



# Centre for Applied Nursing Research

Bridging the gap between knowledge & practice



**Annual Report  
2014**



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Working within the largest and fastest-growing Local Health District in NSW presents some exciting opportunities (and challenges!) for the staff at the Centre for Applied Nursing Research (CANR). With a younger population, a high proportion of residents born overseas (around half speaking a language other than English at home), and pockets of significant social disadvantage, many people in the District experience poorer health. Working closely with clinicians, CANR's research is focused on local, state and national priorities, developing evidence-based guidelines, and in the translation of research into policy and practice. Many of the projects and achievements you will read about in this year's Annual Report will reflect this, but perhaps two achievements worthy of mention here are the maternal and infant oral health work led by Dr Ajesh George, and the work of Mr Brian Lane, Nurse Unit Manager at Camden Rehabilitation Unit. Both Dr George's Oral Health Program, and the Safety Huddles implemented by Mr Lane are examples of research that is making a real difference in the lives of people.

One of the privileges of my role at CANR is getting to meet people who are passionate about research, and who are committed to making a difference in the lives of the people they serve. From our Local Health District's Chief Executive, Directors of Nursing and Midwifery, the staff of the Ingham Institute, our nurses and midwives, and of course our patients—all share the vision of *Leading care, healthier communities*. Without their commitment, the work of CANR—and ultimately improving the health experience for patients and their carers would simply not be possible.

I hope you enjoy our 2014 Annual Report. This is our first attempt at presenting the year's highlights using an electronic format – and even with the new format we have really only been able to present a sample of our accomplishments from 2014.

In closing I would like to thank South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD ) and the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Western Sydney, for their support of CANR. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank two very special people who have made an enormous contribution to the work of CANR. First, Professor Maree Johnson who moved on from CANR to take up a senior role in research at the Australian Catholic University. Under Maree's leadership, CANR has become one of the leading nursing research centres in Australia, and we wish her every success in her new role.

I would also like to thank Ms Kung Lim, LHD Director of Nursing and Midwifery for her unwavering support of CANR. Kung has committed 42 years of her life to nursing—14 of these serving the people of SWSLHD. We will all miss her passion and energy, and her commitment to nursing and midwifery, and wish her every happiness in her retirement.

**Bronwyn Everett**

Acting Director

Centre for Applied Nursing Research

As I write this message, I have been caused to reflect on the many wonderful nursing and midwifery achievements the District has enjoyed through its partnership with the Centre for Applied Nursing Research. While the list is extensive, highlights of 2014 include important findings from two research projects on medication safety: the 'Recall and Check' cluster randomised controlled trial which explored the use of a patient reminder system to reduce medication omissions for inpatients, and the SAMMI Project, which explored the nature of interruptions during medication administration. Another highlight of 2014 was the focus on Nursing and Midwifery research as part of the Ingham Institute/South Western Sydney Local Health District's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Teaching Showcase. The keynote speakers – Professor Sandy Middleton and Professor Hannah Dahlen did an outstanding job of promoting the important research nurses and midwives are engaged in, and the positive impact this is having in the lives of our patients.

2014 has also been a year of change. In line with the District's Research Strategy to build workforce capacity of nurses and midwives to undertake health research, this year saw the appointment of Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett as the Deputy Director at CANR. A major focus of this role will be to develop new models for supporting and mentoring nurses to undertake research—integral to meeting the challenges of a large population with a high burden of illness, and improving the delivery of nursing care.

2014 also saw the resignation of the Centre's Director, Professor Maree Johnson, who has left to take up a senior management position at the Australian Catholic University. Maree was an outstanding Director of CANR and I sincerely thank her for her commitment to nursing research in the District, and the many wonderful achievements she was instrumental in bringing about.

Finally, in keeping with a 'year of change', this will be my last message as the Director of Nursing and Midwifery in South Western Sydney. I am very proud—and grateful, to have played a part with CANR and the nurses and midwives of the District in improving the health care experiences of our patients and their carers.



**Ms Kung Lim**, Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services,  
South Western Sydney Local Health District

On behalf of the University of Western Sydney (UWS) and South Western Sydney Local Health District, I welcome you to the 2014 Annual Report of the Centre for Applied Nursing Research (CANR). The partnership between the School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM) and South Western Sydney Local Health District is a significant component of the research plan of both organisations to promote research that improves health outcomes for the people of Greater Western Sydney. This partnership enables clinicians to work with researchers from the SoNM to undertake clinically-focused research that is influencing nursing and midwifery services across the Local Health District.

A major role of CANR is promoting the translation of research into practice. The impact of this research is evident from the outcomes and influence on practice. The program of research led by Dr Ajesh George in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of clinicians has been adopted by clinicians beyond NSW. This research in the area of maternal and infant oral health is now embedded within undergraduate midwifery education and antenatal service delivery. Dr George's recent award by the University for 'Excellence as an Early Career Researcher' is testament to the impact of CANR's research.

2014 also saw a change of the guard at CANR. Professor Maree Johnson moved to the Australian Catholic University after 19 years at UWS, and Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett took up the new Deputy Director position. Professor Johnson is an outstanding researcher and effectiveness of her leadership at CANR is evident from the awards and recognition researchers working under her guidance have received. I take this opportunity to thank Maree for her contribution to UWS and SWSLHD over many years. The new Director will commence during 2015. I also thank Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett who very capably stepped into the Acting Director role following Maree's resignation.

CANR provides a research focus and strength for the SoNM and I look forward to further developments during 2015.

**Professor Rhonda Griffiths**, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery,  
University of Western Sydney



## Project Listing

### Patient Safety

- Developing one set of patient clinical information at the end of shift
- Clinical management errors
- Transforming clinical handover in nursing
- Nursing documentation
  - ◇ *Documentation within the patient's health care records*
  - ◇ *Use of fragmentary language within nursing documentation*
  - ◇ *Comparing nursing notes and verbal clinical handover*
  - ◇ *Pre-post testing of ward-based writing coach to improve nursing documentation*
- Falls prevention
- Development of an inpatient falls prevention brochure derived from incident data translated into five languages.
- Medication safety
  - ◇ The Recall & Check cluster randomised control trial
  - ◇ The Safe Administering of Medications: Managing Interruptions (SAMMI) Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial
- Speech recognition technology use in health care
- Engaging nurses and midwives in shaping organisational Culture: EPIC
- Point of community Nursing Care documentation Health Outcomes Project: PONCHO

### Women's & Children's Health

- Development of a Midwifery Initiated Oral Health (MIOH) Program
- Development of Perinatal Oral Health (PERIOH) - Guidelines for Prenatal Care Providers and Dentists
- Nursing Initiated Perinatal Oral Health (NIPOH)
- Early Childhood Oral Health (ECOH)

## Project Listing

### Cross Cultural & Health Literacy

- Development of a fever management education program for parents with low literacy
- Acculturation, Diabetes Knowledge, Health Literacy, Self-Efficacy and Self Management of patients with diabetes: The ACCLAIM Study

For further information on our projects, go to [www.uws.edu.au/CANR](http://www.uws.edu.au/CANR)



## The Team



**Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett**, Acting Director/Deputy Director

Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett is the Acting Director/Deputy Director of the Centre for Applied Nursing Research, a joint collaboration between South Western Sydney Local Health District and the University of Western Sydney. She has committed over 25 years to nursing education, and has over 15 years of experience in primary research.

Her research interests include cardiovascular and chronic care, and educational research. As an experienced nurse researcher, A/Prof Everett brings a wealth of experience to supporting clinicians, educators and managers in their research endeavours.



**Dr Ajesh George**  
Senior Research Fellow

Ajesh is a Senior Research Fellow with CANR. He is a dentist with experience in public health both internationally and in Australia. Ajesh is an expert in both qualitative and quantitative research methods and has extensive experience working with nurses/midwives, mothers and children. He has a number of refereed publications and has presented at both international and national conferences.

Dr George's main research interest is on perinatal oral health and the role of non dental professionals.



**Associate Professor Yenna Salamonson**  
Project Manager

Yenna is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at UWS. She is also seconded to as a Project Manager to CANR on a part-time basis.

Yenna has extensive experience as lead investigator on research projects and in conducting, presenting and publishing research. She has over 30 years of clinical nursing experience, 12 years as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in ICU. She has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed papers. She has skills in quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches.



**Louise Smith**  
CNC Researcher

Louise has been a Registered Nurse since 1990 and has over 10 years clinical nurse consultant experience in infectious diseases, particularly in Chronic Viral Hepatitis.

Louise's work has been predominantly in SWSLHD at Liverpool and Campbelltown hospitals and the population health setting.

Louise joins us on secondment at CNC Research to enhance the role of the Clinical Nurse Consultant engaged in research.



**Paula Sanchez**  
Research Nurse & PhD Candidate (UWS)

Paula has worked in areas such as haematology, oncology and renal. She specialised in critical and acute care, working as a Clinical Nurse Specialist and Clinical Nurse Educator in the Liverpool Intensive Care Unit for 18 years.

Paula also works as Associate Lecturer at University of Western Sydney, teaching in the undergraduate Bachelor of Nursing course.

Paula's research interests are in the areas of cardiovascular, clinical communication, deteriorating patients and the development of education programs for clinicians.



**Rachel Langdon**  
Research Assistant

Rachel has been a Research Assistant with CANR since 1997, providing support to both CANR Staff and clinicians of SWSLHD who are undertaking research projects in conjunction with CANR, from development of research proposals and projects through to the preparation of papers for publication, including questionnaire development, research methodology and statistical analysis.

Rachel's research interests are in the areas of maternal and child health, bilingual health communication, patient safety, and health outcomes for older people.



**Catherine Zheng**  
Research Assistant

Catherine has taught Statistics and Calculus at the senior secondary and first year tertiary levels in Auckland and Sydney. She graduated with a Research Master of Science (Hons) in 2013. Her research study has a focus on the analysis of multi-species type 2 diabetes from gene expression data.

Her research interest is in the area of statistical analysis of genomic data: high-throughput microarrays and next-generation DNA sequencing data.



**Janine Baker**  
Research Admin  
Officer & Assistant to  
Director & Deputy Director

Janine has returned to University of Western Sydney after living & working in Hong Kong. She has over 20 years administrative and EA experience, with over 10 years of that in Tertiary Education.

Janine joined CANR in early 2010 and brings with her vast administrative experience of Research Centres & Faculties / Colleges of Tertiary Education.



**Rhonda Itaoui**  
Research Administrative  
Officer

Rhonda is a graduate of UWS, having completed her Bachelor of Social Science at University of Western Sydney. Rhonda has previously worked in customer service at UWS and administration in project management.

Rhonda has undertaken extra research activities. She has completed a Summer Research Internship with the School of Science Sciences & Psychology at UWS, exploring public housing issues and policy.

### Thank you to our Support Staff Behind the Scenes

CANR often employ research assistants, interns and project officers on short-term contract or casually. The support staff who work “behind the scenes” are integral to the successful running of our Centre.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following people for their hard work and dedication to our Centre over the past year and for your continued support and commitment to our projects

**Harrison Ng Chok,**  
*Research Assistant*

**Ayesha Sadozai,**  
*Research Assistant*

**Danielle Guyder,**  
*Project Officer/Research Assistant*

**Charmaine Miranda,**  
*Research Assistant*

**Sarah Suttle,**  
*Research Assistant/  
Graphic Designer*

**Tiffany Patterson,**  
*UWS Nursing Intern*

**Kini Amerasekara,**  
*UWS Nursing Intern*

## New Projects

### Camden Falls Safety Huddle

Inpatient falls are one of the most common patient safety incidents reported in rehabilitation wards and can result in serious adverse patient outcomes.

A safety huddle (post-fall huddle) was implemented in the rehabilitation ward at Camden Hospital. The huddle consists of a multidisciplinary group meeting with the patient and, where possible their carer. Preliminary results indicate monthly fall rates ranging from 0 to 5.5 falls per 1,000 OBDs with no repeat falls.

Findings from this study will be presented at the International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare in London, 2015.

*Project team: B.Lane, L.Smith, B.Everett, C.Zheng, Y.Salamonson*

*Funded by Nursing and Midwifery Strategy Reserve Initiatives Funding*



### Engaging Nurses & Midwives in Shaping Organisational Culture (EPIC)

Organisational culture, the shared beliefs and values of employees within an organisation, is known to influence organisational commitment, performance and job satisfaction.

This study aims to explore the organisational culture and related constructs of interest from the perspectives of nurses and midwives working in Camden and Campbelltown Hospitals during this period of expansion and redevelopment.

*Project team: Y.Salamonson, B.Everett, B.Warner, L.Smith, R.Langdon*



### Point of Community Nursing Care Documentation Health Outcomes (PONCHO)

Mobile computing technology is increasingly being adopted by healthcare organisations to promote information accessibility and support the communication needs of clinicians.

The aim of this study is to systematically evaluate the use of tablet devices ('point-of-care devices') used by Community Health Nurses to enhance health care delivery to community-dwelling clients.

*Project team: M.Stokes, P.Waldon, B.Everett, Y.Salamonson, L.Smith, C.Zheng*



### Acculturation, Diabetes Knowledge, Health Literacy, Self-Efficacy & Self-Management of patients with diabetes (ACCLAIM)

Among migrants with English language difficulties, a more intensified approach to diabetes education is commonly instituted in recognition of the additional challenges that these migrants face in dealing with health issues.

This study aims to explore the relationship between acculturation level and diabetes management among migrants from NESB backgrounds with Type II diabetes.

*Project team: D.Maneze, D.Yogendran, C.Astorga, Y.Salamonson, B.Everett, E.Comino*



## Medication Safety: Safe Administration of Medications Managing Interruptions (SAMMI)

Adverse medication events extend the duration of stay for inpatients and increase recovery time. Interruptions increase the risk and severity of adverse medication events by up to 60%. The aim of the study is to examine the nature of interruptions during medication administration and their consequences. This was done by observing medication administration events on select wards. Preliminary analysis demonstrates a high level of interruptions during medication administration, typically by other nurses. Interruptions represent an urgent area for practice change—the research team are now looking at strategies to address both the behaviour of nurses and education of patients and other health professionals to reduce interruptions.

*Project Team: M.Johnson, E.Manias, T.Levett-Jones, G.Weidemann, W.Xuan, V.Aguilar, C.Farmer, A.Herring, P.Sanchez, A.Thornton, C.Zheng*

*Funded by Nursing and Midwifery Strategy Reserve Initiatives Funding*



### You missed medication time. Please contact the nurse

Si no ha recibido su medicamento por favor llame a la enfermera (Spanish)

Ti sei perso tempo farmaco Si prega di contattare l'infermiere (Italia)

Nếu quý vị quên uống thuốc, xin liên lạc ngay với y tá (Vietnamese)

Έχασες χρόνο φαρμακευτική αγωγή Παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με τη νοσοκόμα (Greek)

您错过了服藥時間 請聯繫護士 (Traditional Chinese)

الرجاء الاتصال بالمرضى لم تأخذ علاجك في الوقت المناسب، (Arabic)



## Medication Safety: The Recall & Check Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial Project

Omission of medications accounts for 15% of in-patient medication errors. The aim of this study was to reduce medication omissions during administration, to assess nurses' perception on the effectiveness of the intervention and the cross-checking of medication charts during handover. The trial included eight (8) wards of two hospitals. The intervention involved the use of tear off cards and handover cross-checking of medication charts. We found no evidence or significant intervention effect on the omission rate between groups. There is interaction about medications during handover. Recall Cards may be beneficial in some cases but in general nurses' acceptability and usability of the cards was not evident in this study. Reinforcing the checking of medication charts at the end of shift appears effective in reducing omissions. Future trials should test this simple strategy to reduce medication omissions without notation.

*Project Team: M.Johnson, B.Chapman, C.Farmer, C.Zheng, P.Sanchez*

## Project Highlights 2014

### Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Dental Service (MIOH-DS) - program update

CANR and its partners commenced the NHMRC funded MIOH-DS multicentre trial in July 2012 across three metropolitan hospitals in Greater Western Sydney. The aim of the trial was to test the effectiveness of a midwifery initiated oral health program in improving the oral health outcomes of disadvantaged pregnant women. A total of 639 pregnant women were recruited and 479 followed up till birth. Preliminary analysis is showing that the MIOH-DS intervention has significantly improved the uptake of dental services, oral health status, knowledge and quality of life of pregnant women. An economic and process evaluation of the MIOH-DS intervention will be commencing shortly. The final study report will be available by mid 2015 and we anticipate the results will have significant policy implications for midwifery and dental services in NSW Health.

*Thanks to*

*Midwives: Campbelltown, Fairfield and Nepean Hospitals  
Dental Team: Ingleburn Community Health Centre, Fairfield and Nepean Hospital Dental Clinics*

*Project Team: A.George, M.Johnson, S.Ajwani, S.Bhole, A.Blinkhorn, H.Dahlen, S.Ellis, A.Yeo.*

*Funded by NHMRC Project Grant*



### CANR works with UWS to incorporate Oral Health into the Bachelor of Midwifery Curriculum- An Australian First

CANR is working with midwifery academic staff at UWS to develop, implement and evaluate an oral health module for the Bachelor of Midwifery program. The groundwork for this project was already put in place when the new midwifery program was developed in 2013. This innovative initiative is the first of its kind in Australia and will complement the existing MIOH continuing professional development program in providing midwives with the necessary skills and knowledge to promote perinatal oral health during antenatal care.

*Project Team: A.George, M.Duff, H.Dahlen, V.Schmied, E.Burns, K.Sullivan, H.Priddis*

[http://future.uws.edu.au/future\\_students\\_home/ug/health\\_sci\\_nursing\\_sport/bachelor\\_of\\_midwifery](http://future.uws.edu.au/future_students_home/ug/health_sci_nursing_sport/bachelor_of_midwifery)





### Development of an oral health promotion resource for NSW

CANR recently finalised the production of an oral health audio-visual resource in collaboration with NSW Kids + Families, UWS, SLHD, SWSLHD, USyd and the Ingham Institute. The resource, aimed at pregnant women and antenatal care providers, is based on the 'Keep smiling while you are pregnant' brochure developed by CANR in 2010 and endorsed by NSW Health: (<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/oralhealth/Pages/resources-pre-natal.aspx>).

The resource aims to dispel misconceptions about oral health care during pregnancy and beyond and assure expectant mothers and antenatal care providers that visiting a dentist during pregnancy is safe and even essential. It will be played in antenatal clinics in NSW and used as an educational resource for all health professionals in this area: (<http://youtu.be/H5R24RjZiPE>).

*Project Team: A.George, M.Johnson, S.Ajwani, S.Bhole, A.Blinkhorn, H.Dahlen, S.Ellis, A.Yeo,*



### Long term urethral and suprapubic urinary catheterisation: a survey of catheter-associated problems experienced by community dwelling clients.

Clients living in the community requiring long term catheterisation to assist bladder management are prescribed either a suprapubic or a urethral indwelling catheter. However these bladder management strategies are not without catheter associated problems.

The aim of this study is to identify and compare the prevalence of suprapubic and urethral catheter associated problems experienced by community dwelling clients in Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains and South Western Sydney Local Health Districts.

*Project team: C.Dobson, J.Bennett, C.Chew, D.Duvall, B.Everett, M.Doctor, C.Zheng*



### CANR groundwork to develop Perinatal Oral Health guidelines in Australia

CANR and its partners have just completed a state wide survey of 578 antenatal care providers (midwives, GP's and Obstetricians/Gynecologists) and Dentist practicing in NSW to explore their perceptions and practices about oral health during pregnancy.

Preliminary results have confirmed that limited emphasis is being placed on oral health during antenatal care and that some Dentists are hesitant in treating women during pregnancy.

The overwhelming response from participants was the need for further education and training in this area as well as perinatal oral health guidelines.

*Project Team: A.George, M.Johnson, H.Dahlen, S.Ajwani, S.Bhole, J.Reath, A.Korda*

## Community, Awards & Presentations



### CANR staff join in the spirit of Christmas at Liverpool Hospital Christmas Choir

The Liverpool Hospital Christmas Choir gather together every year to deliver cheer to staff, visitors and patients.

Staff members from various departments around the health district volunteer their time and bring music to the children's ward, palliative care, cancer therapy, brain injury unit and the main corridor and entrance to the hospital.

Paula has been involved in the Choir for 4 years now and provides her musical talent playing guitar. This year will see Catherine's second year volunteering.

Having to spend time in hospital over the Christmas holidays can be upsetting for many patients and visitors, so this is just one way in which to bring happiness and support.



### The 2013 Ingham Institute Early Career Researcher Award

The Ingham Institute Applied Medical Research held their inaugural awards night in November 2013 to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of researchers. Dr Ajesh George received the Early Career Researcher award for his efforts in establishing Australia's first midwifery-initiated oral health program.

The program has produced significant results in terms of patient outcomes, and professional development of midwives and has been translated into practice across various hospitals in NSW and Victoria.



### Community Involvement

Pathway to Success School Program.

CANR members have supported Ingham Institute with the delivery of talks and career seminars to local high school students in the areas of nursing and nursing research as possible career options and also encouraging students to pursue higher education at university.

Pictured: Paula Sanchez, Nurse Educator, CANR delivering talk to Liverpool Girls High School



## Community, Awards & Presentations

### Health Literacy Spotlight

Transformational change in health care service and equity: The **OPT**imising **HE**alth **L**iter**Ac**y (OPHELIA) process

Professor Richard Osborne, Chair in Public Health & NHMRC Senior Research Fellow, Deakin University provided SWSLHD & UWS with an insightful presentation on OPHELIA. Following his presentation, a Panel Discussion was set up with academics and clinicians from both LHD and UWS. Attendees were also invited to provide feedback and ask questions.

The OPHELIA project is a three year Victorian initiative which will identify and test new interventions to address health literacy needs in people attending to a broad range of Victorian agencies. To find out more, go to: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/health/research/phi/OPHELIA.php>

Pictured (left to right): Prof Richard Osborne, Ms Kung Lim, Director of Nursing & Midwifery Services (SWSLHD), Assoc. Prof Bronwyn Everett, Acting Director, CANR



### Ingham Institute & South Western Sydney Local Health District Research & Teaching Showcase 28th November

Nursing & Midwifery were the focal point of this year's Showcase and CANR along with our UWS affiliates provided exciting presentations to colleagues.

CANR made a significant contribution to this year's Showcase, with several presentations throughout the day. Guest presenters were: Professor Hannah Dahlen, Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing & Midwifery at UWS, *"Using population based linked data to answer questions about maternal and perinatal morbidity, trends over time and emerging health issues in maternity care"*.

Professor Sandy Middleton, Director, Nursing Research Institute, ACU, *"The quality in acute stroke care (QASC) implementation project: scale up and spread of research evidence in 36 NSW stroke services"*.

Pictured below: Ms Amanda Larkin, CE, SWSLHD



### Dr Ajesh George wins Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award

We congratulate Ajesh on winning the UWS Inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award for outstanding research undertaken by an early career researcher.

Ajesh is leading ground-breaking research in promoting perinatal oral health in Australia through collaboration between antenatal care providers and dentists.

Well done Ajesh!

Pictured below: Professor Rhonda Griffiths, Dean, School of Nursing & Midwifery, UWS & Dr Ajesh George



## Student News



### **Muhammad Alquadah PhD Student**

Congratulations to Muhammad Alquadah on the submission of his thesis "*A factorial randomised controlled trial of a health literacy modified children's fever education program for parents attending emergency*". Muhammad's study aimed to educate parents about correct way of managing child's fever at home.

The main part of the trial was the development of a DVD and a brochure in relation to child fever management. The program has been accepted and published as an educational resource for sharing across the NSW health system through The Australian Resource Centre for Healthcare Innovations (ARCHI), [www.archi.net.au](http://www.archi.net.au). The program is also accessible online for parents/carers and can currently be viewed at [www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/services/CANR/links.html](http://www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/services/CANR/links.html).

Pictured above (right to left): Dr Ajesh George (co-supervisor), Muhammad Alquadah, Prof Maree Johnson (principal supervisor) and Ala' Alquadah



### **Ghada El Ayoubi Honours Student**

In patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU), infections caused by multi-resistant organisms (MROs) can increase mortality by up to 40%, and prolong ICU admission by more than three weeks. Although the transmission of these organisms is most commonly associated with inadequate hand hygiene, a number of other factors play an important role including the increased use of antibiotics and invasive devices, co-morbidity of ICU patients, presence of wounds, and immunosuppressive therapy.

Many of these risk factors are routinely collected by hospitals as administrative data and may potentially be used for surveillance and risk-monitoring of ICU-acquired MROs. In this retrospective study, Ghada is exploring the role these factors play in patient acquisition of MRO infections.



### **Rafic Hussein Doctoral Student**

The transition from nursing student to registered nurse in clinical practice can be challenging, complex and stressful; it is now well-recognised that support is essential for the safe and successful integration of new graduate nurses (NGNs) into the acute care setting. Clinical Supervision (CS) is one process of providing professional support to NGNs.

In this mixed methods study, Rafic is examining the key elements of the current transitional program of CS of new graduates at a large tertiary referral hospital, and how these impact on new graduate's work performance, professional development, and satisfaction.

### Tiffany Patterson

Tiffany is in her second year of Bachelor of Nursing (advanced) degree at University of Western Sydney.

Tiffany's area of interest is heavily set around the clinical aspects in health care as well as interventions to improve health outcomes. She has a special interest in preventable chronic conditions, public health policy and research.

Tiffany came to CANR as an intern, but so impressed us that we have kept her on as research assistant to Dr Ajesh George in his projects relating to maternal and infant oral health.



### Mandakini (Kini) Amerasekara

Kini is a second year student enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing Advanced course at the University of Western Sydney as an International student from Sri Lanka.

Kini's goals are to become a competent clinical nurse, researcher and doctor respectively. Kini's internship at CANR has given her insight into the vital role Nurse Researchers play in the advancement of nursing practice.



### Tiffany presents at her first Conference

Tiffany's internship focused on evaluating the early childhood oral health program in south-western Sydney involving child and family health nurses.

In November Tiffany presented the study findings at her first conference at the Ingham Institute Research and Teaching Showcase, Liverpool Hospital. Her presentation was well received by attendees and she received positive feedback.

Tiffany has also participated in writing her first refereed paper as a co-author which is currently under review. The experience in CANR has inspired Tiffany to continue working in research and pursue a PhD.



## CANR'S Research would not be possible without the support of our affiliates and collaborators

If you would like to become an affiliate of CANR & Ingham Institute, please contact Janine Baker, [janine.baker@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:janine.baker@sswahs.nsw.gov.au) for information pack and membership form.

### Affiliations

- Dr Leanne Cowin, RN, MSc(ApplStat), PhD: Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Western Sydney, [http://www.uws.edu.au/staff\\_profiles/uws\\_profiles/doctor\\_leanne\\_cowin](http://www.uws.edu.au/staff_profiles/uws_profiles/doctor_leanne_cowin)
- Professor Hannah Dahlen, BN, MComN: Professor of Midwifery, School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Western Sydney, [http://www.uws.edu.au/staff\\_profiles/uws\\_profiles/professor\\_hannah\\_dahlen](http://www.uws.edu.au/staff_profiles/uws_profiles/professor_hannah_dahlen)
- Ms Ghada El Ayoubi, RN, BN: BN(Hons) Candidate, University of Western Sydney, RN Intensive Care Unit, Liverpool Hospital, South Western Sydney Local Health District.
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