SHOW OF HANDS

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE THEMES AND OPPORTUNITIES?

Questions

• Have you heard of the themes/CAGs?
• Have you engaged with theme activities by:
  • attending events or working with any areas of focus/working groups?
  • applying for seed, secondment or other theme grants?
  • If not, why not?
• Do you have research partners:
  • in clinical setting(s)?
  • in the community?
OVERVIEW

STRENGTHS-BASED AND INCLUSIVE

Four Themes:

• Cancer
• Infectious Disease, Immunity and Inflammation
• Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions
• Non-Communicable Diseases
  (in partnership with The George Institute)
PARTNERSHIP

UNSW MEDICINE AND SPHERE

Internal Faculties
Medicine
Arts & Social Sciences
Engineering
Science
and more
PARTNERSHIP

UNSW MEDICINE AND SPHERE

Internal Faculties
Medicine
Arts & Social Sciences
Engineering
Science
and more

Universities
University of Technology Sydney
Western Sydney University

Medical Research Institutes
Black Dog Institute
Centre for Eye Health
Children’s Cancer Institute
Garvan Institute
Ingham Institute
NeuRA
The George Institute
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute

Health Providers
South Eastern Sydney LHD
South Western Sydney LHD
St Vincent’s Hospital Sydney
Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network
GROWING CAPACITY

Supporting research across Schools, Centres and Institutes, and investing in critical enabling capabilities, special populations and clinical settings.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- Big Data in Health
- Genomics
- Primary Care
- Single Molecule Science
- Vulnerable Communities
- Women and Children
INVESTMENT and LEVERAGE

MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

**Theme investment**
$1.95M seed grants (2017/18)
Networking / exchange
BIG Ideas
CRM platform

**SPHERE leverage**
Formalised partnership
CAG grants $167K/year

**New Collaborations & Funding**
≥ $6M grants and philanthropy in <2yrs
# CONTACTS

**MEDICINE.THEMES@UNSW.EDU.AU**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNSW Medicine Theme</th>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>Executive Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Prof Michael Barton</td>
<td>Dr Tanya Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:michael.barton@unsw.edu.au">michael.barton@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious Disease, Immunity and Inflammation</td>
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<td>Dr Rebekah Puls</td>
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<td>Prof Michael Farrell</td>
<td>Dr Lise Mellor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HTTPS://MED.UNSW.EDU.AU/RESEARCH
## RESEARCH SUPPORT TEAM

**B.SZMAJDA@UNSW.EDU.AU**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team members</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha McFedries</td>
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<td>Sudipta Paul</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[HTTPS://MED.UNSW.EDU.AU/RESEARCH](HTTPS://MED.UNSW.EDU.AU/RESEARCH)
GET INVOLVED

WORKING TOGETHER TO BREAK DOWN SILOS AND STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

https://med.unsw.edu.au/research

- Annual collaborative seed grants
- Areas of Focus / Collaboration groups
- BIG Ideas
- eNewsletters
- Twitter
UNSW Medicine

NEUROSCIENCE, MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION
WHO WE ARE

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

• Approximately 500 “active members”
• Basic to implementation researchers, including about one third clinicians
• Early Career Researchers to Senior Executives in Health Sector
• 12 SPHERE Partners represented
• Management Committee (Executive Committee) for CAG established with Michael Farrell and SWS LHD Director of Mental Health appointed as co-chairs and academic and clinical co-leads identified for four sub-themes
• Committee membership consists of representatives from neuroscience, mental health and addictions, including clinical leadership from all represented local health districts
• Further recruitment has been facilitated by hosting collaboration meetings for each sub-theme and two seed funding rounds since initiation
UNSW Theme and SPHERE CAG

**ALIGNMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Co-leads</th>
<th>Key areas of focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children and Adolescent Wellbeing</strong></td>
<td>Scientia Professor Helen Christensen and Associate Professor Nadine Kasparian</td>
<td>- Suicide prevention&lt;br&gt;- Prevention, identification and treatment of depression and anxiety&lt;br&gt;- Substance use and abuse&lt;br&gt;- Psychobiological risk and resilience in response to early adversity&lt;br&gt;- Mental health literacy in children and adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complex and Difficult to Treat Diseases</strong></td>
<td>Professors Philip Ward and Peter Schofield</td>
<td>- Schizophrenia and related psychoses&lt;br&gt;- Bipolar disorder&lt;br&gt;- Treatment resistant depression&lt;br&gt;- Trauma related conditions&lt;br&gt;- Alcohol and drug addictions and their co-morbidities&lt;br&gt;- Behavioural change in the context of lifestyle and social adversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Healthy Ageing</strong></td>
<td>Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty and Professor Meera Agar</td>
<td>- Cognitive ageing (including dementia)&lt;br&gt;- Prevention and treatment of frailty, immobility and falls&lt;br&gt;- Pain management in older people&lt;br&gt;- Mental health and positive ageing&lt;br&gt;- Biology, prevention and treatment of delirium&lt;br&gt;- Stroke prevention and treatments&lt;br&gt;- Alcohol and prescription opioids in the elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience</strong></td>
<td>Scientia Professors Bernard Balleine, Nigel Lovell and Professor Gary Housley</td>
<td>- The interface of regulation and emotion&lt;br&gt;- Executive function and decision-making&lt;br&gt;- The mind – machine nexus&lt;br&gt;- Neural coding&lt;br&gt;- Neural therapeutics&lt;br&gt;- Neural prosthetics&lt;br&gt;- Neuromodulation and stimulation strategies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW WE WORK

LEADERSHIP, INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Shared academic and clinical leadership
- Collaboration meetings hosted for each sub-theme with >80 invitees
- CAG Executive Committee determined a common research strategy, including sub-themes and key areas of focus, a combined budget and shared funding
- The 2017-2019 SPHERE Operational Plan was developed and approved by Executive Committee, Faculty and SPHERE – 2019 in draft at present
- Activities communicated to membership via Theme & CAG newsletter with open invitation to participate
- All SPHERE partners engaged in this manner, with >3 Hospitals represented at each meeting
- Clinical leadership and LHD participation essential criteria for seed funding
- 2018 Seed Funding criteria required involvement of 4 or more CAG partners
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

OVERVIEW

• Establishment of governance framework to incorporate CAG and UNSW Faculty of Medicine Theme of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions
• Appointment of Executive Committee, Executive Officer, shared leadership for four Sub-Themes and >25 smaller working groups
• 8 collaborations meetings held (average invite 80 to 100 people with >25 in attendance at each)
• Email communications implemented and digital communications strategy (including email, newsletter and social media) commenced in 2018 – newsletter, twitter and website
• Three rounds of seed funding with 59 new multi-partner and multi-disciplinary research collaboration teams created and 18 projects funded in 2017 and 2018
• Visiting Scholars hosted for seminar and collaborative workshops
• Workshop design and delivery of CAG strategy to UNSW HDR Mentoring program
• Membership increase from 144 to 370 through collaboration meetings and seed funding teams
• Leveraged funding to $18,439,015
• Successful application for UNSW Futures Initiative – Ageing Futures
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

THEME AND CAG

• There is enthusiasm for collaboration despite time restraints
• Directive to engage four or more CAG partners well received
• CAG has enabled new research collaborations between local health districts
• $40K Seed funding model has been successful towards further grant funding and has enabled new collaboration teams to generate track record
• CAG has benefited from alignment with UNSW Faculty Theme
• Regular communication essential – digital strategy now in place
• All members have multiple affiliations and often multiple alliances – at times requiring delineation
UNSW Medicine

INFECTIONOUS DISEASE, IMMUNITY AND INFLAMMATION
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, IMMUNITY AND INFLAMMATION THEME

Theme Lead: Professor Anthony Kelleher

Executive Officer: Dr Rebekah Puls
r.puls@unsw.edu.au

III includes internationally prominent researchers, educators and clinicians leading in the understanding, prevention and treatment of complex infections and conditions.
Areas of focus include:

- Prevention and treatment of infectious disease
- Immune dysfunction
- Inflammation and associated disorders
Seed grant funding awarded 2017 and 2018:

Seed funding -
4 x $75,000/yr of combined UNSW Theme/SPHERE funds
must represent at least 3 partners and ≥2 E/MCR and create new or extend existing networks
significant clinician/community/peak body inclusion to create multidisciplinary teams
external, non-NSW independent peer review

2017 - 18 applications - 2 of 4 awards made to E/MCR

2018 - 16 applications – 1 of 4 awards made to E/MCR

Recipients subsequently leveraged significant funding - NHMRC Grants, two significant philanthropic
awards to progress the programs of work

2019 open 1st March, closing 1st August 2019
Working groups have evolved from seed grants awarded:

Allergy (lead by Professor Andrew Carr)

Autoimmunity (co-lead by Professor Anthony Kelleher and Professor Christopher Goodnow)

Human Papilloma Virus (co-lead by Professor Andrew Grulich and A/Professor Richard Hillman)

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (lead by Professor Georgina Hold)

Liver Disease and Cancer (co-lead by Professor Nicholas Shackel and Professor Golo Ahlenstiel)

Primary Immunodeficiency (CIRCA network) (lead by Professor Stuart Tangye)
Other schemes/initiatives:

Annual Meeting – 30th May 2019 @ UNSW

Collaborative workshops – immune dysfunction and inflammation
Facilitated workshops new and developing ideas, put together groups of interested researchers/clinicians/data scientists/community to build ideas
Open 1st March, close 1st May – workshop to be run July/August

Secondment grants (4 x $5,000), aimed at E/MCR to build capacity and link researchers, clinicians/health districts and laboratory environments - open Sept for award Nov 2019

Newsletter

Twitter soon!
UNSW Medicine

NON-COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE
NCD theme is an incubator for current and emerging research strengths spanning the spectrum of non communicable diseases.
NCD Research Areas Include:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Vascular health
- Cerebrovascular disease and stroke
- Kidney and renal disease
- Diabetes
- Respiratory health and disease
- Musculoskeletal health
- Endocrinological health
- Occupational and community health research and policy
- Early interventions
Across theme areas of interest include:
The health of women, girls and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
Research on health-focused social enterprises
Preventative health policy
Health care delivery
The influence of diet and activity on health
SPHERE CAG
CARDIAC AND VASCULAR HEALTH CAG

Approved end of last year for commencement 2019
Inaugural workshop on 12 March at The George Institute
ALL WELCOME – come and be involved from the outset!
Contact:
Executive Officer: Dr Karen Kool
kkool@georgeinstitute.org.au
CAG CO-LEADERS
Vlado Perkovic, The George Institute
Craig Juergens, Liverpool Hospital

Focus areas and co-chairs
1. **Mechanisms and causes of disease**
   Jamie Vandenberg, VCCRI; Kerry-Anne Rye, SoMS
2. **Identifying best treatments**
   John French, Liverpool Hospital; Nigel Jepson, POW Clinical School
3. **Optimising uptake of proven therapies**
   Bronwyn Everett, WSU; Sze-Yuan Ooi, POW Hospital
4. **Protecting the community from CV disease**
   Kishor Kadappu, Campbelltown Hospital; Bruce Neal, The George Institute
UNSW Medicine

Cancer
WHO WE ARE

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership
• 10 of 14 SPHERE organisational partners
• 3x Translational Cancer Research Centres
• Consumer representatives

Role
• Value-add: developing collaborations, unifying strategic direction, big ideas
• National and international impact
## HOW WE WORK

### AREAS OF FOCUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Focus</th>
<th>Lead</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bringing ‘OMICs’ into clinical practice</td>
<td>Prof David Thomas [Garvan / UNSW]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving poor outcomes cancers</td>
<td>Prof David Goldstein [UNSW]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living better with and after cancer</td>
<td>Prof Meera Agar [UTS / UNSW]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing unwarranted variation in clinical practice</td>
<td>A/Prof Winston Liauw [SESLHD / UNSW]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

### AREAS OF FOCUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$900k+ Grant Funds</th>
<th>BIG Ideas</th>
<th>Infrastructure Projects</th>
<th>Networking Events</th>
<th>500+ Members</th>
<th>10 Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Money Bag Icon]</td>
<td>![Light Bulb Icon]</td>
<td>![Puzzle Piece Icon]</td>
<td>![Networking Icon]</td>
<td>![Team Icon]</td>
<td>![Handshake Icon]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GET INVOLVED

BE INFORMED AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION

https://twitter.com/CancerSPHERE

https://med.unsw.edu.au/cancer
GET INVOLVED

CANCER THEME: STRENGTHS BASED AND INCLUSIVE NETWORK
GET INVOLVED

CONTACT us! MEDICINE.THEMES@UNSW.EDU.AU

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Lead, Cancer CAG
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A/Prof Phoebe Phillips
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Dr Tanya Ward
Executive Officer, Cancer Theme & CAG
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