

CONROD NEWS

OCTOBER 2009



Welcome to **CONROD News**; **CONROD's** news and knowledge hub. The Centre aims to distribute this informative newsletter on a regular basis to foster the ongoing support the Centre currently enjoys and to facilitate an even greater casting of our knowledge net.

QTR presents at Seminar

A team from the Queensland Trauma Registry recently facilitated an engaging and informative session in the latest instalment of the **CONROD Seminar Series**.

Associate Professor Cliff Pollard (QTR Director), Kathy Harvey (QTR Manager) and Jacelle Lang (QTR Senior Research Officer) presented an overview of the Queensland Trauma Registry (QTR) at the **CONROD Seminar Series** held at the UQ School of Medicine, Herston, on 17 September 2009.

The most exciting component of QTR activities is the many uses for the Registry's data. Among the available statistics at present is the 2008 Queensland trauma data collection. This body of work represents some 15,000 cases, 1,900 of which reflect major injury (Injury Severity Score >16).

Data collected by QTR is available for clinicians involved in the care and quality review of trauma patients, hospital managers involved in planning and allocating resources for patient care, those working in injury prevention, and those conducting scientific research to reduce future incidence and burden of injury and improve trauma management and outcomes.

Unlike most other trauma registries worldwide, the QTR does not exclude from its collection:

- Minor injuries (ISS <16)
- Children (0 to 14 years)
- Fractured hips ...

Therefore, we know that in 2008:

- 13% of all injuries recorded in the QTR occurred in children
- 10 children died in hospital following injury
- 95 in-hospital deaths occurred in the elderly who had #NOF injuries.

The injury event 'picture' was relatively consistent over the 4 years from 2005 to 2008:

- Males consistently represented two-thirds of all injuries
- Consistently, external causes were falls, followed by RTCs, followed by struck by or collision with person or object
- Fractures consistently at 56%; intracranial injury 8%-9%
- Median length of acute hospital stay = 4 days consistently
- ICU admissions = 9% – 10%



Falls and Road Traffic Crashes were the most common causes of injury:

	FALLS	RTCs
Average age Males	46 yrs	33 yrs
Average age Females	65 yrs	38 yrs
% Major injury	10 %	24%
% Referred	26%	33%
% not transferred home after acute care	26%	12%
% transferred to a nursing home	12% (n = 191)	2% (n = 9)
% deaths	3.3% (n = 204)	2.6% (n = 94)

QTR Annual Reports can be found under the Acute Care drop down on the **CONROD** website at www.conrod.uq.edu.au.

Associate Professor Michele Sterling has been awarded membership to the Australian College of Physiotherapists for her research work on whiplash-associated disorders. The award is in recognition of high standards of clinical skill and scholarship with respect to the physiotherapy profession.

CONROD home to green pastures

Katherine Green is the new face on the front desk at CONROD.

Replacing Robyn Clapshaw following her recent move onto new endeavours, Katherine works part-time as receptionist while using the rest of her time to undertake a Masters of International Studies (Peace and Conflict) and volunteers at the Multicultural Development Association (MDA) with newly arrived refugees in Brisbane.

She has travelled extensively through Africa, Asia, Europe and America, and has been involved in a range of voluntary work for UNICEF, World Vision and World Youth International in Kenya. Katherine has recently moved from Adelaide and loves her new job working at CONROD.

Say G'day next time you call or drop in to the Centre.



Inpatient complications up for review

A team of CONROD researchers have beaten an array of some 200 submissions to have a body of research accepted for presentation at the 6th Annual Health Services Research and Policy Conference.

Held in Brisbane in 2009 from November 25 to 27, the conference was first held in Sydney in 1999 and came about to provide a forum for researchers who wanted to meet as health services researchers and to promote dialogue between research and policy.

David Rowell, Hong Son Nghiem, Christine Jorm and former staff researcher Terri Jackson conducted an analysis of the frequency and cost of complications that affect adult inpatients over 70 years compared with those aged 40-70 years. A secondary analysis of administrative data, which included the clinical diagnosis and patient level costs of inpatients from 68 public hospitals, (i.e. 1.69 million separations) has also been conducted.

Titled *How different are complications, which affect the older adult inpatient?* the presentation will be conducted by David Rowell and will outline detailed information pertaining to this invaluable analysis.

Visit the conference website for more information
www.healthservicesconference.com.au

Congrats Andy!

Andy Chien was awarded his PhD in September and has taken up an academic position at the University of Melbourne. CONROD wishes him all the very best in his new role.



Action stations for Rehab Team

Five members of the CONROD Rehabilitation team (A/Prof Michele Sterling, Dr Jim Elliott, Andrew Stone, Ash Pedler and Helena Motlagh) will present papers at the

upcoming Australian Physiotherapy Association Conference in Sydney in October. Watch this space for updates.

Iranian health care on agenda

ACERH PhD researcher, Mohammad Hajizadeh, has been busy recently preparing and delivering presentations of international renown.

The first, titled *Equity of Health Care Financing in Australia Revisited* was presented in September at the Australian Conference of Economists.

The second will be delivered at the Australian Health Economics Society in Hobart in October. Titled *Measuring Horizontal Inequities in Iran's Health Care System Using Wealth Index*, this paper uses nationwide survey data derived from the 2003 Utilization of Health Services Survey (UHSS) in Iran (n=16,935) to measure deviations from the horizontal equity (equal health care for equal need) principle in ambulatory care and inpatient utilization in Iran.

This work is the first study to employ the wealth index measure to generate estimates of health sector inequalities. Thus, in addition to producing novel results for Iran, this approach may be useful in other settings where data on income per se is not readily available.

Year of Musculoskeletal Pain

Initiated by the International Association for the Study of Pain, *The Global Year of Musculoskeletal Pain* commences on October 19. CONROD is a world leader in research to further understand musculoskeletal pain, particularly spinal pain, such that improved management can be provided to those in need. Researchers from the CONROD Rehabilitation team will be involved in this year's activities including the Australian Pain Society conference on the Gold Coast in April 2010. Visit www.apsoc.org.au for more information

Check out the Disability Lifestyles website at www.disabilitylifestyles.org.au