

St. Vincent's Department of Respiratory Medicine maintains an active program of research into lung cancer and chronic obstructive airways disease.

Projects in progress or completed

- Screening program for detection of platinum salt sensitivity in autocatalyst workers exposed to tetramine platinum dichloride (study completed April 2008).
- A multi-centre, double-blind, placebo-controlled randomised trial of the efficacy, safety and tolerability of 12 months of once daily treatment with 5.0mg of RO3300074 in patients with symptomatic emphysema secondary to alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (completed Sept 2008).
- A clinical audit of the outcome of patients with suspected lung cancer having regular surveillance diagnostic imaging and medical review.
- A randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind, multi-centre phase III/IV study to compare the efficacy and safety of 60mg/kg body weight of Zemaira® weekly I.V. administration with placebo weekly I.V. administration in chronic augmentation and

maintenance therapy in subjects with emphysema due to Alpha-1-Proteinase inhibitor deficiency.

- A study of the management and survival of all lung cancer patients seen at a tertiary referral, high volume cardiothoracic centre since 2008.
- A study developing a clinical information system for the multidisciplinary thoracic malignancy clinic at St. Vincent's.
- A health economics study to determine the cost of multidisciplinary care for patients with suspected or newly diagnosed lung cancer.

The team

Dr David Hart, Director of Respiratory Medicine; Sue Brenton, Senior Respiratory Scientist; Dr Jonathon Burdon; Dr Matthew Conron, Respiratory Consultant; Lucas Litewka, Respiratory Scientist; Justin Pilmore, Respiratory Scientist; Dr Natasha Smallwood, Respiratory Fellow; Cameron Stewart, Respiratory Scientist

Grants

Burdon J, Hart D, Brenton S, Stewart C, Litewka L, Conron M

A multi-centre, double-blind, placebo-controlled randomised trial of the efficacy, safety and tolerability of 12 months of once daily treatment with 5.0mg of RO3300074 in patients with symptomatic emphysema secondary to alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. Hoffman La Roche, (2006-2008), \$60,000

Conron M, Wainer Z, Wright G, Newnham G

The use of molecular profiling of early non small-cell lung cancer to predict clinical course and identify pathogenically important genes. St. Vincent's Research Endowment Fund, (2003-2010), \$18,500

Conron M, Smallwood N, Liew D, Pham M

Costs incurred in the workup of patients referred to the Thoracic Malignancies Multidisciplinary Clinic at St. Vincent's. AMS Student Fund/ University of Melbourne, (2008-2009), \$5,000

Smallwood N, Hart D, Conron M, Wright G

A clinical audit of the management and survival of lung cancer patients at St. Vincent's. University of Melbourne Scholarship, Australian Lung Foundation, St. Vincent's Research Endowment Fund, (2008-2009), \$17,000

Publications

Hamilton GS, Solin P, Walker AM 2008, 'Coronary blood flow becomes uncoupled from myocardial work during obstructive sleep apnoea in the presence of endothelial dysfunction', *Sleep*, 31, 6, 809-816

Steinfort DP, Pilmore J, Brenton S, Hart DHL 2008, 'Absence of platinum salt sensitivity in autocatalyst workers exposed to tetramine platinum dichloride', *Occupational Medicine Advance Access*

Stewart RA, Ram B, Hamilton GS, Weiner J, Kane KJ 2008, 'Montelukast as an adjunct to oral and inhaled steroid therapy in chronic nasal polyposis', *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*, Nov; 139(5), 682-7