

As part of St. Vincent's Department of Emergency Medicine, the Emergency Practice Innovation Centre (EPIcentre) supports clinical and non-clinical research related to Emergency Medicine.

About us

Founded in 2004 by the former Director of Emergency Medicine, Clinical Assoc Prof Andrew Dent, the EPIcentre maintains a focus on the fundamental issues which influence Emergency Department clientele. Complex issues such as homelessness, mental illness, behavioural problems, chronic illness and drug and alcohol related illness continue to influence significant numbers of ED attendees. The EPIcentre's research activities therefore concentrate on the related areas of preventing chronic disease, public health, education, mental health, service improvement and psychosocial approaches to improved health and wellbeing. Research activities adopt a broad approach, considering prevention as well as factors influencing patient outcomes both within and outside of the ED.

Medical education is also a focus area of the Centre, with research being conducted into the learning needs and structures of the Emergency workforce.

Prof George Jelinek heads the EPIcentre and Senior Research Fellow Dr Tracey Weiland manages the Centre's research officers and advanced medical science (AMS) students. During 2008, there have been five medical science students from the University of Melbourne affiliated with the EPIcentre as part of their AMS year. Research Officers, Dr Gaye Moore, Claire Mackinlay and Sam Corrie were also employed to support research activities, with Dr Moore completing her PhD during 2008.

The EPIcentre recognises the interactive nature of emergency medicine with other specialty areas and works in collaboration with many relevant departments and services both internal and external to St. Vincent's.

Projects in progress or completed

A number of studies are underway to improve the patient experience including using sound to reduce anxiety and promoting a more positive experience for older people.

Diabetes is a focus area with studies on better methods of identifying Type 2 and pre-diabetes in patients attending the ED and investigating the current knowledge and beliefs of patients and health professionals about type 2 diabetes mellitus.

The Centre is taking part in an Emergency Medicine Capacity Assessment Study to determine capacity to support increasing numbers of medical graduates and implement the National Curriculum Framework. We are also investigating ways to deliver non-technical skills (NTS) training in Synthetic Learning Environments.

Other projects include a clinical audit of medication use across transition points from the ED, a suicide risk assessment survey of Australian mental health nurses' decision-making processes and reviewing procedural sedation practices and factors associated with adverse events.

We are piloting an intervention designed to improve consistency of triage in Australian emergency departments and seeking to improve mental health care by identifying predictors of triage category allocation. We are also studying the epidemiology of ED-based and ICU-based ventilation during the hospital stay.

Advanced Medical Science research projects include 'Validation of the Full Outline of Unresponsiveness (FOUR) Score: a comparison against the GCS'; 'Consumer satisfaction and anxiety after Code Grey: using patient responses to inform best practice for the management of behavioural symptoms in Victorian emergency departments'; and 'Effect of a residential retreat promoting lifestyle modifications on quality of life and health outcomes in people with multiple sclerosis'.

The team

Clinical Associate Prof Craig Winter, Director of Emergency Medicine; Dr Michael Augello, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Dr Antony Chenhall, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Sam Corrie, Research Officer; Dr Neil Cunningham, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Dr Nicola Cunningham, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Assoc Prof Andrew Dent, Clinical; Dr Stuart Dilley, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Dr Neil Goldie, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Dr Jenny Hutton, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Prof George Jelinek, Honorary Profial Fellow; Dr Jonty Karro, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Jasmina Kevric, Student; Michelle Li, Student; Magdalen Pei Xuan Lim, Student; Claire Mackinlay, Research Officer; Dr Gaye Moore, Research Officer; Dr Sandra Neate, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Michelle Nguyen, Student; Dr Georgina Phillips, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Dr Guy Sansom, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Thevaki Sivagnanam, Student; Dr Alex Swain, Staff Specialist (Emergency Medicine); Dr T. Weiland, Senior Research Fellow; Agnes Yuen, Student

Highlights

- Assoc Prof Andrew Dent was awarded an Order of Australia, 2008.
- Prof George Jelinek was named Western Australian finalist, 2008 Australian of the Year.
- Dr Gaye Moore received the 2008 SERV Award, St. Vincent's.

Higher degrees conferred in 2008

- Gaye Moore, Doctor of Philosophy, University of Melbourne

Grants

Hill K, Considine J, Smith R, Graco M, Gannon J, Behm C, Weiland T

Promoting a positive patient experience for older people in the Emergency Department Project, \$70,141

Moore G, Weiland T, Jelinek G, Gerdtz M

Identifying risk of re-presentation for people who are homeless: evaluation of a screening tool in the Emergency Department. St. Vincent's Research Endowment Fund (2008), \$15,790

O'Brien R, Cunningham N, Van Dijk J, Vawser T, Weiland T

Non-technical skills (NTS) in synthetic learning environments – mapping curricula for vocational specialist training, develop evidence, complete a needs analysis and pilot the curriculum. Queensland Health on behalf of the Australian Society for Simulation in Healthcare, \$217,209

Weiland T

Identifying mental health related learning needs of ED clinicians (rural and metro Vic). Windermere Foundation, \$15,000

Selected presentations

Jelinek G

- Plenary speaker, 'Attributes and tasks of medical leadership: keynote plenary session address', and 'The pharmaceutical industry and medicine: navigating a sea of conflict of interest', Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting 2008, Wellington, New Zealand, November 2008

Kevric J

- Speaker, 'Validity of the Full Outline of UnResponsiveness (FOUR) scale in emergency department patients: a comparison against the Glasgow Coma Scale', Melbourne, Australia

Neate S

- Plenary speaker, 'The Advance and Complex Medical Emergencies (ACME) course development', Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting 2008, Wellington, New Zealand, November 2008

Phillips G

- Speaker, 'Screening for Type 2 diabetes in the emergency department: a feasibility study', Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting 2008, Wellington, New Zealand

Weiland T

- Invited speaker, 'The reality of ED research: insights and anecdotes', Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Winter Symposium 2008, Newcastle, Australia

Publications

Dent AW, Asadpour A, Weiland TJ, Paltridge D 2008, 'Australasian emergency physicians: a learning and educational needs analysis. Part one: background and methodology. Profile of FACEM', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 1, 51-7

Dent A, Weiland T, Paltridge D 2008, 'Australasian emergency physicians: a learning and educational needs analysis. Part Four: CPD topics desired by emergency physicians', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 3, 260-266

Dent A, Weiland T, Paltridge D 2008, 'Australasian emergency physicians: a learning and educational needs analysis. Part five: barriers to CPD experienced by FACEM, and attitudes to the ACEM MOPS programme', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 4, 349-356

Dent AW, Paltridge D, Weiland TJ 2008, 'Australasian emergency physicians: a learning and educational needs analysis. Part six: differences in confidence, exposure to learning and expressed learning needs by subgroups of Australasian emergency physicians', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 4, 347-56

Dent A, Weiland T, Phillips G, Lee N 2008, 'Opportunistic screening and clinician-delivered brief intervention for high-risk alcohol use among emergency department attendees: a randomised controlled trial', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 2, 121-128

Duns G, Weiland T, Crotty B, Jolly B, Cuddihy H, Dent A 2008, 'Self-rated preparedness of Australian prevocational hospital doctors for emergencies', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 2, 144-8

Dutch M, Taylor D, Dent A 2008, 'Triage presenting complaint descriptions bias emergency department waiting times', *Academic Emergency Medicine*, 15, 8, 731-735

Jelinek G 2008, 'Triage: coming of age', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 196-198

Jelinek GA, Gawler RH 2008, 'Thirty-year follow-up at pneumonectomy of a 58-year-old survivor of disseminated osteosarcoma', *Medical Journal Australia*, 189, 11-12, 663-5

Munir VL, Hutton JE, Harney JP, Buykx P, Weiland TJ, Dent AW 2008, 'Gamma-hydroxybutyrate: a 30 month emergency department review', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 6, 521-30

Neate S, Dent A, Weiland T, Farish S, Jolly B, Crotty B 2008, 'Barriers to continuing medical education in Australian prevocational doctors', *Australian Health Review*, 32, 2, 292-300

Paltridge D, Dent AW, Weiland TJ 2008, 'Australasian emergency physicians: a learning and educational needs analysis. Part two: confidence of FACEM for tasks and skills', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 1, 58-65

Saracino A, Weiland T, Dent A, Jolly B 2008, 'Validation of a verbal dyspnoea rating scale in the emergency department', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 6, 475-81

Saracino A, Weiland T, Dent A, Jolly B 2008, 'Validation of a verbal rating scale for breathlessness amongst patients referred for cardiac stress tests', *Heart Lung Circ*, 17, 4, 305-12

Weiland TJ, Dent AW, Paltridge D 2008, 'Australasian emergency physicians: a learning and educational needs analysis. Part three: participation by FACEM in available CPD: what do they do and do they like it?', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 2, 156-63

Weiland T, Dent A, Phillips G, Lee N 2008, 'Emergency clinician-delivered screening and intervention for high-risk alcohol use: a qualitative analysis', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 2, 129-135

Yong G, Dent AW, Weiland TJ 2008, 'Handover from paramedics: observations and emergency department clinician perceptions', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 20, 2, 149-55

Zhu JN, Weiland TJ, Taylor DM, Dent AW 2008, 'An observational study of emergency department intern activities', *Medical Journal Australia*, 188, 9, 514-9