillon

Working with culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Head and Neck Cancer Symposium, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane 2016.

Mr Timothy Khoo

The genomic mutational landscape of salivary duct carcinoma and potential therapeutic targets. Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society Meeting, Auckland, NZ, October 2016.

Somatic mutations in salivary duct carcinoma and therapeutic targets. American Head and Neck Society, 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA, July 2016.

Ms Catherine Zilberg

Analysis of clinically relevant somatic mutations in high risk cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society Meeting, Auckland, NZ, October 2016.

Genomic landscape of non-metastatic cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Research Symposium, Sydney, 2016.

A/Prof Ruta Gupta

Recent advances in head and neck soft tissue tumours. Updates in Pathology Postgraduate Series for Trainees in Anatomical Pathology, February 2016.

Recent advances in head and neck molecular pathology. Updates in Pathology Postgraduate Series for Trainees in Anatomical Pathology, February 2016.

Larynx cancer. Recent Advances and 'Too Hards' Slide Show, NSW Educational Committee, Sydney, April 2016.

Fluorescent in situ hybridization in head and neck. Vargas Calderon AC, Selinger CI, Clark JR, O'Toole SA, Gupta R. Australasian Chapter of the IAP, June 2016.

Mucosal melanoma. Roper E, Sunderesan P, Clark JR, Palme CE, Gupta R. Australasian Chapter of the IAP, June 2016.

Posters

1. Sarcopenia is the new smoking. What every cancer clinician needs to know about computed tomography-defined sarcopenia. Findlay M, Rankin N, Shaw T, Coll J, Bauer J. Australia and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer

- Society ASM/IFHNOS World Tour, Auckland, NZ, 2016
2. Who are we really treating? Computed tomography-defined sarcopenia in patients with head and neck cancer: Implications for outcomes and practice. Findlay M, Rankin N, Shaw T, Bauer J. 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA, July 2016. Honorable Mention.
 3. Assessing the barriers and enablers to implementing best practice nutrition care in the head and neck oncology multidisciplinary team: A qualitative study. Findlay M, Rankin N, White K, Shaw T, Bauer J. 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA, July 2016.
 4. Head and neck cancer patient education and support needs: A multi-institution study. Jabbour J, Dhillon H, Shepherd H, Milross C, Ebrahimi A, Palme C, Veness M, Abdul-Razak M, Morgan G, Wong E, Sundaresan P, Roshan C, Ekmejian R, Tay J, Clark JR. Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting, Gold Coast, November 2016. Poster presentation and Best of the Best Mini-oral.
 5. PD-L1 (Programmed Cell Death Ligand-1) in high risk cutaneous SCC of the head and neck. Roper E, Lum T, Palme C, Ch'ng S, Boyer M, Clark J, Gupta R. 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA, July 2016.
 6. Shoulder function after scapular free flap. Tam S, Araslanova R, Low TH, Warner A, Yoo J, Fung K, MacNeil SD, Palma DA, Nichols AC. 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Seattle, USA, July 2016.
 7. Phase 2 study of neoadjuvant dabrafenib + trametinib (D+T) for resectable stage IIIb/c BRAF-V600 mutation positive melanoma. Saw R, Menzies AM, Guminski A, Nieweg OE, Shannon KF, Gonzalez M, Ch'ng S, Kefford R, Thompson JF, Stretch J, Spillane AJ, Scolyer RA, Long GV. 2016 ASCO Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA, June 2016.
 8. Coned free flap reconstruction of orbital exenteration defects. Ch'ng S. 17th International Course on Perforator Flaps, Sydney, November 2016.
 9. Composite free flaps in head and neck reconstruction: A 10-year experience of application and outcomes. Shivani, Low H, Clark JR, Ch'ng S. 17th International Course on Perforator Flaps, Sydney, November 2016.
 10. Nerve dysfunction following nerve regeneration. Eviston TJ, Chong L, Clark JR, Krishnan AV. ANZHNCSC Annual Scientific Meeting and IFNOS World Tour 2016, Auckland, NZ, 25–27 October 2016.
 11. Salivary duct carcinoma: Clinicopathologic features, morphologic spectrum and somatic mutations. Luk P, Weston JD, Yu B, Selinger CI, Ekmejian R, Eviston TJ, Lum T, Gao K, Boyer M, O'Toole SA, Clark JR, Gupta R. United States and Canadian Academy of Pathologists, Seattle, USA, 2016.
 12. Diagnostic and prognostic utility of Mastermind-like 2 (MAML2) gene rearrangement detection by fluorescent in-situ hybridization (FISH) in mucoepidermoid carcinoma of the salivary glands. Luk PP, Wykes J, Selinger CI, Ekmejian R, Tay J, Gao K, Eviston TJ, Lum T, O'Toole SA, Clark JR, Gupta R. United States and Canadian Academy of Pathologists, Seattle, USA, 2016.
 13. Programmed cell death-ligand 1 expression in oral squamous cell carcinoma is associated with an inflammatory phenotype. Satgunaseelan L, Madore J, Chia N, Lum T, Palme CE, Boyer M, Scolyer RA, Clark JR, Gupta R. United States and Canadian Academy of Pathologists, Seattle, USA, 2016.
 14. Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumours in the head and neck. Narayanappa H, Low H, Selinger CI, Vargas Calderon AC, O'Toole SA, Gupta R. International Academy of Pathologists, 2016.
 15. RNA sequencing of metastatic cutaneous SCC with NanoString: Preliminary results. Gnanasekaran T. Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Auckland, NZ, 2016.
 16. Validation of the clinician-graded facial function scale (eFACE) for the assessment of facial palsy. Chong L. Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Auckland, NZ. 2016.
 17. Validation of the clinician-graded facial function scale (eFACE) for the assessment of facial palsy. Chong L. Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide, 2016.
 18. Validation of the clinician-graded facial function scale (eFACE) for the assessment of facial palsy. Chong L. Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Research Symposium, Sydney, 2016.
 19. p16 expression in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck. Satgunaseelan L, Suh H, Virk S, Ashford B, Lum T, Ranson M, Clark J, Gupta R. Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Research Symposium, Sydney, 2016.
 20. Programmed cell death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) expression in oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC). Satgunaseelan L, Gupta R, Madore J, Chia N, Lum T, Palme CE, Boyer M, Scolyer RA, Clark JR. USCAP Annual Meeting, Seattle, USA, 2016.

Peer Review Manuscripts Awaiting Publication 2016

1. Jabour J, Liu W, Limmer A, Clark JR. Trans-oral robotic surgery in oropharyngeal carcinoma: A guide for general practitioners and patients. Australian Family Physician, accepted October 2016.
2. Chong L, Eviston T, Clark JR. Innervated segmented vastus lateralis for mid-facial reanimation during radical parotidectomy. Head and Neck, accepted November 2016.
3. Jabour J, Ebrahimi A, Shepherd H, Milross C, Sundaresan P, Dhillon H, Clark JR. Head and neck cancer patient education and support needs—A multi-institution survey. Cancer, accepted December 2016.
4. Chong L, Eviston T, Low H, Hasmat S, Coulson S, Clark JR. Validation of the clinician-graded electronic facial paralysis assessment: The eFACE. Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, accepted December 2016.
5. Chia N, Wen L, Lyons JG, Elliott M, Badalani J, Gao K, Wan Z, Lee M, Clifford A, Shannon K, Palme CE, Clark JR, Gupta R. The challenges and recommendations for minimally resourced biobanks in tertiary Australian hospitals. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery, accepted October 2016.
6. Jabour J, Shepherd H, Milross C, Sundaresan P, Clark JR, Dhillon H. Challenges in producing tailored internet patient education materials. International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics, accepted November 2016.
7. Tam S, Araslanova R, Low TH, Warner A, Yoo J, Fung K, MacNeil SD, Palma DA, Nichols AC. Predicting survival after salvage surgery for recurrence of oral cavity cancer: a recursive partitioning analysis. JAMA Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, accepted November 2016.
8. Craig S, Zhang A, Clark JR, Ashford B. Laparoscopic harvest of the gastro-omental free flap for reconstruction following total pharyngolaryngectomy: Operative technique. Head and Neck, accepted December 2016.

Grants, recognition and publications (continued)

Peer Review Publications 2016

1. Ebrahimi A, Gil Z, Amit M, Bachar G, Bolzoni VA, Cernea CR, Chen YT, Fliss D, Fridman E, Kowalski L, Kreppel M, Pankai C, Patel PR, Robbins T, Patel S, Clark JR.
The International Consortium for Outcome Research (ICOR) in Head and Neck Cancer.
A comparison of the American Joint Committee on Cancer N1 versus N2a nodal categories for predicting survival and recurrence in patients with oral cancer: Time to acknowledge an arbitrary distinction and modify the system.
Head and Neck. 2016;38(1):135-9. doi: 10.1002/hed.23871.
2. Eviston T, Gupta R, Clark JR.
Parotidectomy: surgery in evolution.
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery. 2016;86(3):193-9. doi: 10.1111/ans.13212. Epub 2015 Jul 14.
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