

RESEARCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Research Council serves to facilitate a cohesive approach in the development and coordination of cross campus research activities, facilities and collaborations.

Campus partners represent St. Vincent's Hospital (Melbourne), the University of Melbourne's Departments of Medicine, Surgery and Psychiatry, the St. Vincent's Institute and the Bernard O'Brien Institute of Microsurgery, all located within the Fitzroy site of the Hospital.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Research Council (ECRC) include the Directors and/or Department Heads of each campus partner organisation and include:

- (Chair) Prof Richard M. Fox – Director of Research at STV
- Prof James D. Best – Head of School of Medicine, University of Melbourne Department of Medicine, St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne
- Prof Wayne Morrison – Head of the University of Melbourne Department of Surgery and Director of the Bernard O'Brien Institute of Microsurgery
- Prof Thomas WH Kay – Director of St. Vincent's Institute
- (Secretary) Jacqueline Barry – Project Manager, Research Directorate

Meetings of the ECRC began in March 2007, leading into a total of seven meetings held for that year. Activities guided by the ECRC in 2007 comprised of:

- Investigation of an appropriate database to document research activity and achievements such as publications, grants, applications, ethics committee applications, staff etc. This information will enable a satellite view of research activities at the Hospital, University Departments and partner Institutes. This led to an exploration of available software packages, followed by meetings, analysis and workshops to identify the most appropriate network tools. Negotiations with a local company 'Research Master' are currently underway to implement a campus-wide publications etc database, for implementation in 2008.
- Development of seminars within the weekly medical forums to highlight projects that translate basic science into real clinical outcomes. This led to provision of two "Grand Rounds" forum slots available in May and October 2008 that will serve to highlight clinical / science research to a mixed campus audience.
- Production of an annual Research Report, available from 2008, to showcase research activity. This led to publication of this Research Report for the period June 2006 to December 2007 (18 month timeframe) to move into step for the next annual publication, reporting from January-December 2008, and so forth.
- Integration of the new Australian National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) standards into a cross-campus approach for the responsible conduct of research. This led into a subcommittee with key cross campus representatives from SVI, BOBIM and the UoM to work together in updating the current "St. Vincent's Health Code of Conduct for Research Practice" to integrate both NHMRC standards and guidelines from the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) for public healthcare institutes.
- Negotiation of a non-exclusive agreement with a local patent attorney firm which led to streamlining legal services and advice on patents, including the provision of free educational seminars on Intellectual Property (IP) to help educate and inform staff

- Reviewing available research support within Hospital departments (eg research nurses, data managers, research managers and administrators) to target programs, support and activities. This was undertaken via a detailed campus audit. Feedback received has been used to tailor programs, network staff and introduce the new Prof / Director of Nursing Research to key stakeholders. This has led to the development of a consultative forum, to review research support on campus, to be held in 2008
- Initiation of a monthly lunchtime seminar series to explore Clinical Research Methods, provide new skills, update on national standards and assist with networking opportunities. Seminar topics will explore issues such as:
 - research governance, compliance and ethics
 - State and National clinical research priorities
 - research opportunities & research funding
 - research methods & design: clinical research methodology and practice
 - biostatistics and STATA education
 - data analysis and study design
 - databases
 - intellectual property and patenting
 - research reporting, writing up and publications advice etc

This led into launch of a monthly 10-part seminar series, running from February to November 2008, that will feature both local and external expert speakers. So far seminar registrations have more than doubled original audience estimates with positive support for the series shown by staff across the campus.

The Executive Committee of the Research Council will meet bi-monthly in 2008.