

Chairman's Report

Professor Adrian Polglase

The first year of the new millennium is closing and I am very pleased to report on the significant accomplishments and events associated with the Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit in 2001 through this inaugural Newsletter complimenting the Progress Report and Operational Plan sent to you in September 2001.

A major development has been the development of our bowel cancer awareness programme - "*Beating Bowel Cancer*". In 2002 this will continue to progress and we hope to establish links with a high profile organization or individual to significantly expand the public awareness campaign.

Mr Simon Woods, FRACS, was appointed as Clinical Dean and Senior Lecturer in the Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit in May of this year.

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ALCCas Trial

Australasian Multicentre Prospective Randomised Study of Laparoscopic versus Conventional Surgery of Colon Cancer

In November 2001 the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) approved the application for project grant funding for the ALCCaS trial. This study compares Laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery versus conventional open surgery for the treatment of bowel cancer, aiming to demonstrate which technique of surgery is best suited to the treatment of bowel cancer.

The award of the Project Grant assures the financial status of the project for a three further years and raises the profile of the study.

The funding will be used to provide salaries for the Research Assistants collecting the data and to further promote and advertise the trial widely around Australia.

The Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit through Mr Paul McMurrick and Professor Adrian Polglase is actively involved in the trial and is the Central Data Collection Center for Victoria. It also provides research support for accredited Victorian surgeons.

There is a cumulative total of 240 patients enrolled in the study as at 1/11/01

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Simon was recently the Head of the Upper Gastrointestinal Unit at The Alfred Hospital and we are most fortunate that he is now focusing his clinical activities at Cabrini Hospital. Simon's current research interest is in the investigation of a possible infective cause of post-operative nausea and vomiting which may lead to more effective prevention & treatment.

Cabrini Hospital like many other major hospitals is a teaching hospital and for a number of years has been linked with Monash University and participated in the final year medical student teaching programme. The programme at Cabrini has always been highly rated by the students as it has embraced a broad range of medical and surgical specialties. Its success has undoubtedly been due to the enthusiastic commitment of the clinical teachers & the willing cooperation of the many patients who are treated at Cabrini. In 2002 the medical student education programme will be changing to one with a more clinical focus and planning is currently underway to ensure it provides an outstanding clinical teaching experience by involving students in *SELECTIVES*. The concept of Selectives is to enable students to form part of a clinical team allowing an increased opportunity to consolidate understanding and insight relating to the context in which illness occurs and how this may influence clinical presentation and management. As well Selectives will further develop independent learning skills, consolidate and further develop basic procedural skills and the place of evidence based medicine in clinical practice. At Cabrini the medical students will be participating in the Selectives of General Medicine, Surgery, ICU/Cardiology and Oncology/Palliative care during the 2002 curriculum year. A maximum of 4 students per Selective will be based at Cabrini for a six-week rotation.

The Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit remains committed to clinical research and education and was well represented at a number of conferences and meetings reporting the clinical research results of the Unit. The most significant are reported later in this Newsletter.

The postgraduate teaching role of the Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit continues to develop and in 2001 a workshop educating surgeons on the technique of Laparoscopic Incisional Hernia Repair was held. This was the first workshop on this procedure held in Australia. The 3rd Annual Sir Edward Hughes Memorial Clinical Research Prize was successfully held in October. Thirty surgical trainees submitted abstracts for consideration reflecting the growing prestige of the award.

Cabrini is fortunate to have a rotating Surgical Registrar trainee from the Alfred Hospital who is involved in the day to day care of surgical patients and assists surgeons in the Operating Room. The Registrar is also involved in student teaching and is actively encouraged to undertake a research project during the rotation.

I wish to thank everybody who has so generously supported our work in 2001 and look forward to keeping you up to date with further Newsletters in 2002. I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a Happy Festive Season and a Healthy New Year.

ADRIAN POLGLASE

Professor of Surgery
Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit
Cabrini Hospital

GORE-TEX® WORKSHOP

On Saturday September 1st, 2001 a group of surgeons from around Australia and New Zealand attended a workshop at Cabrini Hospital on incisional and ventral hernia repairs.

The workshop focused on the new technique of employing laparoscopic (keyhole) technology to insert a patch of a special mesh material into the abdomen. The patch is made of GORE-TEX® and is specially designed so that one side adheres firmly to the muscle, but the other side does not adhere to the intestine.

Cabrini surgeon Mr Simon Woods and the Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit organized the workshop under the auspices of the Cabrini Clinical Education & Research Institute. Dr Roy Smoot, Surgeon from Delaware USA and Dr Janson Emmanuel, experimental histopathologist from Arizona joined Mr Woods in teaching the technique and the principles underlying it.

The workshop was supported by WL Gore and Associates, Inc. Olympus, Tyco and Matrix Medical generously supplied equipment for the hands on laboratory component of the course.

The Sir Edward Hughes Memorial Clinical Research Prize in Surgery

The Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit together with Cabrini Clinical Education and Research Institute and Johnson & Johnson Medical Pty Ltd presented the 3rd Annual Sir Edward Hughes Memorial Clinical Research Prize in Surgery on October 27th, 2001.

Surgical trainees in Australasia were invited to submit abstracts relating to original scientific work and ten were selected for formal presentation on the day. The prize is the first to be established to provide an Australian and New Zealand forum whereby clinical research among surgical trainees can be presented and adjudicated.

The recipient of the 2001 Sir Edward Hughes Memorial Clinical Research Prize in Surgery was Dr Paul Moroz from the Royal Perth Hospital in Western Australia and who presented the results of a prospective study to assess the response of liver tumours to arterial embolization hyperthermia in a small animal model.

*First Australian and New Zealand opportunity for
clinical research amongst trainees to be
presented adjudicated*

The previous winners of the award are:

1999 Dr Charles Douglas

A randomised trial of ultrasonography in the diagnosis of acute appendicitis incorporating the Alvarado score

2000 Dr Marinis Pirpiris

Iatrogenic crouch gait: an avoidable complication of calf lengthening!

The prize was fully sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Medical Pty Ltd and consisted of a medallion, \$5000.00 and the opportunity to present the paper at the Annual Scientific Congress of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons 2002.

SMALL BOWEL IMAGING PROJECT

CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY

A promising project which has recently commenced at Cabrini aims to evaluate the effective performance of the Given®Diagnostic Imaging System in diagnosing disorders in the small bowel.

The Given®Diagnostic Imaging System is a camera containing a capsule which is ingested after an 8-hour fast and progresses through the small intestine propelled by peristalsis.

Images are transmitted to an external receiver which is worn by the patient and subsequently processed by a computer. The capsule is passed naturally and not retrieved.

This technique is used most commonly to diagnose causes of intestinal bleeding from the small bowel not the large bowel (colon) or rectum. It is not a substitute for colonoscopy.

Virtual Colonoscopy

CT Colonography

The Virtual Colonoscopy project aims to determine if CT-Colonography (Virtual Colonography) is as accurate as colonoscopy in detecting pathology.

CT-Colonography is a rapidly evolving radiological technique utilizing the benefits of computer workstation reconstruction to display the colon in different viewing formats which in the future may become the most accurate non-invasive screening test for detecting polyps and bowel cancer.

The CT-colonography requires the same bowel preparation as the traditional colonoscopy however it does not require an anaesthetic.

New Screening Techniques



An example of a virtual image

Information on Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit can be located at the website:

www.med.monash.edu.au/surgery/cabrini

CLINICAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES 2001

The Cabrini Monash University Academic Surgical Unit remains committed to clinical research and the focus of research activities is principally on "*Beating Bowel Cancer*" and the investigation of bowel disorders

CURRENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

ALCCaS TRIAL: Australasian clinical study comparing laparoscopic and conventional open surgical treatments of colorectal cancer in adults. PJ McMurrick, AL Polglase

LOCAL RECURRENCE AFTER CURATIVE SURGERY FOR CARCINOMA OF THE RECTUM:
AL Polglase, A Tremayne, P Bhathal

THE MELBOURNE ASHKENAZI BOWEL CANCER STUDY STAGE II: Expansion of the trial in collaboration with The Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute to establish genetic testing at Cabrini. H Debinski, AL Polglase

RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF THE COX II INHIBITOR REFOCOXIB (Vioxx) IN PATIENTS WITH COLON POLYPS. International study to assess whether bowel cancer can be prevented by regular intake of a COX II inhibitor. F Macrae, AL Polglase, P McMurrick, C Farmer, R Wale, I Jones, W Johnson, P Grossberg

HELICOBACTER PYLORI INCIDENCE IN PATIENTS WITH POST ANAESTHETIC NAUSEA:
S Woods, J Clooney

GIVEN® DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SYSTEM IN OBSCURE GASTROINTESTINAL BLEEDING:
H Debinski, C Farmer, J Hooper

VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY: Prospective study to explore the diagnostic accuracy of CT Colonography
A Little, AL Polglase, A Lavioipierre, G Lawler, J Cameron, M Schneider-Kolsky, J Clooney

MICROSATELLITE INSTABILITY PROJECT (MSI): Genetic determinants of outcome in colorectal cancer in patients under the age of 50 years H Debinski, PJ McMurrick, AL Polglase

ESTABLISHING THE SHELF-LIFE OF STERILISED FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPES: Multicentre study to review current practice and potentially provide evidence for more cost effective management of flexible endoscopes whilst still maintaining patients safety. R Riley, AL Polglase, C Beanland, H Bos

PROSTATE CANCER & BOWEL CANCER: Exploring the relationship between cancer of the prostate and cancer of the bowel. AL Polglase, A Moot, D Gunter, V Thursfield, OM Garson, G Giles

**For further information regarding clinical trials please contact our Research Nurse,
Jody Clooney on 9508 1651**

UNIT ACTIVITIES 2001

PUBLICATIONS 2001

Local Recurrence After Curative Anterior Resection With Principally Blunt Dissection For Carcinoma Of The Rectum And Rectosigmoid. A.L Polglase, PJ McMurrick, AB Tremayne, PS Bhathal Dis Col Rectum. 2001; 44: Number 7 947 - 954

*"Currently the Diseases of the Colon & Rectum enjoys
the highest impact factor for a specialist colorectal journal"*

CR9 The Melbourne Ashkenazi Bowel Cancer Study. A.L Polglase, H.S Debinski, L Curnow, M Southey, J Savulescu. Aust NZ J Surg, 2001; 71: Suppl.

Treatment of anal fissure with glyceryl trinitrate in patients referred for surgical management. SA Skinner, AL Polglase, CT Lee, JD Winnett. Aust NZ J Surg, 2001;71: Number 4 218-220

MANUSCRIPTS: SUBMITTED 2001

Colorectal cancer in men is associated with an increased risk for prostate cancer. British Journal of Surgery. A Moot, A Polglase, G Giles, OM Garson, V Thursfield, D Gunter.

Transendoscopic Microsurgery (TEM): the first 50 cases. ANZ Journal of Surgery C Farmer, R Wale, J Winnett, I Cunningham, P Grossberg, A Polglase

MANUSCRIPTS: IN PREPARATION

Anastomotic leakage after double stapled colorectal anastomosis. P McMurrick, A Polglase, A Tremayne

Local recurrence after curative surgery for carcinoma of the rectum. A Polglase, S Grodski, A Tremayne, P Bhathal.

Cancer of the colon: Outcomes of patients with colon cancer in a series of 210 patients treated by one surgeon. A Polglase, A Tremayne, P Bhathal

PUBLICATIONS: IN THE PRESS

Polglase, A.L. Colorectal Cancer. *E-MIMS Disease Index* (electronic format) Nov 2001

UNIT ACTIVITIES 2001

LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS 2001

Laparoscopic Ventral & Incisional Hernia Repair with GORE-TEX® DUALMESH® PLUS Workshop, Cabrini Hospital, Melbourne, Sept 2001

Selective, Not Routine, Neo-Adjuvant or Adjuvant Chemoradiation in the Surgical Treatment of Rectal Cancer. Cabrini Institute Research Meeting. Cabrini Hospital, Melbourne, August 2001

The Melbourne Ashkenazi Bowel Cancer Study. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Annual Scientific Congress, Canberra, May 2001.

Beating Bowel Cancer. Rotary Club, Melbourne, February 2001

POSTER PRESENTATIONS 2001

Colorectal cancer in men is associated with an increased risk for prostate cancer.

AL Polglase, AR Moot, V Thursfield, OM Garson, G Giles, D Gunter. Cabrini Hospital, Melbourne Nov 2001

Evaluation of Jewish community attitudes to genetic testing.

H Debinksi, L Curnow, AL Polgase, J Savulescu. Cabrini Hospital, Melbourne Nov 2001



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