CARDIOLOGY

The research activities of the Cardiology department include pharmaceutical clinical trials, epidemiological and clinical investigator-driven research studies.

There is a wide variety of clinical research activities in the areas of novel pharmacological agents and therapeutic devices for patients who have coronary artery disease, rhythm disturbances and fainting episodes. The focus of the department’s research program includes primary and secondary prevention of heart disease.

The Cardiology department has collaborative links with other Eastern Health departments, universities both local and international and with the Victorian Department of Health Cardiac Clinical Network (VCCN) and Ambulance Victoria.

The department encourages staff at all levels to participate in research projects including medical students, residents, registrars, nurses, cardiac technologists and cardiologists.

Program Director
Professor Gishel New

Principal Investigators
Dr Angas Hamer
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Funding/Grants

Safe and Effective Early Discharge of patients with low-risk acute coronary syndromes (ACS) – the SEED trial


Safe and Effective Early Discharge of patients with low-risk acute coronary syndromes (ACS) – the SEED trial


Projects in progress

Projects in progress by the unit during the course of the past year have included:

Angioplasty database

Lead researchers: New G, Roberts L, Beale J, Nixon A. A prospective, consecutive database of all patients undergoing angioplasty. Clinical outcomes at 30 days and one year are collected. The data forms part of our quality assurance program.

Air Versus Oxygen in Myocardial Infarction Study (AVOID)

Lead researchers: Stub D, New G, Beale J, Nixon A, Roberts L. A multicentre Victorian trial to determine whether withholding routine supplemental oxygen therapy in patients with an acute heart attack but without hypoxia prior to reperfusion decreases the size of the heart attack.

AMICI Trial


Cooperative National Registry of Acute Coronary care, Guideline Adherence and Clinical Events (Concordance)

Lead researchers: New G, Roberts L, Nixon A. A prospective investigator-initiated observational registry that will provide contemporary real time data on presenting features, in-hospital management and in-hospital and post-discharge outcomes among acute coronary syndrome patients presenting to selected Australian hospitals.

Melbourne Interventional Group (MIG)


Neurocardiogenic syncope despite treatment with a permanent pacemaker

Lead researchers: Hamer A, Roberts L. This is an observational study of the Biotronik neurocardiogenic syncope pacemaker in patients who have ongoing episodes of fainting, despite having a pacemaker.

Neurocardiogenic syncope in pregnancy

Lead researchers: Hamer A, Roberts L. A retrospective study of female patients with neurocardiogenic syncope to review symptoms before, during and after pregnancy.

Out of Hospital Ventricular Fibrillation Arrest (OHVA)

Lead researchers: New G, Sidharta S, Roberts L. An observational study of patients presenting to Box Hill Hospital after an OHVA to determine the predictors of survival and neurological recovery at hospital discharge and at six months.

Protect

Lead researchers: New G, Roberts L. This randomised, open label trial compares first generation stents with a second generation stent to assess long term clinical events, in particular, late stent blood clot formation.

Retrospective Safe and Effective Early Discharge of patients with low-risk acute coronary syndromes (ACS) SEED

Lead researchers: Tong D, Nixon A, Roberts L, New G. A retrospective study of heart attack patients presenting to Eastern Health to review risk factors, length of stay and outcomes. The pilot project for SEED trial.

Safe and Effective Early Discharge of patients with low-risk acute coronary syndromes (ACS) – the SEED trial

Lead researchers: New G, Tong D, Roberts L, Nixon A. A randomised study of low risk heart attack patients to early discharge (<72 hours) with Hospital-In-The-Home (HITH) nurses and doctors oversight compared to conventional 4-7 day stay in hospital.

Solid


Victorian Cardiac Outcomes Registry (VCOR)

Lead researchers: New G, Roberts J, Nixon A. The purpose of this state government initiative is to monitor safety, quality of care and outcomes for all patients presenting with cardiac conditions who undergo angioplasty.

Projects completed

Projects undertaken by the department and successfully completed during the course of the past year have included:

Acute coronary syndromes sub-committee Pre-Notification of STEMI (PNS) trial

Lead researchers: New G, Jangwal H, Beale J, Roberts L. This program was to determine if the field triage and pre-notification strategy implemented by Ambulance Victoria reduces treatment times for heart attack patients. Final analysis of data is being conducted.

Cardiac Complications of Clozapine (CCC)

Lead researchers: New G, Denver R, Nixon A. This study investigated the mechanisms, incidence, clinical features and potential therapeutic interventions for cardiac injury in people taking clozapine for schizophrenia. The final analysis of data is being conducted.

Shield 2

Lead researchers: Hamer A, Stevenson I, Beale J, Roberts L. This trial was a randomised study of the safety and efficacy of a once-daily dose of azimilide on the incidence of heart-related hospitalisations, emergency department visits, or death in patients with an ICD who have had a life-threatening heart rhythm. The trial was stopped by the sponsor early.
Presented at Annual Cardiology Conference Telemetry at Box Hill Hospital. Results in non-cardiac patients who received telemetry monitoring of cardiac arrest undergoing emergency percutaneous coronary intervention. Int J Cardiol. 2013, 166(2):425-30. Epub 2011/12/03.


Abstracts


**Conference including proceedings, papers, posters**

**INTERNATIONAL**


**NATIONAL**


ACCEESSING PROGRRRAM ACTIVITY REPORTS

Eastern Health is committed to building a culture of research and ensuring such research is embedded in everyday clinical practice. Eastern Health contributes to local, national and international research activity. This document forms part of the broader sixth annual 2013 Eastern Health Research Report reflecting the high-calibre research, commitment and strength of research programs across Eastern Health. A hard copy of the complete 2013 Research Report including program activity reports is available by contacting The Office of Research & Ethics on 9895 9551 or via download from www.easternhealth.org.au

Readers note: Where projects are collaborative with our respective research partners, Eastern Health staff names are in bold.

Clinical program reports available include:

- Allied Health
- Cardiology
- Eastern Health Clinical School and Eastern Clinical Research Unit (ECRU)
- Eastern Clinical Research Unit – Translational Division (ECRU-TRD)
- Eastern Health Clinical School Research Division, Medical Student Programs
- Emergency services
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Geriatric
- Haematology
- Integrated Renal and Obstetric services
- Intensive Care services
- Mental Health programs
- Neuroscience
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Oncology
- Palliative Care
- Pharmacy
- Respiratory and Sleep Medicine
- Rheumatology
- Surgical Research Group
- Turning Point