



ST VINCENT'S  
HEALTH NETWORK  
SYDNEY



# St Vincent's Voice

Spring 2024

# St Vincent's Voice

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Dalarinji; Ours belonging to us

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and water where we live and work. We respect their spiritual connections to country and community and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.



## Message from CEO, Anna McFadgen

We've had a very busy period since the last edition of St Vincent's Voice.

I'm so proud of the way our people worked together during SNAP accreditation to really showcase all that we do as the compassionate, dedicated and highly skilled professionals we are.

Equally inspiring was to see the calibre of nominations and winners of our St Vincent's Staff Awards, the innovation on display during Research Week and the improvement projects under way to enhance patient care and experience.

You can read about some of these initiatives in this edition, which I hope you enjoy.

Anna.

# Digitising the Elective Surgery Pathway

In response to patient feedback regarding communication gaps while awaiting surgery, St Vincent's have recently launched digital enhancements to the elective surgery patient pathway. This initiative will replace the existing paper-based process with a complete digital solution, operating through the CareMonitor platform.

The new digital system automates scheduled, timely communication with patients ensuring more consistent, clearer contact throughout the waiting period.

Using a mobile app, patients can complete screening, manage check-ins and access patient resources, prior to their surgery admission.

Additionally the web portal allows staff to identify bottlenecks in patient preparedness and improve the legibility and completeness of patient information via digital forms.

In-app messaging between staff and patients increases the quality of communication, streamlining administration and enhancing the overall quality of care provided by teams and a more seamless experience for our patients.

Importantly, patients were central to the design and development of the digital pathway – their experience informing key elements and inclusions.

The new digital surgery pathway went live this September.

“ Removing the paper from our processes has brought a variety of benefits, including instant visibility of our patients and brings us into the modern era. ”

Dr Anthony Grabs, Director of Surgery Stream & Clinical Executive Director Acute Services - Medical



Digital Pathway team members: Danielle Pons, Anna McFadgen, Kate Jamieson and Chris Ball

# Accreditation Success ✓

Recently undergoing our National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards Short Notice Assessment - after four days of thoroughly assessing every part of our Hospital, the Surveyors awarded St Vincent's Health Network Sydney with full Accreditation, with no recommendations, and a rare 3/3 ACSQHC maturity rating for Research and Clinical Trials; an outstanding result.

Importantly, the Surveyors spoke about the extent to which they saw our St Vincent's Mission and Values in action; the embedded teamwork approach they witnessed in our patient safety and improvement journey and the level of dedication and commitment our people displayed for delivering the best outcomes and experiences for our patients and clients.

## Rising Star Award

Congratulations to Dr Jennifer Snaith, St Vincent's Endocrinologist and Research Fellow at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, who is the recipient the 2024 Australian Diabetes Society 'Rising Star' Award.

Dr Snaith's research assesses how adjunctive therapies may enhance metabolic health in patients with type 1 diabetes.



Dr Jennifer Snaith

# The Kinghorn Cancer Centre awarded 'Hospital of the Year'.



Patient Alyson Frost with Dr Georgia McCaughan

St Vincent's Kinghorn Cancer Centre has been awarded an 'Outstanding Hospital' award at the Australian Patients Association annual awards for 2024.

Nominated by patient Alyson Frost who has received care at the Kinghorn Cancer Centre and within our Haematology & Bone Marrow Transplant Unit - Alyson's nomination singled out our team's outstanding professionalism and communication skills as well as respect, compassion and care.

# St Vincent's NELUNE Men's Health Centre opens

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia, with one in six men diagnosed by the age of 85. A cancer diagnosis presents not only medical but also practical, social and psychological needs that are individual to each patient.

The NELUNE Men's Health Centre was created by St Vincent's clinicians in growing recognition of an unmet diversity of needs, and aims to provide comprehensive, wrap-around care for men with prostate cancer.

With a one-door approach, the Centre offers a centralised location where patients can seamlessly navigate through the healthcare system - supported by St Vincent's expertise in urology, radiation oncology, medical oncology, cancer genetics, theranostics, psychology, allied health and nursing.

Additionally the centre includes on-site allied health services, allowing men to receive comprehensive care from a multidisciplinary team of nurses, physiotherapists, psychosexual therapists, psychologists, dietitians and social workers - all in one location.

The Centre, which is free for public and private patients alike is the first of its kind in the NSW.

The Centre is located at Suite 1 The Kinghorn Cancer Centre, 370 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst, and was made possible by philanthropic support from St Vincent's Curran Foundation and the NELUNE Foundation.



Dr David Ende, St Vincent's Urologist is a key member of the Men's Health team

# Celebrating Excellence at St Vincent's Staff Awards 2024

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney's Staff Excellence Awards recognise the expertise, care and effort of the people who help make St Vincent's what it is - and to showcase the individual and collective achievements of our people who inspire us every day in the delivery of better and fairer care for the community we are fortunate to serve.

Congratulations to everyone who received an award and all our winners!



Dalarinji Award: Beverley Moreton



Patient Experience Award:  
Arts Health Program



People and Culture Award: Drug &  
Alcohol Admin Team



CEO Award: Surgery Team - Hitting  
Triple Zero

## Staff member of the year, Genevieve Wallace

As Senior Legal Counsel for St Vincent's Health Network and St Vincent's Private, Genevieve's leadership, professionalism and dedication have led her to solve some of our Organisation's most complex legal issues with calmness and precision, always with patient and staff outcomes at the forefront of her mind.

Her work with St Vincent's Health at Parklea Correctional Centre, St Joseph's Hospital and more recently, her involvement in the Special Commission Into Healthcare Funding have been invaluable to our organisation.



## Volunteer of the Year: Caroline Duffy, John MacDonald, Kerry Little, Elvana Hardie and Ro Dermody



## Safe, Effective Care Award: Bondi Response Team



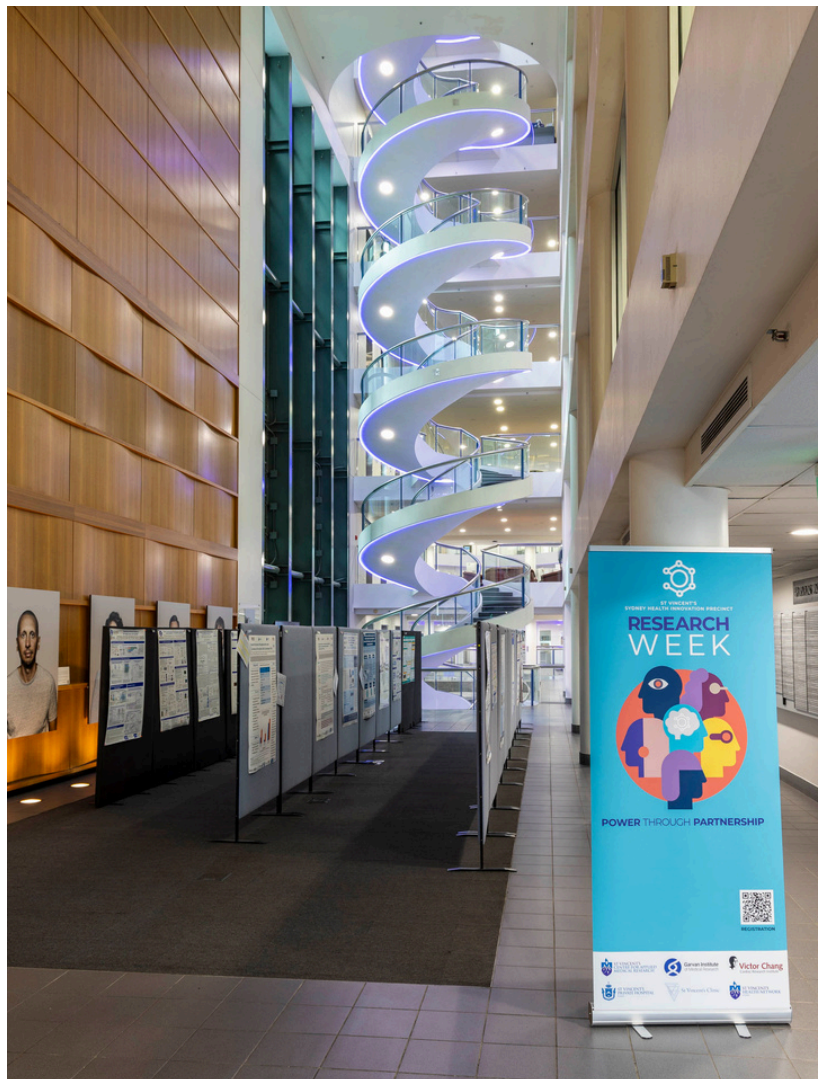
## Research Award: Cooling Hubs

# Research Week 2024

St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct Research Week is our annual research event for more than 30 years, providing opportunities for researchers and healthcare providers from our Precinct partners and beyond, to present and discuss their research, learn more about the depth and breadth of research and development that is happening across our partners and collaborators, gain knowledge from external national and international experts, and to build connections and new collaborations.

Early career researchers were able to upskill in various areas, including AI in health and research, research ethics, science communication, and translation and industry engagement.

During the week presentations include incredible innovations from St Vincent's Hospitals (public and private), Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, and St Vincent's Clinic, as well as from collaborators who share our passion for health, research and education, including University of New South Wales, Kirby Institute, Nursing Research Institute, University of Notre Dame, Australian Catholic University, and Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety & Depression, Cunningham Centre for Palliative Care, and National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs.





# New Clinical Research role to Drive Heart Lung Research at St Vincent's

St Vincent's have appointed esteemed cardiologist, Associate Professor Clare Arnott as the inaugural Pagent Family Director of Clinical Research, Heart Lung.

The newly created role will expedite advancements across the Heart Lung Clinical Stream in clinical trials research, focussing on mechanical heart, minimally invasive valve trials, organ perfusion, and transplant and cardiac imaging.

A position made possible by a visionary gift from the Pagent family, this generous donation

will enable the Heart Lung team to continue to lead clinical innovations in the important interaction between heart and lung health for improved health outcomes.

Her pioneering work closely aligns with St Vincent's mission to provide cutting-edge research informed care; and to extend the reach of current research programs to new areas across heart-lung diagnosis, prevention, treatment and care.

As part of her role at St Vincent's, A/Prof Arnott will

hold a conjoint appointment with the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research.

"This exciting new area of leadership underscores our dedication to fostering a collaborative environment where leading experts can push the boundaries of medical science to advance translational research with faster and more direct patient benefits," said Prof Michael Feneley AM, Director of the Heart-Lung Program and Cardiology.

“I'm excited to join the St Vincent's team, with whom I share many core values around equity, diversity, inclusion and service to the community.”



A/Prof Clare Arnott

# Celebrating 40 years of life-saving impact

1984 in Australia was a year filled with milestones. Medicare was introduced, Advance Australia Fair was proclaimed as the National anthem, and green and gold became our national colours. In a landmark year, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney also commenced its heart transplant program with Dr Victor Chang AC performing the successful heart transplant on then 14 year old Fiona Coote AM, and opened Australia's first dedicated HIV/AIDS ward.

Charles Curran AC, then Chair of the St Vincent's Hospital board reflects, "In 1984, the hospital was ready to commence the heart transplant program. Staff were trained and ready, and there were patients on the waiting list who were sadly dying.

Although we did not have the funds required to supplement government funding, thankfully we received an extraordinary gift from a grateful patient to move forward.

As Chairman of St Vincent's Hospital Board, I did not want my successors to be faced with this again. The Paul and Elizabeth Curran Foundation was established with a founding gift from my parents of \$500,000. Since then, the Foundation has gone on to support our hospitals in their growth, innovation and perhaps most importantly, to continue the mission of the Sisters of Charity to provide compassionate care for all."

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In October 2024, St Vincent's Curran Foundation marks 40 years of supporting life-saving and life-changing healthcare thanks to our generous supporters.

Over the past four decades, the Foundation has supported St Vincent's hospitals in advancing medical breakthroughs, including Australian and world-first innovations. It has facilitated access to healthcare for those most in need, supported our doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, and research staff to continue to develop and excel. Generous donations have funded critical equipment upgrades and major capital projects.



1990 Linear Accelerator - Fr Brian Lucas, Deborah Linwood, Charles Curran AC, The late Dr Derek Berg, Dr Ron Spencer, The late Sr Claire Nolan rsc, Leslie Anderson, The late Bill Paget, Trish Burns AM, Kevin Mudie.



# New Scrubs for our Nurses!

We want our nurses to look and feel like the professionals they are.

After telling us our current uniforms really weren't up to scratch, we're delivering the uniforms that they want to wear.

Our new nursing scrubs will provide a professional yet functional work wardrobe that reflects the outstanding work they do every day, and that they can feel proud to wear.

**We think they scrub up nicely!**

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