



KJ McPherson Education & Research Foundation Newsletter

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KJM Patron's Day 2009



A total of \$22,000 in grants was awarded in the culmination of the 2009 KJM Foundation Patron's Day at the Patron's Dinner. The top award, the Patron's Research Grant, of \$15,000 sponsored by Physio Control was awarded to a project to reduce the number of medication errors among patients treated by paramedics. The Patron's Research Grant recipients were a team from QAS Brisbane Region Staff Development unit. Team leader is Rony Sapir (Regional Staff Development Manager) along with Mark Crossman (acting Clinical Support Officer) and Carlo Salanitri (a Bachelor of Pharmacy student at the University of Queensland).

There are no reliable figures available on pre-hospital medication errors in Australia, but Rony Sapir said "research had shown that an estimated one in every five drug doses given in hospital are incorrect, and that in the USA an average of 195,000 deaths each year can be attributed to in-hospital medication errors".

Their research is based on a hypothesis that there are better and safer ways to attach the drugs that we give to a syringe before we give them to a patient to minimise drug errors.

The team hopes that their project will help reduce costs associated with medication errors - not just to patients, who can suffer ongoing and adverse health problems as well as financial costs, but to the paramedics themselves. *Continued on page 2*

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Grant Recipients 2009



\$1,000
LHMU/AEA Outstanding Student Graduate of the Year Grant
Sponsored by LHMU

This was awarded to Melissa Bradway. Currently based at Centenary Station, Melissa joined QAS in July 2007 and has been recognised for displaying outstanding qualities as a member of a patient care-focused team.



\$1,000
QAS Professional Development Grant Sponsored by Laerdal

This year's grant was awarded to John Hammond. John will be using the grant to attend two courses at the Australian Institute of Management; *Managing generational difference* and *Implementing operational plans*.



\$3,000
QAS Research & Development Grant Sponsored by SDSI

This year's grant went to Anthony Weber. Anthony's research focuses on the behaviours and attitudes of paramedics in administering morphine to patients experiencing pain.





Patron's Dinner

Over 200 people booked for the dinner which included QAS personnel, university guests, keynote speakers from the symposium, sponsors, and spouses and partners.

The highlight of the night was the presentation of the 2009 KJM Grants.

A wonderful night of wining and dining was had by all. Musical entertainment was provided by the Queensland Police Pipes & Drums and the 1st Field Regiment Artillery Band with the highlight of the entertainment being a special magic show.

The theme of the dinner was Hocus Pocus and events for the evening centered around this theme including presentations by Greg Vickery, AM, Foundation committee member, on "The Illusion of Law" and a presentation by the Foundation Patron, MAJGEN John Pearn, AO, RFD on "The Magic of Research Presentations".



AAPT Magic Show

The highlight of the Patron's Dinner entertainment was a special magic show by Matt Hollywood, comedy magician. This even was sponsored by AAPT. Through the generosity of Consumer Centre Manager, Shane Wilkins.

AAPT is looking for a longer term relationship in support of the Foundation.

Special effects and illusions were cleverly created by Matt Hollywood to the bewilderment of the audience. Many guests displayed their obvious enjoyment of his magic and comedy.



2008 Patron's Grant Research Report-back

At this year's clinical symposium Anthony Smith presented a report on the progress of his 2008 winning proposal: *Up the Nose - Intranasal Fentanyl in Musculoskeletal Trauma Progress to date*

This trial will implement intranasal fentanyl for use by QAS Intensive Care Paramedics and compare it with other pain management tools. Patients enrolled in the trial will receive a painless administration of a drug to reduce their suffering.



KJM Patron's Day 2009 cont.

Rony said winning the grant provided him with an opportunity to work within a multi-disciplinary team on research that was potentially valuable not just to QAS, but to ambulance services around Australia and overseas.

Rony also said this is going to benefit patients that QAS treats. Hopefully we can also prove that a device like this will work, and then generate that message nation-wide.

'Certainly without the support of the KJM Foundation we would not have been able to purchase the equipment, conduct the training, or do any of those sorts of things,' he said.

The Patron's Dinner followed the annual Patron's Day Clinical Symposium. Themed 'Poisons, Patients and Paramedics', the symposium gave QAS staff an opportunity to update their clinical knowledge and network with other industry professionals.

ACAP Scientific Poster Grant

This new grant is for University Student Paramedics who produce the best scientific poster (as judged by the KJM Panel) on a clinical or ambulance operational topic. The value of the grant will be \$2,000.

This Grant is sponsored by the Australian College of Ambulance Professionals (ACAP).

The ACAP Scientific Poster Grant for 2009 has been awarded between four students:

- Best 'Poster' Prize— [Leigh Anderson & Rheanna Pears](#)
- Second Place - Best 'Poster' Prize — [Charlie Steinhofner & Jacqui O'Sullivan](#)
- Best 'Paper' Prize — [Caroline Pryor](#)
- Best 'Paper' Prize — [Steven McElory](#)

ACAP represents the professional interests of its paramedics and other ambulance personnel throughout Australia on matters relating to out of hospital care and associated issues.



KJM Clinical Symposium



Overview Patron's Day Clinical Symposium: 'Poisons, Patients & Paramedics'

On 11 November 2009 at Royal on the Park, Brisbane, the fourth Patron's Day Clinical Symposium organised by the Foundation. The Welcome Address was given by Jim McGowan, Director-General of the Department of Community Safety. 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 symposium followed four main themes:

A) In Toxicology Ms Carol Wylie & Mr Michael Toon of the Poison's Info Centre's presentation [Poisons Hotline](#) and Mr Ross McKinnon's, AM (Curator, Brisbane Botanic Gardens presentation [Across my Desk - Modern Medical Miracles from Plants](#)

B) Challenges in Toxicology featured two presentations:

Dr Colin Page - Clinical Toxicologist, Princess Alexandra Hospital - "Toxic" Quiz – [What every Paramedic](#)

[should know](#) – A fun approach to testing our clinical knowledge in areas of pharmacology and toxicity.

C) Positives & Negatives took us through the challenging issues of:

Dr David Spain - Deputy Director, Emergency Medicine, Gold Coast Hospital - [Wild Patients - Managing difficult behaviours with alcohol & illicit drug use](#) Paramedic Brett Rogers - [Saturday Afternoon Injuries](#)

Mr Ian Patrick, ASM - National President of Australian College of Ambulance Professionals - [Narcotic Overdose](#)

Mr Rob Shillam - Regional Ambulance Educator, QAS - Fronting the Panel - [Best Practice Clinical Assessment of Student Paramedics](#)

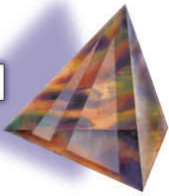
Mr Anthony Smith, BBus, Adv Dip Health Science - Paramedic, QAS - [Up the Nose - Intranasal Fentanyl in Musculoskeletal Trauma](#)

D) Prevention took us through the challenging issues of:

Professor John Pearn, AO, RFD – Senior Paediatrician, Royal Children's Hospital - [Preventing Stings & Bites](#)

A montage of sponsors and supporters

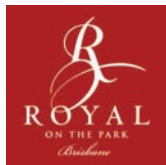
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The KJM Foundation is sincerely appreciative of the support of these organisations.

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 Department of Community Safety can support KJM through salary contributions. It's an easy way to make a big difference.
- We welcome donations. Contributions of \$2 and over 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.



About the Foundation

Since the inception of the Foundation, over \$109,450 has been granted to outstanding QAS paramedics to further both professional development and educational opportunities. These grants embody the mission of the 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, DSM (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.



KJ McPherson Education & Research Foundation

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