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SDSI



How you can Help

There are a number of ways you can help. Here are some suggestions for your consideration:

- If you are from a corporation please consider becoming a sponsor. KJM sponsors enjoy a range of benefits including the opportunity to partner with us in supporting research activities and a range of publicity opportunities.
- Employees of Emergency Services can support KJM through salary contributions. It's an easy way to make a big difference.
- We welcome donations. Contributions over \$2 are tax deductible.

If you would like to contribute your time, we appreciate practical support in the lead up to and during our special events.

SAI GLOBAL
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



About the Foundation

Since the inception of the Foundation, over \$66,950 has been granted to outstanding Queensland paramedics to further both professional development and educational opportunities. These grants embody the mission of the Kenneth James McPherson Foundation to support pre-hospital care research and education and reflect the Foundation's commitment to ensuring better outcomes for patients.

This outcome is possible as a result of the generosity and commitment of our donors and sponsors.

Who was Kenneth James McPherson?

Kenneth James McPherson (known as Jim) lost his life tragically in an aerial ambulance crash along with his colleagues and the patient in 1987. Jim was known for his compassion and respect for patients and for his commitment to the development of clinical skills.

To continue his legacy, Jim's family decided to establish a Foundation so his vision and commitment would not be lost.

Kenneth James McPherson Education & Research Foundation

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We welcome your donations and offers of in-kind support.

Visit our Web Page:

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Kenneth James McPherson Foundation Newsletter

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KJM Patrons Day 2007



Overview Patron's Day Symposium:
'Patients, Paramedics and Progress'

On 1 November 2007 at Royal on the Park, Brisbane, Mr Jim Higgins ASM, Commissioner Queensland Ambulance Service opened the second Patron's Day Symposium organised by the Foundation. The Symposium participants included QAS senior management and QAS Managers responsible for providing clinical leadership and guidance to paramedics as well as researchers from a range of clinical and allied health areas from leading Queensland health

care institutions.

The Foundation Patron Major General Professor John Pearn outlined in the opening session his views about the possibilities for paramedic engagement in the delivery of out-of-hospital care across a broad spectrum of situations relevant to our diverse and dispersed communities in Queensland. Commissioner Higgins outlined to the Symposium audience, his vision of new ways in which Queensland paramedics would begin to deliver their services. He referred especially to the rural and remote service delivery models currently being explored, and the establishment of a strong skills base with the pre-employment degree program. (continued page 3)

Award Recipients 2007



\$1,000

**QAS Outstanding Student Paramedic Graduate of the Year Award
Sponsored by LHMU**

This was awarded to Michele Dalton, the student paramedic who has demonstrated exceptional personal and professional leadership qualities. Michele was overseas at the time of the Symposium and was presented with her award on December 5 2007.



\$1,000

**QAS Professional Development Grant
Sponsored by SAI Global**

This year's award was granted to John Hinder to fulfil his professional aspiration to devise clinical checking systems that assist us as a team to perform clinical procedures.



\$3,000

**QAS Research and Development Grant
Sponsored by SDSI**

This year's award was granted to Scott Harris and Matt Green for their research into the efficacy of mechanical ventilation of intubated patients in intensive care paramedicine.



Major Research Grant

Research will advance understanding of airway management for intubated patients.

The generous support of Physion Control through the provision of sponsorship of \$15,000 enables the Foundation to offer this research grant to the four person team of Ian Unverzagt, Darrin Burgess, David Wharton & James Thompson.

These officers will undertake a clinical study of mechanical ventilation in the prehospital field. It is proposed to provide Intensive Care Paramedics (ICPs) with training in mechanical ventilation using high-level simulation environments. After the training, the safety and efficacy of mechanical ventilation will be assessed using a case-series design analysing all intubated patients who are mechanically ventilated.

This research addresses one of the most important considerations of pre-hospital airway management, ventilation of intubated patients. There has been an international debate about how we plasticise airways in the field; however there is another large and growing body of evidence which shows we may not be ventilating intubated patients appropriately.

This is only one part of the emerging picture which is suggesting that the current practice of manual ventilation may be inaccurate and potentially associated with several adverse outcomes. These outcomes have significant ramifications for patient outcomes and the fundamental ethical consideration, "first, do no harm".

This project will be carried out under the supervision of the Australian Centre for Prehospital Research.

Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner on November 1st was an excellent opportunity to recognise the contribution made by Queensland paramedics every day. The Minister Roberts spoke warmly of the Foundation being a testament to the great strength of character of the "ambulance family". In that Jim's death resulted in such a wonderful foundation being formed to serve not only as a memorial to him, but to all paramedics who have died in the line of duty. He said that the opportunities provided by the Foundation ultimately result in the promotion and practice of best practice within (cont. page 3)

2006 Research Grant Report

Following is a synopsis of Lachlan Parker's report on his 2006 winning proposal: *A Descriptive Analysis of Flight Intensive Care Paramedic Operations in Brisbane over a six month period.*

The Kenneth James McPherson Patron Research Grant for 2006 allowed me to undertake a statewide practice analysis of QAS flight paramedics and a six month observational study of all aero-medical cases completed by Intensive Care Flight Paramedics at Emergency Management Queensland Helicopter Rescue in Brisbane.

This research identified that QAS Flight Paramedic practice differs significantly from that of the on-road paramedic. Data collected showed that Brisbane Flight Paramedics were tasked to 354 cases ranging from primary scene activations to inter-hospital transfers with many patients requiring advanced interventions. Those interventions included rapid sequence induction, mechanical ventilation, insertion and maintenance of chest drains, invasive arterial monitoring and the administration of advanced pharmacological agents.

The research which concluded that specific QAS Flight Paramedic education is warranted to support the ongoing development of the position was recently presented at the Australian College of Ambulance Professionals National Conference. I sincerely thank the Kenneth James McPherson Foundation for this wonderful opportunity and Vivienne Tippet, Director of the Australian Centre for Prehospital Research for her ongoing support and assistance.



Farewell to Jean McPherson

On the 2nd November 2007 our great friend, Jean McPherson sadly lost her battle with cancer.

Jean spent much of her life caring for others. At home, she was passionate about caring for her children and her grandchildren in practical and emotional ways and at work she led a challenging and interesting career in nursing across many diverse settings including the RBH (where she worked with John Pearn – patron of the KJM) and many smaller regional hospitals across QLD.

Jean's profound grief at the premature death of her son Jim was transformed through KJM into a lasting and meaningful positive legacy, not only for the QAS but for all QAS patients and their families.

In recent years, Jean and John were dedicated to raising funds for the Cancer Council QLD. For a number of those years, Jean was the highest individual fund raiser for this organisation – their home was often overflowing with Daffodil Day merchandise. Jean and John must have collected hundreds of thousands of "coins for cancer" through their regular stints at local Ipswich shopping centres and Jean was also the driving force behind the Ipswich 'Relay for Life'.

In six years with the cancer fund Jean raised over \$340,000 for cancer research, support services and education programs. Together Jean and John raised over \$700,000.

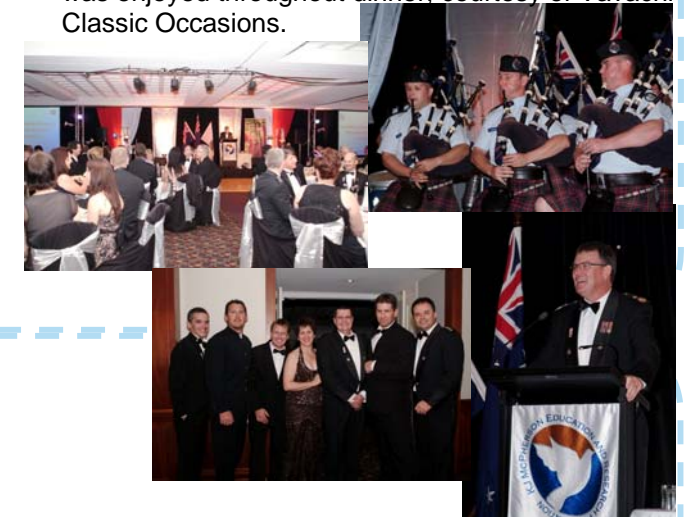
On behalf of the KJM Foundation, we would like to offer our condolences to the McPherson family as we remember the amazing contribution Jean made to the lives of others.

Gala Dinner

prehospital care – which positively benefits all Queenslanders.

Commissioner Jim Higgins spoke about exciting new initiatives which QAS is introducing into the service. These included 12 Lead ECGs, Ceftriaxone, improved personal protective equipment for front line paramedics and more. For the future the Commissioner outlined the QAS' commitment engagement in research and in building bridges to other evidence-based clinical professions to correctly situate paramedics in the continuum of patient care. He stated that previous research funded by the Foundation has already produced results for Queensland paramedics in the use of 12 lead ECGs, thrombolytics and other patient care outcomes.

MC for the evening Kevin Ryan kept the proceedings moving smoothly and musical entertainment was enjoyed throughout dinner, courtesy of Vavachi Classic Occasions.



KJM Patron's Day - Symposium cont.

In **Prehospital Clinical Practice** Professor Roy Kimble's presentation **Cool News** - What's new in first-aid for burns? and Dr Lisa-Ann Gershwin's **Marine Madness** - What's new in the water? brought us up to date with recent research findings in two areas previously discussed at the 2006 symposium. They provided some exciting new research findings which will directly impact on practices for both first aiders and also for paramedics responding to these two situations.

Enabling Technologies was a session that explored the practical application of new technologies to remote delivery of advice and patient care...allowing patients to be assessed and treated more rapidly than through the traditional treat and transport models. The audience engaged actively through real time linkages to Palm Island in north Queensland and to northern Scotland.

After lunch **"Brains and Bedlam"** took us through the challenging issues of responding to suicide and self harm (Prof Graham Martin), sedation for severe behavioural disturbance (Dr David Spain), and pre-hospital treatment for brain trauma in cases of severe head injury (A. Prof Adrian Nowitzke). The afternoon closed with reports from last year's award recipients and an overview of the contribution and potential for prehospital research to impact significantly on patient outcomes from Assoc Prof Vivienne Tippet.

