



Dear team,

I firstly would like to thank Geoff Grima for Acting in the Executive Director role for the previous two weeks and for everyone who supported him in the position. While I did manage to have a short break, I also took emergent leave following the passing of my father-in-law. Many of us are now of the age where parents and in-laws are elderly and with this can come ill-health and other changes in circumstances. It can be a sad and challenging time for everyone.

Here at TPCH we recently experienced our own sadness with the passing away of one of our valued team members, Liz Jenkins.

Vale – Liz Jenkins

The Prince Charles Hospital community has been deeply saddened by the recent unexpected passing of long-standing staff member, Liz Jenkins. Liz, whose nursing career spanned well over four decades, was a significant part of TPCH's Wound Clinic in Private Practice working closely with Dr Pat Aldons for the last 30 years to provide specialised treatment to thousands of patients who required wound care for various clinical reasons.

Fondly given the title Director of Operations and Innovation by Dr Aldons, Liz was well known for her excellent organisational skills and ability to come up with new ideas and methods to help improve wound care for patients. She has been described as the backbone of the clinic, through her unwavering loyalty to its purpose and success, working side-by-side with Dr Aldons to heal countless wounds, and save many people from having limbs amputated.



For those who had the privilege of knowing and working with Liz, her greatest attributes were her immense kindness, humility, exemplary attitude, intelligence and tireless work ethic. Her compassionate and loving nature to her patients and co-workers was second to none. She held true joy in seeing people healed.

Liz's funeral held earlier this week was testament to the deep admiration and love people had for Liz, with the church where her service was held overflowing with family, friends, colleagues and patients.

It is significant that Liz left us in her 30th anniversary year with TPCH Wound Clinic – a special milestone for a special woman who made her mark on so many.

Our thoughts are with Liz's family and friends during this very sad time.

Liz, we honour you and will miss you. Rest in peace.

Executive update

Last Thursday I had the pleasure of attending the Critical Care Research Group's 20-year anniversary gala dinner. Over 200 people attended the event to celebrate two decades of research into new and improved treatments and technology for complex and hard-to-treat diseases.

Congratulations to CCRG founder and director Professor John Fraser and his team of talented clinicians, scientists, engineers, allied health, statisticians and researchers.

CCRG Founder and Director Professor John Fraser, Metro North Health Board Chair Mr Bernard Curran, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Service and Minister for Women Shannon Fentiman, Chair of The Common Good Mr Christopher Moreton and TPCH Executive Director Tami Photinos.



You can view [video highlights of the dinner here](#).

The Common Good Research Awards

This week The Common Good held their annual research awards, giving out over \$4.5M in grants, including 14 New Investigator Grants. The New Investigator Grants provide funding to researchers in the very early stage of their careers and has kicked started so many research careers here at TPCH over the years. I look forward to hearing more about the research projects in the future. Congratulations to all the grant recipients.

Mid-year intern celebrations

On Thursday I attended a mid-year celebration for our medical interns with Director of Medical Services, Julieanne Graham. The event provided an opportunity for the interns to pause and reflect on their experiences so far and to catch up with each other as a group.



Concerns with HV cable

This week we have been working through an issue that was identified with a high-voltage cable that had potential power outage concerns for our Clinical Science and Administrative buildings. These problems are unfortunately a symptom of ageing infrastructure and arise from time to time. We are working with the relevant subject matter experts to resolve the issue with the least amount of disruption to staff and patients. Please take the time to read upcoming email alerts about future remedial works.

This is also a timely reminder to ensure that all critical equipment and assets are plugged into red power points to ensure they are supported by generators (essential power) at any given time, and if applicable - blue power points for uninterrupted power supply (UPS) / battery back-up. Always keep mobile monitoring and support equipment plugged in and fully charged.

Coming of the Light celebrations

Our Coming of the Light event, originally planned for today has had to be postponed due to Sorry Business. We will let you know when it is rescheduled.

Executive walkarounds

With the move to Tier 2 in the Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan, I haven't been out and about visiting clinical areas this week but instead focused on attending a few key events (as mentioned above).

With respiratory illnesses on the rise, please remember continue wearing masks in clinical areas,

following PPE guidelines and stay home if you are feeling unwell and promptly inform your line manager of any sick leave via MyHR.

Staff profile

This week we are profiling Assistant Site Coordinator Food Services Kalesh Kamal. Kalesh has been in the role since February this year, previously working as Head Chef / Operations with Emirates. In his role as Assistant Site Coordinator Kalesh looks after day-to-day operations including staffing, food safety as well as future planning for Food Services.

Kalesh is passionate about his team and gets great satisfaction from seeing other team members progress in their own careers. Kalesh recognises the important role food provides to a patient's overall wellbeing during their hospital stay and wants to change the perception that hospital food is bland.

When not working at TPCH, Kalesh spend his time tending to his productive garden which includes tropical fruit trees like mango, cherry, fejoas and wax jambu.



Shout outs

There are so many people that are worthy of a shout out, particularly at the moment when we continue to experience high demands for our services.

This week I have two shout outs. The first goes to the Ridley Road Community Men's Shed and the CAM team. The Ridley Road Community Men's Shed recently donated several diversional activity boards they hand made for the patients of our CAM unit. The donation was facilitated by CAM registrar Kate Raine, whose grandfather John is a member of the Men's Shed. The Ridley Road Community Men's Shed expressed the sense of pride they felt in being able to construct something that makes such a difference to CAM patients. We thank them for their very kind donation.



The second shout out goes to Stroke CNC Caitlin Kearney who is doing an amazing job supporting stroke patients. Caitlin's clinic provides psychosocial support after stroke, educational aspects of stroke care as well as assistance for patients trying to navigate the hospital / community interface. The database Caitlin has developed is immensely valuable and allows a deep understanding of the local stroke services which can be used to support service development and delivery and in-time research.

Today's quote: "Strive not to be a success but rather to be of value" - Albert Einstein.

Tami Photinos
Executive Director