



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## Total Joint Replacement (OPUS)

NHMRC Centre for  
Research Excellence



# Newsletter Issue 2

## OPUS Mentor Makes Meaningful Impact

Late last year the University of Melbourne was awarded an astounding 4 Centre's of Research Excellence (CRE), with a large clinically focused grant landing right on the doorstep of MDHS.

The CRE in Total Joint Replacement (TJR) awarded to Head of Department (St Vincent's) and Sir Hugh Devine Professor of Surgery Peter Choong plans to Optimise outcomes, equity, cost effectiveness and patient Selection (OPUS) in TJR nationally and internationally, promoting critically needed stewardship for this high volume and expensive procedure.



Emeritus Professor Stefan Lohmander visits the University of Melbourne

During the week beginning the 22nd of May, Department of Surgery staff and students were graced by the auspicious visitor [Emeritus Professor Stefan Lohmander](#), Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Department of Clinical Sciences, at Lund University in Sweden. His prestigious career highlights include the Orthopaedic Research Society USA Arthur Steindler Award for significant international contributions to the understanding of musculoskeletal disease, the Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 Award for Research in osteoarthritis and the OARSI Lifetime Achievement Award for exceptional contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the field of osteoarthritis.

Stefan is a critical mentor for the CRE and sounding board for idea's, structure and strategy in the facilitation and implementation of various plans and processes outlined for completion in the next 5 years.

His itinerary was tightly scripted during his visit, though we were still able take advantage of his wealth of knowledge spanning 40 years of osteoarthritic, orthopaedic and clinical

knowledge by setting up a number of staff, student and community engagement activities. Over 2 days, Stefan mentored a number Research Higher Degree and Post Doctoral department staff, providing feedback to each in relation to career direction and focus. This level of mentorship could extend to you if you're interested in partaking in the relevant postgraduate clinical studies, with the availability of 2 OPUS scholarships. [Click here for more information.](#)

Stefan was also a guest expert on the podcast media stream "Eavesdrop on Experts" where he was invited to be interviewed in the Harry Allan Brooks Museum of Anatomy and Pathology. Questions focused on career, health, and bone structure and function. This created a buzz for students who continued to work in the space during recording, adding a nice authenticity to the podcast. You can find the podcast here: [Eavesdrop on Experts - Legs, Ligaments and Longevity with Emeritus Professor Stefan Lohmander.](#)

The visit also coincided with the 2 day Aus/Med Biotechnology Conference held at the Crown Promenade Conference Centre where Head of Department and prior mentee Professor Peter Choong was the Keynote Speaker, opening the start of the conference with a talk titled "We are such stuff as dreams are made of", leading the discussion and dialogue on future improvements in total joint replacements and non-invasive human/mechanical interactions.

We would like to thank Stefan and his wife for his time and hope to see him back again soon for a longer and more comprehensive visit.



Emeritus Professor Stefan Lohmander Touring the [BioFab3D Centre for Robotics and Biomedical Engineering](#)



Keynote Speaker Professor Peter Choong Speaking at the AusBiotechnology Conference.



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## Kieran O'Sullivan

### Name

[Kieran O'Sullivan](#)

### Location

Aspetar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, Doha, Qatar

### Contact details

Sports Spine Centre, Aspetar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, Doha, Qatar, UTC + 03:00, [Kieran.osullivan@aspetar.com](mailto:Kieran.osullivan@aspetar.com), Tel 0097 433 692 782, Skype: Kieran.osullivan1

### Current Workplace Role

Lead Physiotherapist at new Sports Spine Centre. Responsible for the design, development and management of novel multi-dimensional sports spine centre.

### Role within OPUS

My background is in non-operative multi-dimensional strategies for low back pain, up to and including randomised clinical trials. My collaborators at Curtin University and I will lead the development and testing of non-operative multidimensional strategies for knee pain (Workplan 3). This will incorporate addressing a range of modifiable risk factors (e.g. physical, lifestyle, psychological) in a patient-centered manner for people with persistent knee pain.

### Your work history

Full time clinician for 5 years. Combined teaching and research with clinical practice for the last 13 years.

### Career Interests

Interested in developing and implementing care pathways for people with musculoskeletal pain which are evidence-based, acceptable and pragmatic. Passionate about the need for an alternative discourse regarding what pain is, other than the prevailing "tissue injury" model.

### Career highlights and/or publications

Just completed leading a randomised clinical trial into the use of personalised, multi-dimensional therapy for people with low back pain.

### Prizes/awards

Obtained 3-year research fellowship from Health Research Board of Ireland 2010-2012.

Awarded Specialist Member status of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists in 2008.

### Hobbies

Keeping fit, family time and reading about politics, religion and science.



## First Executive Meeting

After a few months of planning we had our first team meeting in late June. How do you get a team of very busy, highly talented and geographically displaced individuals together in the one place to discuss a shakeup of the entire joint replacement cycle. Short answer: You plan ahead, a long way ahead.

It was great to have half the team in the one room listening to the plan of attack and actively giving feedback and discussing future options and outcome measures, with the option for other's to join via video conferencing.

We discussed the Workplans, mentoring, PhD projects, scholarships, committee structure, external communications and of course the proposed four meeting times for the coming year! It was three hours well spent. I can't wait to see what will evolve from the next meeting...

## New OPUS Members Join the Revolution

That's right, since our last issue we have recruited a few new members who will play a critical role in the development of the centre and its resulting output. General Practitioner **Dr Jo-Anne Manski-Nankervis** will be working on workplan 1 initially, working on methods for tracking the patient journey and identifying hotspots where healthcare support is most required. **Max Catchpool** is a Health Economist who will be available to work across all workplans that require health economic input.

PhD candidate **Michelle Tew** has joined the team through our node at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and will be working with Professor Philip Clarke. And PhD candidate **Nardia Clem** has started work at Curtin University as a qualitative researcher with Professor Peter O'Sullivan and Assoc. Professor's Anne Smith and Peter Kent to assess physiological and behavioural elements relating to knee pain and Osteoarthritis.

A big welcome to all our new members!

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## Michelle Tew

**Name**  
[Michelle Tew](#)

**Location**  
Health Economics Unit, Centre for Health Policy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne.

**Contact details**  
[michelle.tew@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:michelle.tew@unimelb.edu.au)

**Role (workplace, training)**  
Health Economics Research Assistant / PhD Candidate

**OPUS connection**  
Working under OPUS Chief Investigator Professor Philip Clarke, along with Professor Peter Choong and Associate Professor Michelle Dowsey who are part of my PhD supervisory panel.

**Your work history**  
I am a pharmacist by training and have worked overseas in various roles involving pharmaceuticals. Over the last two years, I have worked as a health economics research assistant at the Centre for Health Policy. In my current role, I have had the opportunity to work on numerous interesting projects such as assessing mortality rates across Australian geographic locations as well as being involved in contracted work where we provide economic evaluation services to help inform decisions about listing of new Medicare items.

**Career Interest**  
I look forward to enhancing my research skills in health economics during my candidature. I am interested in roles where I have the opportunity to conduct robust research combining costs and outcomes that would improve efficiencies and resource allocations within our healthcare system.

**Prizes/awards**  
Recipient of the Melbourne Research Scholarship awarded by the University of Melbourne

**Hobbies**  
I enjoy being outdoors, going on walking tours and particularly like what the locals call bush-walking. I am an avid traveler and every year I aim to travel to at least one country where I don't speak the language.



## Recent Awards

**Lifetime Achievement Award for Stefan Lohmander**

Congratulations to Associate Investigator and Emeritus Professor Stefan Lohmander who was honored with the [OARSI](#) lifetime achievement award for his work in the field of Osteoarthritis at the World Congress in Las Vegas recently. After more than 40 years of research into his field, Stefan continues to work with and inspire current and new comers to the field.

Prior to receiving his award, Stefan also spent a few days at the National University in Singapore as an advisor/assessor of the NUSTEP tissue engineering program at their Life Sciences Institute, headed by Eng Hin Lee.

**Where will we see Stefan next?**  
We'll let you know...



Stefan Lohmander is awarded the 2017 Life Time Achievement (pictured) with Martin Englund and John Loughlin

**Faculty Establishment Grant Awarded to Michelle Dowsey**

The University of Melbourne is a researchled University and the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences greatly values its academic staff who have previously received nationally competitive research fellowships. The Faculty was pleased to award Associate Professor Michelle Dowsey's with a nominal amount of funding after maintaining such a positive research funding track record, through the Establishment Grant funding scheme for the provision of infrastructure to assist with the establishment of her research programs.

Congratulations Associate Professor Dowsey

## MOVE Annual Fundraising Dinner

That's right, *MOVE*, the leading voice of muscle bone and joint health in Victoria are having their annual fundraising dinner at the Crown River Room on Thursday the 2nd of November, 2017. What a great opportunity to hear more about what this critical organisation is working towards, with opportunities to meet and greet other community members and professionals in the Arthritis or Musculoskeletal healthcare and research industries.

Will we see you there?

## Forum, Seminar or Conference

### PROM's seminar at Monash

The Centre for Research Excellence in Patient Safety is presenting a day seminar series on PROMs: *What makes a good PROM, what are they important and how are they being used*. This is taking place on Friday the 18th of August, 2017 and OPUS Associate Investigator Dr Darshini Ayton will be one of the presenters.

There is growing international momentum around using patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) to drive improvements in quality of care, and to achieve better value for patients and funders of healthcare. This seminar is an innovative course that brings together experts from Monash University. It is a prime opportunity for healthcare providers, researchers, consumer groups and policy makers to learn about the robust ways PROMs might help their organisation achieve a more person-centred approach to quality and safety improvement.

**Date**

Friday 18th August 2017

**Time**

9:00am-1:00pm (registration opens at 8.45am)

**Venue**

Level 5 Lecture Theatre, The Alfred Centre, 99 Commercial Road, Melbourne VIC 3004

**Cost (incl. morning tea)**

\$225.00 incl. GST or \$200.00 incl. GST for students

**For more information:**

[shop.monash.edu/2017-5th-july-tms-psychiatrist-masterclass-1](http://shop.monash.edu/2017-5th-july-tms-psychiatrist-masterclass-1)

## 6th Annual Surgical Forum

To be held on the 24th – 26th July 2017 in the Medical Education Centre and Aikenhead Conference Centre, St Vincent's Hospital, the theme of the 2017 Forum will be "Quality, Audit & Outcomes". There will be presentations from invited speakers, various surgical units and a workshop held on Tuesday afternoon, all very well received in previous years.

The Vellar Foundation Lecture, along with the Hugh Devine Guest Oration and Clarebrough Guest Oration are key features, along with the Peter Ryan Prize for the best presentation from junior medical staff.

The Forum Dinner registration is now closed for Monday, 24th July 2017 at the Woodward Centre, University of Melbourne, however it is still possible to register for the forum day sessions at:

**Registration**

[www.trybooking.com/274245](http://www.trybooking.com/274245)

Further information, please contact Ms Toni Ardino at: [surgeryoffice@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:surgeryoffice@unimelb.edu.au)

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## OPUS Interns at Work

Through our collaborative links across faculties, within the bounds of the University of Melbourne and curriculum guidelines, Internship programs perhaps prove to be a critical aspect of achieving some of the high benchmarks we are setting for ourselves. This month, a group of four Master's students have come together to work on a project for OPUS relating to finding and negotiating communication methods for informing our audience(s) of our progress.

Coming from the Faculty of Business and Economics after being enrolled in their fast-track winter subject [Melbourne Based Practicum](#), a Work Integrated Learning subject, these students have definitely shown they have the organisational and interrogation skills required to satisfy any stakeholder's needs.

We look forward to the reported outcomes that will follow in the coming weeks!



Intern Team celebrates completion of final presentation



Melbourne Based Practicum Intern's at work

**YOUR FEEDBACK ON ANY ASPECT OF OUR PROJECT IS ALWAYS WELCOME.**

You can send us a message through Twitter @OPUSunimelb or contact our Centre Manager. Dale Baum: [dmbaum@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:dmbaum@unimelb.edu.au) T: +61 3 9231 2553 M: +61 435 697 011 Department of Surgery, Melbourne Medical School, St. Vincent's Hospital



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## Contact

Dale Baum  
Centre Manager

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📞 +61 3 9231 2553

📞 +61 435 697 011

✉️ [dmbaum@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:dmbaum@unimelb.edu.au)

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