

GP UPDATE



ST JOHN OF GOD
Subiaco Hospital

July 2017



Welcome new CEO Professor Shirley Bowen

We are pleased to welcome Professor Shirley Bowen as the new CEO of St John of God Subiaco Hospital.

Shirley is an Infectious Diseases Physician, who was most recently the Dean of Medicine at Notre Dame University. Prior to that had a broad career in clinical medicine, executive leadership, research and academia.

Shirley is ideally placed to lead Subiaco as it embarks on the next chapter of its journey of excellence in delivering outstanding patient outcomes as well as becoming a national leader in teaching and research.

Meet Mr Siva Sundararajan, General Surgeon

Q. How long have you been working as a general surgeon?

I completed my medical degree in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, in 2004, before commencing fellowship training in Australia. I have been working as a general surgeon for just over a year. After finishing my general surgical training in Perth, I moved to Melbourne to undertake a bariatric fellowship at Box Hill Hospital, which is the only tertiary public hospital in Australia with a dedicated bariatric surgery unit that is separate from the upper glycaemic index unit. In 2017, I returned to Perth to commence public appointments at SJG Midland Public Hospital and Armadale Hospital, as well as commence my private practice at SJG Subiaco Hospital.

Q. What are your areas of special interest?

Bariatric surgery is my main area of interest. In Melbourne, I was fortunate to work with range of high calibre bariatric surgeons from one of the pioneers of bariatric surgery in Australia, Mr Harry Frydenberg, to innovative surgeons such, as Mr Anthony Clough – the first surgeon in Australia to perform robotic gastric bypass surgery for weight loss. After my fellowship, I wanted to fine-tune my skills and undertook further training in Brugges, Belgium. Dr Bruno Dillemans, the chief bariatric surgeon at the hospital, is a world authority on gastric bypass surgery.

I also have an interest in military surgery as a result of my time in the army as a medic. The Royal Australian Airforce recently appointed me as a surgeon. It is a great honour and another way I can perform services to the country that has shaped and nurtured my aspirations to become a surgeon

Q. How did you get into working in this field?

Over the course of my training in both the United Kingdom and Australia, I have come to appreciate the commonality of general

surgical problems and how satisfying managing them is to me. General surgery is one of the few specialties that can be practiced in remote areas where patients traditionally have suboptimal access to healthcare.

Obesity, diabetes and heart disease is common in people from my ethnic background, which led me to undertake sub-speciality training in bariatric surgery. I saw firsthand the impact and transformation that bariatric surgery had to patients' lives, which cemented my decision to offer bariatric surgery.

Q. What can patients expect from you?

I strongly believe that if you are going to do something, do it well and with precision. I think of surgery as needing to operate like a F1 team. Even if the driver is the best surgeon on the planet, without a well-oiled team, you cannot produce the desired result. I am fortunate to have a fantastic team who are some of the best in the country. Patients can expect to have an honest, compassionate and down to earth surgeon who does not rush them through consultations and takes time to listen to them.

Q. Do you have any interesting non-medical hobbies/interests?

I have an avid interest in origami and love playing squash and soccer. My ever-supportive wife and three beautiful children complete my life.

Referral information

T: (08) 6163 2800

F: (08) 6163 2809

M: 0424 581 036

W: www.perthobesitysurgery.com.au



New GP focused project underway

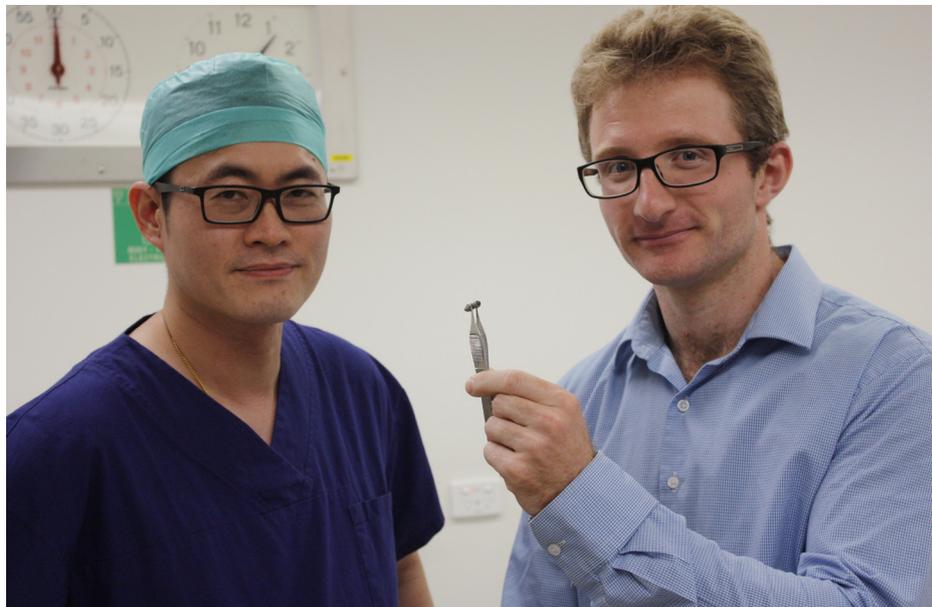
St John of God Subiaco Hospital has commenced a number of initiatives to further increase engagement between local GPs, patients and specialists.

As part of our Procedural Areas Transformation Program, enhanced services will be introduced to assist GPs with referrals to specialists at the hospital, including enhancements to the information available on our online directory: 'Find a Doctor' (see: www.sjog.org.au/findadoctor).

In addition, we will be enhancing our education events to facilitate more networking opportunities for GPs and surgeons.

We have commenced consultation with local GPs and specialists via a series of short surveys to gain a deeper understanding of how we can ensure these initiatives meet the needs of our valued healthcare partners.

If you would like to add further feedback, please email theatres.transformation@sjog.org.au



Paediatric Cardiologist joins the hospital

The hospital is pleased to welcome Paediatric and Foetal Cardiologist Dr Deane Yim, who has recently joined Western Cardiology.

Dr Yim has been working as a consultant Paediatric Cardiologist since 2015, initially at SickKids Hospital in Toronto and, since returning to Perth in March 2017, at Princess Margaret Hospital and King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Dr Yim said she joined the hospital to expand the service offering.

“Subiaco has excellent neonatal and obstetric services and opportunities to provide both inpatient and outpatient care. I have joined Dr Luigi D’Orsogna to further develop the practices neonatal service and expand its paediatric cardiology service,” she said.

Dr Yim’s subspecialty interests include non-invasive cardiac imaging, including both transthoracic and transoesophageal echocardiography, and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). She completed fellowship training both in echocardiography and cardiac MRI.

Dr Yim prides herself on taking the time to listen to patient concerns and provide a friendly environment for children and families.

“I have always enjoyed working with children and their families, so paediatrics was a natural choice for me,” she said.

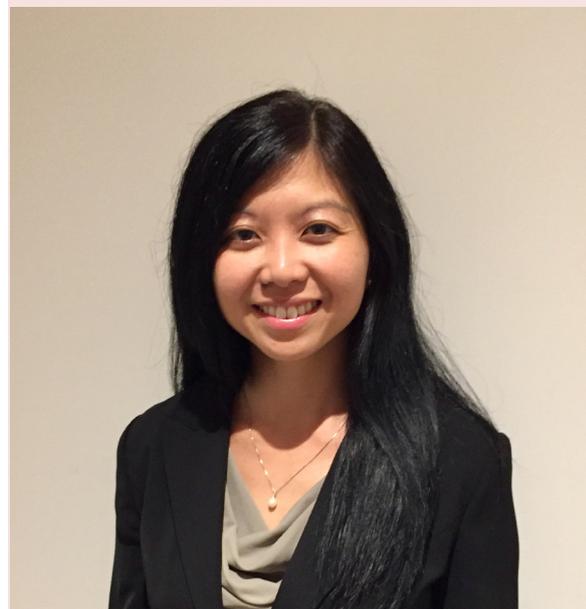
“I find congenital heart disease to be an interesting and challenging area of medicine. Paediatric cardiology combined my interests and it is a highly rewarding and enjoyable specialty.”

Referral information

T: (08) 9346 9325

A: Western Cardiology, Suite 324
25 McCourt Street Subiaco

E: Deane.Yim@health.wa.gov.au



New 3D bone screw set to revolutionise spinal surgery

An innovative device being developed by a team of surgeons and researchers at St John of God Subiaco Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital and Curtin University could greatly improve the safety of complex spine surgery which requires stabilisation and fusion procedures.

St John of God Subiaco Hospital Head of the Neurosurgery and Spinal Surgery Department Professor Gabriel Lee said that using 3D printing technology the group had created a titanium expandable bone screw, which allows stronger bone fixation than a traditional screw.

“A spinal stabilisation and fusion may be required to treat a variety of conditions, including traumatic fractures, spinal degeneration, deformity and tumours,” Professor Lee said.

“During these procedures, a number of bone screws are typically implanted to stabilise the spine. These screws need to be placed carefully as they are often millimetres from critical blood vessels or nerve structures, and they need to be interconnected by plates or rods.

“However, elderly and osteoporotic patients may have quite weak bone, which causes screws to loosen or pull out over time. This significant complication can result in worsened pain and neurological disability – often requiring further surgery. This is costly and adds to the burden of the health system.”

Researchers from Curtin University are working closely together with surgeons at St John of God Subiaco Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital to solve this problem. Collaborators at The University of Western Australia and University College London are also assisting with developing the expandable screw.

Matthew Oldakowski, a PhD student from Curtin University, who is developing the expandable screw, said the patented design of the screw is at the heart of its functionality and has been made possible in part by the development of 3D printing with titanium.

“The novel design allows the screw to be easily expanded and able to be safely removed if required, which sets it apart from other expandable screws currently in the market.”

Indeed, this new screw design is seen as platform technology, which may be translated for use in orthopaedic surgeries throughout the skeleton.

Orthopaedic surgeon Professor Markus Kuster is leading an investigative study to evaluate the use of these new screws in hip surgery.

Recently the group was awarded a National Health and Medical Research Council Development Grant of \$414,000, to take the research to the next stage of development. The funding will allow additional safety testing in the laboratory to strengthen its commercial potential, with the hope that a clinical trial will start in three years.

The work has been made possible in part by financial support from St John of God Subiaco Hospital and Curtin University, who are co-funding Matthew Oldakowski’s postdoctoral research fellowship and Kickstart funding from Curtin University in support of commercialisation activity.



Welcome Dr Venkata Kodali, Specialist Physician and Endocrinologist

Specialist Endocrinologist Dr Venkata Kodali has joined the hospitals team of specialists.

Dr Kodali has more than 20 years' of clinical experience in the specialty, with dual accreditation in endocrinology and general internal medicine. He holds an academic title as Clinical Associate Professor with The University of Western Australia.

Dr Kodali's areas of special interest include diabetes mellitus type 1 and 2 and complications, pituitary tumours and hormone abnormalities, thyroid disease, adrenal disorders, hypogonadism (testosterone deficiency), calcium disorders and osteoporosis.

Dr Kodali believes his point of difference as a specialist is being varied, transparent and clear in care plans.

"To have experience, knowledge and qualifications is one aspect. More importantly, one needs a positive attitude to work and should have the ability to apply knowledge to result in better patient outcomes," he said.

Dr Kodali graduated from Andhra University in India and further trained at centres of excellence for diabetes and endocrinology in the United Kingdom. He obtained postgraduate qualifications from Kings College and Royal College of Physicians of London and is American Board Certified in Internal Medicine after training in Massachusetts, United States of America.

Dr Kodali said he joined the hospital due to a recognised need for an expanded service in his field and positive feedback from colleagues.

"Physicians I know that work at the hospital speak highly of the work environment. Each time I visit, I have noticed a sense of inclusivity among all the people I met. There is also a community need for diabetes and endocrine services," he said.

Referral details

A: Perth Endocrine, 2 McCourt Street, West Leederville

T: (08) 6258 3562

F: (08) 9386 9919

W: perthendocrinologist.com.au



Hospital Shuttle Bus Service

The hospital operates a free shuttle bus service for patients and visitors to make the journey easier for those who catch public transport.

We are very proud of our shuttle bus service, which we operate from 9.00am to 3.00pm, Monday to Friday between the Subiaco Train Station, the main hospital, St John of God Subiaco Medical Clinic and St John of God Wembley Day Surgery.

With a shortage of parking at our hospital, our shuttle bus is a fantastic alternative for patients and visitors who are able to take public transport.

As the service is of benefit to your patients, we are hoping you might also help promote the service to patients who visit the hospital.

BRCA Information Day

The hospital held its second annual BRCA Information Day at the end of May.

Dr Paul Cohen, Director Gynaecological Cancer Research Group, recruited an impressive line-up of speakers, including Professor Christobel Saunders, Dr Jason Tan, Dr Stuart Salfinger, Dr Cathy Kiraly-Borri, Paula Watt, Dr Leonie Valentine, Heather Thorne and Dr Tarek Meniawy, who presented to an audience of more than 100 people living with the BRCA 1 and 2 gene mutations.

The day provided a successful platform for a local community to be formed and receive up to date information from our clinicians.

Sarah who attended the session was pleased with the day.

"It's rare to have so many brilliant minds in the one room sharing complex information. It's a very difficult topic on every level and providing the most up to date information and research in a day that would take the common man months to research was incredible.





New colorectal surgeon for the hospital

Colorectal Surgeon Dr Jennifer Ryan has commenced her practice at the hospital.

Dr Ryan is a Fellow of the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia and New Zealand and has a Fellowship in General Surgery from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Her areas of special interest include the management of colorectal cancers and the surgical management of inflammatory bowel disease.

Through Dr Ryan's advanced training in laparoscopic surgery, trans-anal microscopic surgery for complex rectal polyps and accreditation by the Conjoint Committee for Recognition of Training in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy for colonoscopy, she provides the full range of colorectal surgical services. Dr Ryan is ideally placed to attend major abdominal cases and proctology pathologies.

Dr Ryan became interested in colorectal surgery as a specialty due to the complex nature of the surgery and the intellectually stimulating aspects of surgical oncology.

"The management of colorectal cancers and inflammatory bowel disease requires an in depth knowledge of disease processes and involves complex multidisciplinary discussions to achieve the best possible health outcomes," she said.

"Some of the most confronting discussions a patient can have are discussions around the diagnosis and management of cancer. I aim to provide advice and information that is straightforward and easy to understand, while also addressing the psychological aspects of such a diagnosis. I also aim to maintain an open dialogue with patients, encourage them to ask questions and be an active participant in their management. This is one of the most challenging but rewarding aspects of my practice."

Dr Ryan is pleased to join the hospital, especially with its large focus on research.

"I have a strong interest in research, the Colorectal Cancer Research Group at the hospital provides a unique opportunity to further my interest in translational research alongside my clinical practice," she said.

"Surgical oncology and the management of inflammatory bowel disease provide a wealth of opportunities for research, both in questioning the status quo and providing a strong evidence base for current management."

Patients can expect committed, personalised, high quality and patient focused care from Dr Ryan.

"I believe in a collaborative approach to healthcare and endeavor to provide information and education in a manner that allows for an interactive partnership in patient care," she said.

Referral details

A: St John of God Subiaco Hospital Suite 212 25 McCourt St, Subiaco

T: (08) 9382 4577

F: (08) 9382 2460

Upcoming education sessions

All sessions are located in the our Conference Centre.

RACGP CPD Program

Each event earns 4 category 2 points.

Date	Topic	Location
22 August 6.30pm	Orthopaedics for General Practice	SJG Subiaco Hospital
5 September 6.30pm	New developments in lung cancer and pulmonary vascular disease	SJG Subiaco Hospital
19 September 6.30pm	Healthy living after cancer	SJG Subiaco Hospital

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Elise Holder on (08) 9382 6127 or elise.holder@sjog.org.au

Grand Rounds

You can self accredit points for these sessions.

Date	Topic	Location
1 August 7.00am	Dr Tim Clay	SJG Subiaco Hospital
15 August 7.00am	Professor Mark Hands	SJG Subiaco Hospital
29 August 7.00am	Professor Eric Visser 'What a Pain-Update on Acute Pain'	SJG Subiaco Hospital

For further details please contact Bernadette McKirdy on (08) 9382 6315 or bernadette.mckirdy@sjog.org.au

To unsubscribe or for any other queries or comments, please contact SJOGHSubiaco@sjog.org.au or phone (08) 9382 6127

