

A MESSAGE FROM DR NEALE FONG BETHESDA BOARD CHAIRMAN

Bethesda has undergone many changes in the past 5 years, with some new and exciting initiatives planned for the coming months and years. The operating theatre expansion in 2015/16 will see 2 new 'state-of-the-art' theatres with associated amenities being built in front of the existing theatre block, overlooking the river.



The expansion project will also result in a new and very comfortable doctor/staff lounge as well as the relocation of male and female change rooms to the lower ground floor, accessible via a new lift.

As the Bethesda Board Chairman, I am proud to lead such a committed team of hospital management, staff and volunteers but also proud to be associated with the extremely high calibre of surgeons, physicians, anaesthetists, surgical assistants and allied health personnel who work at Bethesda. I have confirmed on many occasions that it will be the strength of our partnerships with our medical staff that will see Bethesda achieve its goals and aspirations.



It was a pleasure to catch up with so many of you at this year's Clinical Association AGM/Doctors Christmas function on the 18th November and I look forward to continuing to work with you all into 2015 and beyond. Merry Christmas from the Bethesda Hospital Board and CEO Yasmin Naglazas.



Above: Artist's impression of the view of the operating theatre expansion at Bethesda — view from Freshwater Bay.

Below: Internal view of one of the 2 new operating theatres being commissioned at Bethesda in late 2015/early 2016.



A Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to each of our Surgeons, Anaesthetists, Surgical Assistants and Allied Personnel from the Board and Executive of Bethesda. Stay safe over the break.



CHRISTMAS THEATRE CLOSURE

Bethesda Hospital operating theatres will be closed from Friday evening 19 Dec 2014 and will reopen Monday 5th January 2015. It is requested that patients who have remained as an in-patient over the weekend of 20/21st December be scheduled for discharge prior to midday on Mon 22nd December.

On Friday 2 January, theatre clerical staff will be working to ensure all surgeons' scheduled lists/patient names have been received and all preparations are in place for Monday 5th January 2015. All queries can be directed to Sally Winfield on mobile 0406 382 059.



CLINICIAN'S UPDATE 2014

An update of initiatives from 2014 by Chief Executive Officer,
Yasmin Naglazas

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP UNDERWAY

The Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) endorsed the Hospital's policy on antimicrobial stewardship during the year and the multidisciplinary Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Committee was established. The committee's terms of reference are to provide a consultative forum to address antimicrobial stewardship matters, including monitoring the appropriateness of administration of antibiotics with a view to improving patient outcomes and reducing adverse consequences of antimicrobial use (including antimicrobial resistance, toxicity and unnecessary cost). The reports and audits from the AMS Committee are a standing item on the MAC agenda, and MAC members receive a regular verbal report from Dr Miles Beaman, infectious diseases physician regarding antimicrobial prescribing trends being observed at Bethesda, primarily in the area of surgical prophylaxis. Bethesda understands that good AMS programs have been shown to improve the appropriateness of antimicrobial use, and reduce institutional resistance rates, morbidity, mortality and healthcare costs. The Hospital looks forward to the support of not only the MAC, but all VMOs in the implementation of a planned and considered AMS strategy.

DISSATISFACTION AROUND ADMISSION WAITING TIMES

Bethesda has very high levels of patient satisfaction, however one area that we are experiencing increasing dissatisfaction is admission/waiting times for surgery. Bethesda has responded to the feedback from patients and restructured rosters to ensure there are more staff available at the busier times, as well as examining the introduction of a 'waiting room card' that provides more information around what to expect during the admission process.

Whilst there are sometimes clinical reasons/surgeon preference that may dictate more than 1 of a surgeon's patients arriving for admission concurrently, it is requested that the practice of staggered admission become the norm, if at all possible. We are really keen to ensure we help ease the patient/family's anxiety during the admission process, reduce prolonged periods of fasting and generally improve the overall patient experience.

BETHESDA REBRANDING + NEW LOGO

Bethesda underwent a brand revitalisation process during the year, a process that was identified as being a core component of Bethesda's growth strategy. Most stakeholders consulted during the review acknowledged that Bethesda's approach to patient care had its foundation in its Christian heritage. Overwhelmingly, no external stakeholder felt this should be forgotten, understanding the importance of Bethesda's values continuing to live through the Organisation to maintain the recipe that has made Bethesda successful. The brand revitalisation process resulted in the confirmation of the key attribute of 'personalised care' as being the future core brand value from which to leverage in Bethesda's marketing strategy. This key attribute was considered important in the everyday interactions that happen at Bethesda with patients and their families/representatives, with surgeons/anaesthetists and paramedical personnel, between staff, etc and is an attribute that could very well distinguish Bethesda from other organisations. The new logo is a combination of 2 Bs that merge together to create a visual embrace and hidden love heart to signify personalised care.



BIOHAZARD/SHARPS HANDLING

A worrying trend for me as CEO is the number of sharps and splash injuries we have seen on the operating theatres over the past 6 months. I urge surgeons, anaesthetists and surgical assistants to be more cautious in their practice and make use of the personal protective equipment (PPE) – gloves, masks and protective eyewear at all the appropriate times. I am sure I don't need to highlight that exposure to blood/body fluid splashes and needlestick injuries can have very serious consequences for the individual and Bethesda remains committed to ensuring the environment is safe for doctors, staff and patients. I look forward to your assistance with this commitment.

ANNUAL CLINICAL ASSOCIATION AGM + DOCTOR'S CHRISTMAS FUNCTION 2014



A BUSY YEAR FOR THE MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN 2014

The MAC comes to the end of another year with some solid achievements that have assisted in ensuring the clinical standards at Bethesda Hospital remain at superior levels. A group of doctors who broadly represent the specialties at Bethesda come together every 2 months for 3 back-to-back meetings:

- Medical Advisory Committee (MAC)
- Credentialing & Scope of Practice Committee (CSPC)
- Clinical Quality & Safety Committee (CQSC)

Achievements and highlights throughout 2014 have been:

1. Input and review into clinical policy that affects medical practice (e.g. patient admission criteria, pre-operative preparation of patients including prescribing and write up of medications, consent and biohazard management);
2. Review and recommendation concerning clinical variance following examination of regular clinical indicators (e.g. returns to theatre, transfers out to a tertiary hospital, unplanned readmissions).

The MAC, CSPC and CQSC meet on six evenings per year from 6pm to 8.30pm. The Committees are highly regarded by the Board of Directors for their input into clinical activities at Bethesda.



BETHESDA HOSPITAL WINS PRESTIGIOUS SAFETY AWARD



During 2014 Bethesda was awarded a Worksafe WA Platinum Award, the State's highest accolade for workplace health and safety. Bethesda is the only WA hospital to receive a Platinum Award from Worksafe WA in this area for the past six years. To achieve such an award, organisations have to demonstrate a rating of 90% or more in every element of the WorkSafe Plan in the areas of management commitment, planning, consultation, hazard management and training and supervision as well as an annual reduction in either the incidence rate or frequency rate of lost time injury. The award recognises Bethesda's commitment to providing a safe environment for patients and visitors, staff and doctors.

Above (from top left): The 2014/15 Medical Advisory Committee Members (from top left) are **David Sofield**, urologist (Chair), **Prof. Roger Hart**, gynaecologist (Deputy Chair), **Prof. David Playford**, cardiologist, **Gavin Bowra**, anaesthetist, **Benjamin Hewitt**, orthopaedic surgeon, **Toby Leys**, orthopaedic surgeon, **Richard Martin**, general surgeon and **Mark Allen**, anaesthetist..

THERAPEUTIC GUIDELINES AVAILABLE ON LINE



The **eTG** (Electronic Therapeutic Guidelines) are available for all anaesthetists, surgeons, physicians and registrars at Bethesda (inclusive of *Antibiotic, Version 15 2014*) and can be accessed via the icon located on the desktop of computers located throughout all clinical areas in the Hospital. Additionally, hard copies of these Guidelines will be available in the operating theatres.