Alliance to bring leading cancer therapy to Australia

Mater Children's Hospital: The final chapter



Spring 2014

It's always more posterior than you think

A special portrait has been installed within Mater Mothers' Birth Suites to honour Dr Aldo Vacca, who passed away earlier this year.

Dr Vacca began his Mater career in 1982 in the role of Director



of Obstetrics, a position he held until 1996. He was instrumental in developing new enhancements of the widely–used vacuum cup during delivery, and promoted its safe use through international education programs around the world.

As a tribute to Dr Vacca, Clinical Midwifery Facilitator Julie Hickey organised for Mater

Mothers' obstetricians to fund the framing of a portrait of Dr Vacca, as well as a poem he wrote entitled '*It's always more posterior than you think*'.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



On the cover:

Australian cancer patients are a step closer to receiving life-changing proton therapy treatment at home following an alliance between Mater Health Services and Proton Therapy Australia. Read more, page six.

Contributors

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Thank you to those who contributed to the current edition of *Scope*.

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Scope welcomes your opinion. If you have an interesting patient case or a topical issue you would like to share with your colleagues, write to us. Please email your contributions to news@mater.org.au. Names will be published unless otherwise stated.

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A message from our CEO

Spring often heralds a new beginning; it is a chance to welcome new life or celebrate a fresh start. As such, it seems only fitting that we have a bumper edition of 'Scope' for you this quarter.

Highlights of this edition include an announcement that we have partnered with Proton Therapy Australia to deliver the country's first proton therapy facility, saving cancer patients from travelling overseas for this potentially life-saving treatment (page six) and news that Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane and Mater Children's Private Hospital were ranked top nationally in this year's HCF hospital experience survey (page seven).

For those who joined us for this year's Mater Doctor's Alumni Dinner at Customs House, we have shared some photos from the event, in which we farewelled Paediatrician Dr Ian Robertson who has retired after more than 38 years of service with Mater (page 10).

The end of the year always seems to sneak up, and this year is no different. The last quarter of 2014 brings with it events of relevance for all Mater People.

The beginning of November saw us formally farewell Mater Children's Hospital through an event held on Mater Hill on Saturday 1 November 2014.

External to our campus, is the G20 Leaders' Summit on 15 and 16 November 2014. While it is anticipated that the direct impacts on Mater People as a result of this summit are likely to be confined to public transport changes and road closures (page eight), there are other factors for which all Mater People should be prepared.

Mater is in close proximity to the summit, and a number of Mater representatives have been engaged in the preparations for this international event. These representatives continue to keep Mater People updated, where appropriate, with event information.

I also encourage all to be aware of their role in ensuring Mater facilities are safe and secure and suggest familiarising yourself again with Mater Security procedures. Keeping Mater safe is the responsibility of all Mater People and I would ask you all to exercise greater vigilance and report anything suspicious or unusual to Mater Security.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our recent Mercy Award finalists and winners. The Mercy Awards are an annual event which allows us to recognise those team members who go above and beyond the expectations of their role within the framework of the Mater Values. Congratulations again to our finalists and to our three winners—Emma Vernon, Chris Anker and Guest Services, Mater Private Hospital Brisbane (page 20).

Dr John O'Donnell CEO, Mater Health Services



FAST NEWS

Work safe for the moments that matter

What is your reason for working safely? This is the question Mater People and all Queenslanders were asked during October as part of Safe Work Month. It could be your family, your friends, or even your pet —anything that matters to you is a reason to work safely.

Safe Work Month provided an opportunity for all Mater People to reflect on practical ways to improve workplace health and safety and prevent death, injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community.

Mater's *SafeQuest*—for a safer Mater community—calls on all Mater People to speak up for safety and commit to a safety culture. Through a combination of safety initiatives, risk management strategies and communication programs, we aim to address priority issues and build on the culture of safety across the entire Mater community.





Mater Children's Hospital celebrates final birthday

Brisbane Broncos players visited Mater Children's Hospital as part of the final birthday celebrations before services transition to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital on 29 November.

Players David Hala and Jarrod Wallace said they enjoyed being able to cheer up the patients.

"Spending time with the kids really is a humbling experience while bringing a smile to their face during a tough time," David Hala said.

Later this year, Mater will farewell Mater Children's Hospital and the staff who have proudly delivered exceptional care to the children of Queensland and their families for more than 83 years.

Mater researchers part of Australia's first Wikibomb



Four female Mater researchers can now be found on Wikipedia following Australia's first Wikibomb—an initiative of the Australian Academy of Science to boost the number of Australian Women in Science on Wikipedia.

Biographies for Professor Josephine Forbes, Professor Elizabeth Powell, Associate Professor Glenda Gobe and Professor Colleen Nelson can now be found on Wikipedia.

"I was humbled to be honoured by the Australian

Academy of Science. I hope that I can inspire other young women to be all they can be in science," Prof Forbes said.

There are plans to expand on each profile in the future including links to selected publications.

Mater Education now an Affiliate Partner of renowned Center for Medical Simulation



Mater Education and the internationally renowned Center for Medical Simulation (CMS) in Boston, USA officially formalised an Affiliate Partnership on 14 August.

As a CMS Affiliate, Mater Education and our alumni will now have an exclusive level of access to the resources, skills, advice and experience of a team of Harvard Medical School faculty who are international leaders in the field of simulation.

Since 2013, Mater Education has successfully hosted the Center for Medical Simulation's highly regarded and sought-after Simulation Instructor training course, *Simulation as a Teaching Tool.*

The Affiliate partnership means that from 2015, Mater Education will also deliver the CMS's Advanced Debriefing Course.

Education Director at the Center for Medical Simulation Dr Robert Simon said that CMS carefully selects institutions to bring into their Affiliate Program.

"In both words and action, I am impressed with Mater's dedication to enhancing the education of clinicians and to improving the care provided to their patients." The courses are delivered by Harvard Medical School faculty and participants learn how to teach clinical, behavioural and cognitive skills through simulation. The knowledge and skills gained are applicable across the healthcare spectrum including undergraduate and graduate medical, nursing and allied health domains.

Mater Children's Hospital Paediatric Intensive Care Unit Consultant Dr Bruce Lister recently completed the course and said it was 'life changing'.

"The program not only changed the way I approached debriefing, but positively impacted all areas of my working life. I would thoroughly recommend this course to anyone," he said.

Both courses are offered through Mater Education in February 2015, and the Advanced Debriefing Course is the only advanced course held in Australia.

Places are limited, for more information or to register visit http://www. matereducation.qld.edu.au/educationprograms/simulation-based-learning/ programs Erica Lee recognised for her work in mental health

Mater's Erica Lee was recently awarded The Mental Health Services Award for Exceptional Contribution for her work at Child and Youth Mental Health Service.

Ms Lee, Manager of Child Youth and Mental Health Service (CYMHS), was recognised for her outstanding dedication and leadership at the front line of service delivery, negotiating complex times to create an internationally recognised service where all can contribute with confidence to the vision of the service and to the outcomes.

Ms Lee has had a key role over the past 20 years in the establishment and development of mental health and substance misuse services for children, adolescents and families.

The service pioneered a number of programs and was one of the first in Australia to establish and sustain meaningful consumer and carer participation in the child and adolescent mental health sector.

Ms Lee shared the award with Douglas Holmes, Mental Health Consumer Participation Officer at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney.

"I was delighted to be able to attend the Conference to receive the award in person and also to acknowledge the work of all those at CYMHS who have contributed to this achievement.

"I hope that the acknowledgment at the national level of the worth of our collective work and achievements will enable some continuity into the future."

Mater will open a new Adolescent and Young Adult Service in 2015.

Alliance to bring leading cancer therapy to Australia

Australian cancer patients are a step closer to receiving life-changing proton therapy treatment at home following an alliance between Mater Health Services and Proton Therapy Australia (PTA).

Currently paediatric and adult cancer sufferers must travel to the United States, Europe and parts of Asia to receive proton therapy—which delivers radiation directly, painlessly and deeply into tumours, with minimal injury to surrounding healthy tissue.

This reduces side-effects and keeps healthy tissue safe which is a key difference between proton and conventional radiation therapy.

PTA's Director of Planning Sue Bleasel said Australia's first proton therapy facility would be colocated with Mater services, with the first patient treatment expected in 2017.

"The PTA/Mater Alliance is just the first step of many—but a major step," Ms Bleasel said.

"I have been working to bring proton therapy to Australia for the past 16 years. Now we have a clinical partner it is time to finalise many years of discussion and negotiation with investors—\$170 million is required." Mater Health Services Chief Executive Officer Dr John O'Donnell said he was excited about Mater's involvement in the development of Australia's first proton therapy facility.

> "Proton therapy is needed in Australia and has been a long time coming. We are proud to be the clinical partner to help make this a reality," he said.

"The project is completely aligned with our values and our aim to provide exceptional care to all our patients."

Working with Ms Bleasel over the past 16 years is a strong team of experts, including clinical advisors, A/ Prof Michael Jackson (Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney) and Dr Martin Berry.

"Proton beam therapy is an advanced form of radiotherapy that targets tumours with great precision and where the radiation dose can be significantly and safely increased to help eradicate the cancer," A/Prof Michael Jackson said. Dr Martin Berry, leader and educator in the field of radiation oncology, said that not only do protons provide exciting opportunities to explore better treatments for people with cancer, the treatment is painless.

"Protons are positively charged particles, found in the nucleus of every atom but made available in this therapy by stripping away electrons from hydrogen atoms," he said.

"The great advantage protons provide is that when treating tumours near vital organs, they can deliver their radiation without affecting these organs," Dr Berry said.

Proton therapy is not for all cancers, but is vitally important in the treatment of certain cancers in children, tumours of the eye and base of skull and is becoming the treatment of choice for cancers in the head and neck, brain and spine, prostate, lung, gastrointestinal and breast.

Overall, proton therapy is beneficial to patients with tumours that are solid and with defined borders that have not spread to other parts of the body.

A good news story

It's easy to watch the news and be convinced that the world is going down the pan.

Human nature makes most of us find bad news compelling, which experts believe is linked to our prehistoric past—if a saber tooth tiger is on the way then you needed to take an interest.

We can be seduced into thinking that life is tougher than ever before. Self-help books have become an independent genre and promise to make us more efficient, healthier and happier.

For those of us too busy to read actual books, fortunately any lacking life skill can be quickly googled and the shortcoming resolved.

Photography, cooking, self-defence, computer programming, a new language and dancing are just some of the skills that the internet can quickly teach you, as my search results revealed.

There is however an alternative view to the negativity perpetuated by the mainstream media. Futurist and IBIS World chairman Phil Ruthvenn insists that life is better now than ever and that we should be very optimistic about it.

Life expectancy has increased dramatically in the last 50 years, as has our infrastructure—there were no freeways, domestic jet planes, mobile phones or internet in Australia 50 years ago. We are also better educated; in 1964 higher education was a privilege for just 96 000 students, compared with 1.4 million today.

Medical innovations and research have made a reality what were previously only just dreams.

Every year new developments in health care improve patient outcomes and lives. Just looking through the pages of *Scope* is evidence of all of the 'good stuff' going on.

Each day innumerable acts of kindness are played out across the globe. Be it taking the bins in for a neighbour, giving directions to a lost stranger or looking



after a sick relative, these acts of care are pervasive.

I recently attended the Mercy Awards and the care and kindness that Mater is founded upon were clearly evident. Kindness and care are integral to the vision of the Sisters of Mercy and are woven into the fabric of everyday life within our hospitals.

They happen everywhere, all the time at Mater and no paper is big enough to hold them and no journalist is prolific enough to report them, which I'm sure you will agree is a very good news story indeed.

Mater tops national patient experience survey

Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane (MMPB) and Mater Children's Private Hospital (MCPH) were ranked top nationally in this year's HCF hospital experience survey of more than 11 000 of its members.

The survey, compiled by Australia's largest not-for-profit health insurer HCF, focused on the most frequented 100 hospitals by its members with the majority being private facilities.

Both MMPB and MCPH received a score of 9.7 out of 10 for how likely members would be to recommend the hospitals to a friend or colleague. This exceeded the average score of 8.7.

Similarly, both Mater hospitals received the top results for members who would

recommend the medical teams that treated them with a score of 9.6—with the average being 9.

Mater Chief Executive Officer Dr John O'Donnell said HCF's survey results validated the exceptional care that patients receive at these two hospitals and across all Mater facilities.

"The dedicated teams in our hospitals strive to provide patients with the best care and experience at all times while they are with us and it's reassuring that



patients have formally acknowledged this," Dr O'Donnell said.

"At Mater we are always looking at ways to improve the hospital experience for our patients and ensure consistency of the quality care which we are renowned," Dr O'Donnell said.

The aim of the survey is to encourage transparency and accountability and drive improvements in hospital quality via member feedback.

Global honours for product range



Mater Mothers' maternity and baby care product range was named winner of a Bronze Award in the Best New Consumer Product category in The 11th Annual International Business Awards.

Developed by Mater Midwives and Mums, the products, specially designed for newborn skin, offer expectant and new mums a unique range that is safe, ethical, affordable and quality.

The Mater Mothers' maternity and baby care product range has already gained a strong following from mums around Australia, five star ratings via online reviews and now global recognition through The International Business Awards—the world's premier business awards program.

Mater Body Balm for pregnancy was also awarded for excellence by My Child magazine in the 'Favourite Mum's Product' category, as voted by readers across Australia and New Zealand.

Mater products are now also available from selected IGA, Supa IGA, and pharmacy stores as well as online via www.matermothers.org.au. Proceeds from the sales of Mater products support Mater Little Miracles.

G20 Leaders' Summit and impacts on Mater

The G20 Leaders' Summit will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 15 and 16 November 2014. Friday, 14 November is a public holiday for the Brisbane Local Government area, which includes Mater at South Brisbane.

Mater will be operating as usual over the period of the G20 Leaders' Summit except for:

- the cancellation of some outpatient clinics on the afternoon of Thursday 13 November and Monday 17 November
- public holiday operations on Friday 14 November
- usual weekend operations on 15 and 16 November.

Emergency services will be operational over the long-weekend and patients requiring emergency medical attention (including being in labour) should always use emergency services.

Public transport

Translink have a section on their website dedicated to G20 information. Information is updated regularly so keep up to date about any changes by visiting www. translink.com.au before you travel.

Travelling by train will be one of the best public transport options during the G20. Only trains on the Cleveland, Gold Coast and Beenleigh lines will be impacted with the closure of South Brisbane station. From 10-13 November trains will be travelling express through South Brisbane station but will still be stopping at South Bank station. From 14-16 November Beenleigh trains will terminate at South Bank station and Cleveland and Gold Coast trains will be diverted via the Tennyson loop so you will need to transfer to a Beenleigh train at Moorooka to reach Park Road or South Bank train stations during this time.

Buses will be significantly impacted. There will be no normal

scheduled bus services operating within the CBD, South Brisbane and surrounding suburbs over the summit long weekend, 14 to 16 November. Mater Hill Busway will be closed from 7 pm on Thursday 13 November and Woolloongabba Bus Station will be the closest bus stop to Mater over the G20 weekend.

Road closures

Roads will be progressively closed around South Brisbane from Monday morning 10 November through until Monday 17 November. If travelling to South Bank plan your trip and allow extra time ahead of your journey and where possible use public transport, cycle or walk. Check https://g20.org./community_ information/brisbane_locals/ traffic_and_transport regularly for maps and updates.

Security

Please remember your Mater ID badge should be visible at all times while you are on campus and you should report any unusual behaviour to Mater Security.

Further information

Follow @MaterNews on Twitter or, if you do not have a Twitter account and don't wish to sign up, go to https://twitter.com/maternews to keep updated or visit www.mater. org.au/G20.

i) Other sources of information are:

- http://mypolice.qld.gov.au/
- http://translink.com.au/
- https://www.g20.org/ community_information/ brisbane_locals

Mater's paediatric future

With less than a month until we transition our publicly-funded paediatric services from Mater Children's Hospital (MCH) to Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH), it's all hands on deck to ensure a smooth handover for patients, their families and staff.

While a significant amount of work has been happening behind the scenes to prepare Mater for what will be a time of great change and sadness, Mater must also look to the future.

Following the transition of MCH to LCCH on 29 November 2014, the building will be reconfigured to house a range of new and expanded services. This includes Mater Children's Private Brisbane (MCPB), a new standalone service operating in its own right from 29 November 2014.

Heading up Mater Children's Private Brisbane will be Lynne Elliott who has been appointed to manage the inpatient ward and day unit. Lynne is a trained registered nurse and midwife and most recently completed a Masters in Health Sciences—Health Administration and brings extensive nursing leadership experience and has significant expertise in developing new clinical services.

Recruitment is also now underway to fill the balance of staffing requirements of MCPB. This has started with recruitment for nursing positions, which is open to applications from all Mater nursing staff with appropriate paediatric experience.

The Mater project team continues to work with a MCPB VMO Reference

Mater Pathology expansion now underway

Stage one works on the Mater Pathology Redevelopment Project commenced in September, involving major construction within Mater Corporate Services Building (MCSB) and the level 3 gated area of the Hancock Street Car Park.

These works include the refurbishment to the southern wing of level 3 of MCSB. Construction of a building within the level 3 gated car park will start several weeks later.

This year, Mater Pathology is expected to process one million tests, which is approximately an eight per cent increase on the previous 12 months. Mater Pathology is integral to the delivery of exceptional care across Mater Health Services, so that clinical staff can provide patients with effective treatment. Now at capacity on level 6 of Mater Adult Hospital, the redevelopment project is necessary for Mater Pathology laboratories to expand their repertoire of testing and enable them to carry out more complex investigations now and over the next decade.

The majority of Mater Pathology laboratories are currently located at Mater Adult Hospital and the project will involve the Anatomical Pathology and Cytogenetics departments moving to the redeveloped spaces in MCSB.

VMOs who park in the open levels of the Hancock Street Car Park will



Group to ensure the delivery of the new MCPB will be a safe and sustainable service.

MCPB will include:

- Private paediatric health services for medical and surgical patients not requiring complex care
- 20 inpatient beds
- 16 day unit beds
- private consulting suites

continue to have swipe access to the gated car park so they can walk to other buildings on campus. While there will be some noise disruption, the contractor will implement strategies to lessen the impact as much as possible.

Further communication will be distributed to VMOs throughout stage one of the project which is expected to be complete in March 2015.

Stage one works also include enclosing an outdoor area on level 7 of MAH (linking to Mater Mothers' Hospital) which will be made into office space for the Mater Pathology administration team.

Once the Cytogenetics and Anatomical Pathology departments are relocated to MCSB, works will commence to level 6 of MAH. The project involves a coordinated refurbishment of the east and west wing while the laboratories remain operational.

If you have any questions please phone 07 3163 3776 or email buildingworks@mater.org.au. **EVENTS**

2014 Mater Doctors' Alumni Dinner

Mater Doctors gathered at the annual Alumni Dinner on Friday 22 August to celebrate and farewell Mater Children's Hospital. Past and current doctors attended the evening to formally recognise the significant contributions Mater Childrens' Hospital has made to Mater's history.



Paediatrician Dr Ian Robertson was commended for 38 years of service with Mater. He retired in August this year.

Special thanks to Mater Private Emergency Care Centre Director Steve Costello who returned for the second year as Master of Ceremonies.

- . Dr lan & Mrs Gail Robertson
- 2. Dr Phillip & Mrs Belinda Harvey
- R Dr Martin & Dr Nicole Wood
- 4. Dr Chris & Mrs Amanda Gillespie
- 5. Dr David Serisier, Dr Susan Byth & Dr Simon Bowler
- 6. Mr Ian Dover, Mrs Lyn Hamill & Mr Tony Dempsey











SPECIALIST PROFILE



Dr Deborah Smith



Dr Jason Papacostas



Pathology

Dr Deborah Smith gained her medical degree at the University of Otago, New Zealand in 1998.

Her anatomical pathology training was also in New Zealand, and she became a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2007. Dr Smith then travelled to Toronto, Canada where she completed a Fellowship in Gynaecologic Pathology at the University Hospital Network, focusing on gynecologic oncological pathology.

Since relocating to Brisbane in 2009 Dr Smith has worked in both private and public settings, gaining experience across a wide variety of pathology.

She is actively involved in gynaecologic oncological research, with a special interest in uterine neoplasia.

She has a strong commitment to teaching and recently joined Mater Pathology.

Neurosurgery

Dr Jason Papacostas trained in neurosurgery in Australia.

He undertook further subspecialty training in paediatric neurosurgery in Brisbane, before travelling to North America and undertaking fellowships in epilepsy surgery and endoscopic skull base surgery at Foothills Hospital, Canada.

Dr Papacostas' special interest areas include minimally invasive skull base surgery, awake cranial neurosurgery and epilepsy surgery.

He also specialises in paediatric neurosurgery and has an interest in minimally invasive spine surgery.

Dr Papacostas is a member of Brisbane Clinical Neurosciences Centre and practices at Mater Private Hospital Brisbane and is also employed as a consultant neurosurgeon at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Dr Di Poad



Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Dr Di Poad trained in medicine at the University of Otago and has worked in a range of hospitals in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and South Australia to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge which benefits the women she sees.

Dr Poad graduated from a Masters of Surgery and Medicine at University of Otago in New Zealand in 1987 and worked at the Christchurch Women's Hospital until 2008 when she moved with her husband and three children to Brisbane.

She joined the staff at Mater Mothers' Hospital in 2008 and in 2012 took up part-time private practice, working alongside Dr Melissa Luckensmeyer.

Dr Poad also holds a Diploma of Obstetrics from The University of Otago, New Zealand and is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.



Visit Mater's website for the medical community to access real-time, relevant information for medical professionals in an easy to navigate digital format.

The site is updated regularly, and includes exciting features such as a simple search and print specialist guide, medical education and events, news and clinica updates, referral guidelines, and readily accessible

sources and forms.

Explore and experience Mater's exceptional website for the medical community at www.materonline.org.au.

www.materonline.org.au



Neurosciences to provide a holistic collaboration

Mater's proud neurosciences history began in 1954 with the formation of Queensland's first neurosurgery department with Dr Peter Landy as physician and Dr Geoff Toakley as neurosurgeon.

Today, Mater's commitment to neurosurgery is still evident through its adoption of state-of-the-art technology and clinical practices.

This includes the Medtronic S7 stealth machine combining infrared technology and electromagnetic fields for detailed image guidance for spinal fusions, craniotomies, brain biopsies and shunt placement (pictured).

Stealth guidance systems, coupled with Mater Private Hospital Brisbane's intraoperative CT capability provide neurosurgeons with detailed 3D images for sophisticated image guidance during surgery.

The provision of 'real time' images during surgery enables post-operative CT scans to be taken before the patient leaves the operating theatre.

Innovative clinical procedures such

better health outcomes for patients and further underline Mater's position as one of the most diversely skilled neurosurgical services in Australia.

In 2015, Mater will take another step in the evolution of its neurosciences offering with the opening of the Mater Centre for Neurosciences.

The Centre, which will be located in the former Mater Children's Hospital building, will provide services for adults, adolescents, and young adults seeking specialised care for neurosurgery, spinal surgery, neurology and epilepsy.

The Centre will be designed to meet the identified needs of the community and will be the first 'Neuroscience Centre of Excellence' in the state and one of only a few in the country.

As Mater strives for the integration of health, education and research, the Mater Centre for Neurosciences will continue this vision through the holistic collaboration of surgeons, nurses, clinical training and research.

For a list of Mater credentialed neurosurgeons and neurologists please visit www.materonline.org.au and click on the 'Specialist Search' tab.





Update on new services on Mater Hill

With the transition of Mater Children's Hospital (MCH) to Lady Cilento Children's Hospital rapidly approaching, work is well underway to repurpose the MCH building with a range of new and expanded services which include Mater Centre for Neurosciences, Mater Children's Private Brisbane and an Adolescent and Young Adult Service.

In addition, the theatre and ICU facilities currently on floor 5, and the outpatient facilities on floor 4 of the MCH building will be developed to support the above services.

Queensland Health has committed to supporting the growth of adult health services and priority areas for this activity have been finalised and include gastroenterology, orthopaedics, general medicine, general surgery, respiratory and urology.

Increased activity is due to commence once additional theatres become available.

At Mater Private Hospital Brisbane (MPHB), the development of Mater Centre for Neurosciences will mean all current neurosurgery, spinal surgery and neurology will relocate from MPHB. (For more, see page 12.)

This creates significant opportunities to review

current theatre sessions at the hospital and support identified growth specialty areas.

The Centre will be the first 'Neuroscience Centre of Excellence' in the state and one of only a few in the country.

Meanwhile, the adolescent and young adult service at Mater will provide excellence in transition from paediatric services, care during the adolescent and young adult period (16 to 25 years) and subsequent transition to adult services.

The new adolescent and young adult service will include outpatient clinics (floor 4), inpatient beds (floor 7), inreach programs, programs (floor 7), emotional health unit (floor 7) and the existing Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Service (ADAWS).

Mater Beyond 2014 VMO Survey

Mater's 2014 VMO survey was facilitated by independent survey company Best Practice Australia (BPA) and involved randomly selected respondents from across all Mater private hospitals.

This year it was important for Mater to seek opinion about the future while at the same time cover four key areas consisting of doctor engagement, facilities, clinical practices and people.

The survey involved 204 respondents and the analysis of 1832 pieces of narrative and 11 070 pieces of quantitative data.

Overall the survey received excellent feedback with 28 of the 43 questions trending positively when compared to previous VMO surveys. Areas that were highlighted for improvement included access to onsite consulting suites and patient parking.

These challenges are closely related to Mater's growth, which while good for our organisation, have implications associated with increased patient numbers such as the demand for parking and specialist suites. Specific data and feedback on these areas have been presented to Mater Executive for consideration and review.

Areas that received statistically significant improvements were access to beds, access to speciality units and theatre time turnaround. In more good news, 54 out of 57 questions measured in the survey, benchmark above BPA's not-for-profit healthcare norms for VMO surveys.

As Mater moves towards the transition of Mater Children's Hospital (MCH) to Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH), VMOs were asked their opinion about the future of private paediatrics at Mater. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 96 per cent of VMOs supporting the retention of a private paediatric service.

Other encouraging feedback related to the redefinition and expansion of services at the South Brisbane campus after MCH transition to LCCH. A significant 47 per cent of respondents viewed these changes as an opportunity to grow their private practices.

VMOs also demonstrated a strong interest in practicing at Mater Private Hospital Springfield, due to open in late 2015, with 20 per cent considering expanding or relocating their private practice to support growth in the Greater Springfield region.

Overall, 73 per cent of doctors' expectations were rated as being consistently met which is an exceptional result. Thank you to all of the doctors who took the time to participate in the survey. DEVELOPMENT

Whitty Building project given green light by council

Brisbane City Council has approved the Development Application for the Whitty Building Redevelopment Project which will see the heritage-listed building transformed into an educational health precinct.

Mater and The University of Queensland (UQ) entered into an Alliance Agreement last year to create a unique and outstanding clinical teaching environment, allowing medical, nursing, midwifery and allied health students to experience the best of theory and practice in a tertiary teaching hospital.

An Australian first, the refurbishment of the iconic facility will accommodate education and teaching spaces, administrative offices, student amenities and various business units.

Early works on the project commenced in May and will continue until later this month.

Mater Education Chief Executive Officer Donna Bonney welcomed the approval which gave the green light for major construction to commence.

"The Whitty Building is significant in Brisbane's history as it was the city's second public hospital more than a century ago and continued to be used as a clinical facility until 1980," Mrs Bonney said.

"With many additions made to the building over the years, Mater is thrilled that this partnership with UQ allows for the building to be returned to its former glory and accommodate a leading educational facility for clinical students.

"The precinct, which will accommodate more than 400 students and 65 teachers, will include state-of-the-art simulation spaces and modern breakout areas conducive to both individual and group study."

Major construction will commence after the early works component is complete and continue until the end of 2015.



Mater Private Hospital Springfield – construction update

Stage one of Mater Private Hospital Springfield is quickly taking shape.

While weather has hampered works in recent weeks, the hospital is on track to be complete by the end of 2015.

The project team is continuing the procurement process for furnishings and equipment, as well as finalising the selection of interiors.

Prototypes of a hospital ward room and cancer care treatment pod will be open to staff at Mater Hill to provide feedback in the coming weeks.

For more information on the project visit www.mater.org.au/mphs.

Prostate research benefits from corporate donation

Mater Foundation Executive Director Nigel Harris, Mater Research Associate Professor John Hooper, Honda Director Hiroaki Funami, Mater Research Senior Research Officer Kristen Radford, Honda Director Robert Toscano and Honda Power Equipment dealer Brian Williams.

Mater Research programs into prostate cancer have received a corporate boost of \$55 000 from Honda Power Equipment-a much-needed donation to progress life-saving research.

Honda Directors Robert Toscano and Hiroaki Funami visited the Translational Research Institute recently to formally present a cheque for the funds and to tour Mater Research to find out how the money will help the team to advance research into prostate cancer treatments.

The donation was made by keen triathlete, prostate cancer research advocate and Honda Power Equipment dealer Brian Williams who competed in the IRONMAN World Championships at Kona, Hawaii in early October.

The 45-year-old father of three raises money for prostate cancer research through Ten4Men— a fundraising campaign he founded in partnership with Mater Foundation to honour his father who died from the disease.

"My father died at 64 and this is just too young. I felt it was important to not just do something that I love but at the same time help fight a disease that affects so many," Brian said.

Prostate cancer accounts for approximately 30 per cent of cancers diagnosed each year in Australian men and is the second most common cause of cancer death in the country¹.

MATER FOUNDATION

FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS

TEN4 MEN

HONDA POWER EQUIPMENT

Mater

22 JULY 2014

\$ 55,000-

Mater Research A/Prof John Hooper said early diagnosis of the disease was key to a successful outcome for men diagnosed with prostate cancer.

"If diagnosed early most men will have a positive outcome following treatment, but if the disease is in an advanced state, or for some reason they have a recurrence, the outlook can be grim," A/Prof Hooper said.

"Sadly, only about one third of men with advanced prostate cancer are healthy enough to undertake chemotherapy."

A/Prof Hooper and his team of researchers are working hard to improve the lives of those men who can't receive this chemotherapy.

"These men are generally in the unfortunate position that the prostate cancer spreads to the bone. The cancer cells take over the marrow and start to

break down normal bone structures while paradoxically also producing new bone that lacks the strength of the original skeleton. Prostate cancer is the only type of cancer where this happens and it is extremely painful and difficult to treat. Our goal is to understand how to kill off the cancer cells and help the bone to regrow to a healthy state."

While in its infancy, the Mater research team has discovered a cell receptor which appears to be able to be blocked to reduce the growth of tumours in the bone.

"The support of donors is absolutely essential to take this new prostate cancer discovery forward," A/Prof Hooper said.

¹ Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia



FEATURE

Mater Children's Hospital: The final chapter

As a specialist referral centre for young patients from all over Queensland, northern New South Wales and beyond, Mater Children's Hospital faced increasing pressure on its services during the latter part of the 1980s and early 1990s.

With the population of Brisbane's southern suburbs predicted to grow by 15.6 per cent by Mater's Centenary year, 2006, this demand would only increase.

To ensure it was well equipped to face the medical challenges of the 21st century, Mater committed to constructing two new children's hospitals for privately insured and non-insured patients.

The Sisters made a decision to move Mater Children's Hospital and Mater Children's Private Hospital from the Annerley Road location into the newly constructed building on Stanley Street to efficiently be located closer to Mater Mothers' Hospitals.

Although all new hospitals followed the modernist principle of form following function, the

new Mater Children's Hospital, with its external façade designed to reflect the essence of Queensland—blue skies and brown land, sparkling seas and tranquil creeks—began to look entirely different to its predecessor.

From the beginning, it was to be family-focused; all the extensive consultation with parents, doctors and nursing staff, both past and present, listed families as the priority.

Parents, siblings and grandparents were to be given the greatest possible access, even to the sickest of children.

Overnight accommodation was provided for parents in every ward and single room, there were parent lounges with refreshments on tap, special relaxation areas for teenagers,









indoor and outdoor play areas for younger children, oxygen and suction facilities on sunny balconies, ample space for visiting performers, and colour—bright colour—everywhere.

Ceramic tiles designed by children were installed on many walls; windows and service counters were built at child height; the chapel was designed to be welcoming to children and, in 2003, a bright, light-hearted animal mural was painted on a corridor wall to lead children from ward areas to play areas.

Familiar features followed the patients to the new hospital—the Red Cross play scheme, Radio Lollipop and education in a brand new school.

The opening, on 16 May 2001, was celebrated with a symbolic procession from the old hospital to the new.

The new hospital rapidly became extremely busy; by 2004 it had cared for more than 15 000 inpatients, 120 000 outpatients and 25 000 children in the emergency department.

Seven years later, the \$39.3 million relocation of the Queensland Paediatric Cardiac Service (QPCS) from The Prince Charles Hospital to Mater Children's Hospital occurred. The move marked the first time the QPCS had been located in a dedicated paediatric facility.

In the services' first year at Mater cardiac surgeons performed 360 surgeries with no wound infections and there was no waiting list for surgery.

The transition of QPCS to Mater marked an important milestone towards the integration of tertiary children's healthcare services in preparation for the opening of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, bringing together government-funded paediatric services from Mater Children's Hospital and Royal Children's Hospital at one facility in South Brisbane.

On 29 November, Mater will bid a fond, but sad farewell to Mater Children's Hospital after 83 years of exceptional service, and in doing so, we will farewell so many exceptional Mater People.

Now and into the future, Mater will continue to provide paediatric care through Mater Children's Private Brisbane.



"I foresee a very great future for this hospital: I foresee it carrying out the most modern and scientific work; I foresee it as providing service of the best and the highest nature for the people, not only of Brisbane, but of the whole State."

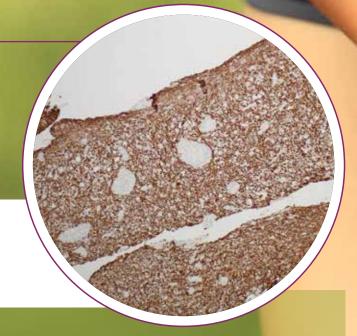
His Excellency, Sir John Goodwin, Governor of Queensland, at the official opening of Mater Children's Hospital, 1931

CASE STUDY

It's not a tumour

By Dr Damian Amato, Neurosurgeon

The case presented here has two very interesting features; the diagnostic challenge and the histopathology with its associated prognosis.



Presentation

A 69 year-old lady presented with three weeks of increasing left leg weakness.

The weakness included both proximal musculature (hip abductors and quadriceps) as well as lower leg muscles (plantar and dorsiflexors of the ankle/toes). The weakness was not associated with any numbness or any significant pain.

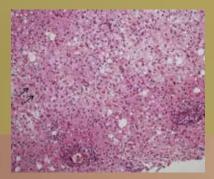
Background

She had bilateral knee replacements and a decompression laminectomy from L3-L5. There was no history of malignancy and no other significant medical history to note.

Examination and Investigations

The examination confirmed weakness in the left lower limb (3-4/5 in the muscle groups described), no significant weakness in the right.

No sensory changes were identified, reflexes were difficult to elicit bilaterally partly due to previous knee replacements. The MRI of the lumbar spine demonstrated the



previous laminectomy with evidence of post laminectomy anterolisthesis at L3/4 producing foraminal stenosis and therefore bilateral L3 nerve root compression which was worse on the left.

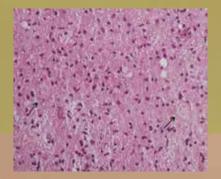
Additionally, there was also a foraminal/far lateral disc protrusion at L5/S1 on the left producing left L5 nerve root compression.

Discussion

The above findings can only partially explain the left leg weakness. L3 compression can cause quadriceps weakness and L5 ankle dorsiflexion weakness. However there was more global weakness. Could the anterolisthesis be producing a cauda equina syndrome?

The anterolisthesis or forward slip produced foraminal stenosis and bilateral L3 nerve root compression but not enough in the way of central stenosis to explain the symptoms. Additionally the symptoms were solely weakness without pain and were unilateral. Further investigation was warranted.

Dynamic X-rays of the lumbar spine and an MRI of the brain and cervical



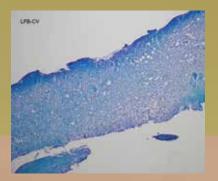
H&E x200: The biopsy features moderately hypercellular gliotic white matter with reactive and focal gemistocytic (arrows) astrocytes, numerous pale histiocytes (CD68+ by IHC) in the top right field, and focal perivascular cuffs of T-lymphocytes (CD3+ by IHC) in the bottom field. Only scant B-lymphocytes were demonstrated on the CD20 IHC.

and thoracic spine were performed. The X-rays showed no increase in the anterolisthesis on forward flexion, excluding a dynamic instability.

The MRI brain demonstrated a rounded 12 mm lesion in the right percentral gyrus. There was minor peripheral enhancement of the lesion with gadolinium and surrounding FLAIR hyperintensity.

Management

Differential diagnosis included cerebral access, metastatic tumour, atypical demyelination, or high grade glioma. A stereotactic craniotomy and biopsy was performed to identify the lesion. A Post operative improvement in left leg power was noted once dexamethasone was commenced. Histopathology revealed features consistent with an active





inflammatory demyelination process (tumefactive MS/demylelinating pseudotumour).

Once the final diagnosis was established a neurology opinion was sought from Dr Chris Staples. Treatment consisted of Methotrexate and Prednisolone.

Ongoing improvement has occurred with progression of mobility from a wheelie walker to Canadian crutches. A follow-up in 12 months time with a repeat MRI has been arranged.

Summary

The case outlined was interesting from a diagnostic point of view. Commonly in neurosurgery the diagnostic heavy lifting has been done by the GP or other specialists with the patient presenting with their diagnosis from the outset.

This case also highlights the differential diagnoses of cerebral mass lesions. Too often these esions confer poor prognosis with dismal outcomes in the setting of malignancy.

The involvement of many team members was central to this patients' care. Her GP, orthopaedic surgeon, radiologists, treating neurosurgeon and neurologist and pathologists, nursing staff in theatre and the ward as well as physiotherapists.

Haematologists join new cancer care team

Offering an unrivalled level of integrated care for patients from Queensland, northern New South Wales and the nearby Pacific, the multidisciplinary team at Mater Cancer Care Centre provide outpatient access to several interrelated clinical services; including haematology oncology, medical oncology, palliative care, supportive services, and apheresis and radiation oncology.

Within a tertiary level cancer care environment, our dedicated and experienced team is committed to providing exceptional patient care from diagnosis throughout treatment.

To join this integrated team, Mater welcomes Haematologists Dr Glen Kennedy, Dr Cameron Curley, Dr Elango Pillai and Dr Ray Banh to private practice at the centre.

The addition of these diversely skilled Haematologists further reinforces Mater's commitment to personalised patient treatment programs tailored to meet individual care needs and ensure that every patient receives the highest level of medical care and support during their treatment.

Dr Kennedy, Dr Curley, Dr Pillai and Dr Banh provide treatment for all haematological conditions, with diverse clinical interest in the following areas:

- malignant haematology; including lymphomas, leukaemias, myeloma and stem cell transplantation
- non-malignant haematology; including thrombosis and haemostasis, obstetric haematology and haemoglobinopathies
- acute and chronic leukaemia.

Find out more about the Haematologists who practice at Mater by visiting Mater Online (www.materonline.org.au), our specialist website for the medical community. Mater Cancer Care Centre is currently accepting insured patient referrals for all haematological conditions. MERCY WEEK 2014

Staff recognised during Mercy Week

Mater staff have been recognised for living the Mater values and greatly contributing to exceptional care at this year's Mercy Awards.

The Mercy Awards are held each September as part of Mater's Mercy Week to celebrate Mater's identity and the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy to coincide with Mercy Day (24 September)—the day Catherine McAuley established the House of Mercy in Dublin in 1827.

Mater's Executive Director Mission Leadership Madonna McGahan said Mercy Week was an important acknowledgement of Mater staff's ongoing commitment to its Mission and Values—Mercy, Dignity, Care, Commitment and Quality.

"The Mercy Awards provide an opportunity for staff to reflect on the great work that their colleagues do and acknowledge their contribution to delivering exceptional care to patients," Ms McGahan said.

The winners are:

Clinical Services Award: Emma Vernon, Stomal Therapist, Specialist Nursing Patient Care Units, Mater Private Hospital Brisbane.

"Emma's commitment to her role and her passion for patient care has been exemplified in her recent venture to Kenya. Most recently Emma attended the World Council for Enterostomal Therapists Congress in Sweden and presented her paper on "Challenges of Healing a Patient's Severe Pressure Injuries in a Kenyan Mission Hospital" for which she received much recognition and was appointed the Australian International delegate for the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists." **Team Award:** Guest Services, Mater Private Hospital Brisbane, led by Louis Galea.

"Guest Services are nominated for their 100 per cent exceptional team effort every day."

Support Services Award: Chris Anker, Administrative Support – Directors of Pathology, Mater Pathology

"Chris is a shining example of mercy, dignity, care and commitment in her daily actions. Nothing is too much trouble whether it is chasing down the name of a tradesman so someone can complete a report, organising flowers or cards for other staff...personally Above: Chris Anker, Administrative Support-Directors of Pathology, Mater Pathology

Left: Emma Vernon, Stomal Therapist, Mater Private Hospital Brisbane

escorting patients to level 6 from any other building, assisting members of the public with applications for courses provided by Pathology, confirming billing arrangements for patients in financial difficulty, or just greeting everyone who passes her desk with a smile and a kind word."

Ms McGahan said the Mercy Awards were a great example of maintaining Mater's Mercy heritage and identity.

"They are an example of our demonstrated commitment to continue to honour the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy which is imbedded in the culture at Mater and which can be witnessed every day across our organisation."



Training for the future

In 2013, Mater Mothers' Hospitals embarked on a program of introducing simulation in laparoscopic surgery and trans-vaginal ultrasound scanning for its Obstetrics and Gynaecology Registrars.

"Training the Specialists of the future is increasingly challenging, especially for highly technical skills like laparoscopic surgery and ultrasound scanning," Director Obstetrics and Gynaecology Dr Michael Beckmann said.

"The complexity of the procedures, the decrease in number of working hours for doctors, the focus on patient safety, and the changing community expectations of the role of the 'learner' in healthcare, all contribute to making it no longer palatable for junior clinicians to follow the old adage of 'see one, do one, teach one'," Dr Beckmann said.

As part of the teaching program, Mater Mothers' Hospitals purchased two high-fidelity, haptic-feedback simulators which use cutting-edge robotic and computer processing technology.

"The haptic-feedback provides a real feel to the procedure, and the continuous measurement of probes/ instruments in the working field allows for the collection and analysis of hundreds of metrics which are presented to the learner and also available to the teacher," Dr Beckmann said.

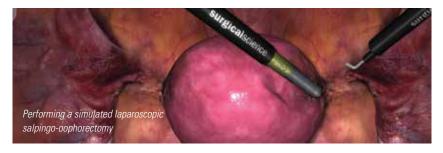
The simulation program comprised a specific learning curriculum consisting of validated dexterity exercises and simulated surgical procedures and ultrasound scans.

Registrars were provided with

protected in-hours time to train on the simulator during both self-directed and Consultant-supervised simulator sessions.

The program was accompanied by a change in the process for in-house

"Safety parameters also improved post training, including marked reductions in simulated injuries to blood vessels and vital structures."



credentialing, whereby every Registrar needed to be 'simulator-credentialed' before undertaking a laparoscopic procedure as the primary operator, or a trans-vaginal ultrasound scan on a patient.

During the first 12 months of the program, Registrars performed almost 1500 training activities on the laparoscopic simulator and participated in more than 200 dedicated simulation training sessions.

"There were significant reductions in the time taken to complete the simulator's ultrasound and laparoscopic assessment procedures and improvements in efficiency metrics," Dr Beckmann said. Once simulator-credentialed, Registrars were 12 per cent faster at performing operations on 'real patients' as the primary operator, and they reported significant improvements in their confidence in performing laparoscopic surgical procedures and trans-vaginal scanning (using a validated assessment tool).

"The introduction of a comprehensive simulator training and credentialing program for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Registrars has helped them gain confidence in performing procedures, and there have been demonstrable improvements in both simulated and in-vivo technical skills, efficiency and safety," Mr Beckmann said.

Pilot program for aged care patients

Research in the field of aged care has shown that residents living in aged care facilities present to hospital emergency departments more frequently than those living in the general community. They also experience higher admission rates, longer lengths of stay in hospital, and are therefore at higher risk of developing hospital acquired iatrogenic complications.

In response to these findings, Mater Adult Hospital (MAH) has introduced a 12 month pilot delivery program— Mater Aged Care in an Emergency to guide and support aged care facilities with clinical care decision making when their residents become unwell.

Mater Aged Care in an Emergency is a nursing led, clinical support service designed specifically for those involved in the medical journey of aged care facility residents, with the goal of providing those residents with the best care, in the right environment, at the right time.

The pilot program aims to reduce avoidable presentations, reduce admissions and readmissions of aged care facility residents into MAH via emergency, as well as reduce the length of stay for those admitted for treatment. This means they can remain in, or return quickly to supported care in their own place of residence—an environment they know and feel most comfortable.

The pilot program combines 24 hour clinical telephone support, complex care coordination including telehealth chronic disease management, and educational support to aged care facilities, with clinical governance provided by Mater emergency specialists and physicians where required.

(i)

For more information about Mater Aged Care in an Emergency, visit materonline. org.au/services or email Sophie McIntosh on sophie.mcintosh@ mater.org.au.

Mater Pathology introduces highsensitivity Troponin-I

Mater Pathology has introduced a new, more sensitive Troponin-I assay (the Architect STAT High Sensitive Troponin-I) and have stopped using the current method (the Architect STAT Troponin-I).

The new assay provides better measurement of low Troponin-I levels. This allows more rapid rule-in or ruleout of myocardial infarction.

With the new assay reporting, units will change to ng/L so that a new result of, say, 0.03 ug/L from the previous assay will be 30 ng/L with the new.

There will be different 99th percentile cut-offs for males (<26 ng/L) and females (<16 ng/L).

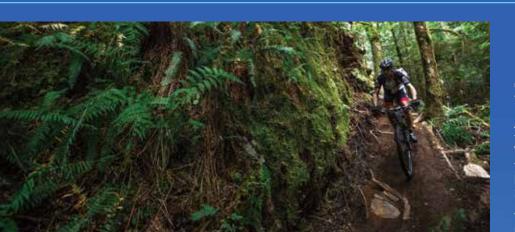
As with the previous assay, interpretation of results will depend on the clinical context and whether the results are above or below the cut-off. Serial measurements (two and sometimes six hours after presentation, most appropriately performed in hospital) are usually required to rule out acute myocardial infarction.

If high-sensitivity Troponin-I is requested for patients outside hospital, please be certain that the laboratory or your deputising service has your after-hours contact number. In the event of an elevated result after hours, the requesting doctor—knowing the patient and clinical details—is the best person to advise the patient. Therefore it is important that the laboratory is able to contact you, either directly or via your deputising service.

Elevated Troponin may occur in a variety of clinical scenarios other than acute coronary artery occlusion. These include sepsis, pulmonary embolism, cardiac failure, cardiac arrhythmia, acute neurological illness, renal failure and inflammatory illness or trauma affecting the heart.

Blood collected into a lithium heparin plasma tube (green top tube) is the preferred specimen type.

> If you have any questions about the new assay, contact Mater Pathology Chemical Pathologists, Dr Janet Warner on 07 3163 6352 or Dr George Marshall on 07 3163 6736.



The BC Bike Race

By Dr Stuart Philip

Most sensible people look forward to spending their holidays lying on a beach or reading a good book, but as a keen mountain biker it means preparing to undertake one of the world's most popular multi-day stage races—The BC Bike Race.

After 12 months of training I found myself lining up alongside 600 other riders at the start line in North Vancouver for the first day of the race. It had been a long road of training and at that moment, I was feeling a mix of excitement and terror at what lay ahead over the following seven days.

Described as 'the ultimate single-track experience', The BC Bike Race has become a bucket list event for riders all over the world.

> But it's more than just a race it's a tour around the south of British Columbia, taking in some of the most amazing trails, brilliant hospitality and multiple modes of transport. For one week, we travelled by bus, ferry and bike to

experience some of the best singletrack mountain biking in the world.

After starting in North Vancouver we travelled between the mainland and Vancouver Island experiencing the trails and people through Cumberland, Powell River, Earl's Cove, Langdale and Sechelt.

The race culminated with two of the best days biking you could imagine in Squamish and finally Whistler.

What's even more amazing is that it's not just the 600 participants who are on the move—the whole race moves with you.

There's an entire field of tents, facilities and the countless staff and volunteers who tend to your every need.

Each day's course is meticulously planned and the trails are very well marked with many a marshal to wave you on your way.

Each day our tents were pitched, our bags transported and the showers were clean and hot—no easy feat with so many people to cater for.

Each town also welcomed us with an incredible amount of hospitality.

After many laughs, bruises, cuts, scrapes and good times it was all over. I collected my finisher's t-shirt and enjoyed the best riding I've ever done.

Racing can't possibly be this much fun

For more information on the race, visit www.bcbikerace.com.





Inca Trek FOR CANCER 15–27 April 2015

Challenge yourself as you trek the legendary Inca Trail to Machu Picchu and raise vital funds to support Mater's research project to improve the quality of life and treatment outcomes for men with prostate cancer.

Fast Facts

Registration fee: \$770 (non-refundable) • Fundraising target: \$7000 (excludes travel)
Travel cost: \$6700, including taxes (can be fundraised) • Trip duration: 13 days

Get more info and register

Visit: www.inspiredadventures.com.au/mater/peru Email: kate@inspiredadventures.com.au Phone: Inspired Adventures on 1300 905 188 with any questions!