What’s new in the epilepsy world

Thursday 26 October 2017
10:00am – 5:00pm
(Registration from 9:00am)

Venue: Russell Strong Auditorium
Princess Alexandra Hospital - Woolloongabba

Eighth Annual
Queensland Epilepsy Symposium

Thinking outside the box!

Join us for some stimulating dialogue…

Stereo - EEG: Finding hope in the depths of the brain
Genetic testing for focal epilepsy
Epilepsy and spirituality
Why do antiepileptic medicines fail to work?

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## Thursday 26 October 2017

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<td>9:00am - 9:45am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Morning tea on arrival</td>
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<td>9:45am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>David Bunker, Executive Director, Queensland Genomics Health Alliance and Director, Epilepsy Queensland</td>
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<td>10:00am - 11:00am</td>
<td>Stereo - EEG: Finding hope in the depths of the brain</td>
<td>Dr Sasha Dionisio Director Advanced Epilepsy Unit Mater Centre for Neurosciences</td>
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<td>11:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Genetic testing for focal epilepsy: Ready for prime time?</td>
<td>Dr Piero Perucca Dept. of Medicine &amp; Neurology The Royal Melbourne Hospital &amp; The University of Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00am - 12:45pm</td>
<td>What is the cause of my epilepsy?</td>
<td>A/Prof Lata Vadlamudi Senior Staff Specialist Neurology, RBWH, Principal Research Fellow UQ Centre for Clinical Research</td>
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<td>12:45pm - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:30pm - 2:15pm</td>
<td>Non-epileptic seizure like events: The differential diagnosis of epilepsy</td>
<td>Prof Harry McConnell Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Neurodisability Gold Coast District Health Services and Griffith University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2:15pm - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Non-epileptic seizures: Not “all in the head”</td>
<td>Dr Rian Dob Neuro-psychologist Neurology Outpatient Dept. Mater Health Services</td>
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<td>3:00pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Medicinal Cannabis for childhood epilepsy: Current issues and an update on the PELICAN Study</td>
<td>Ruth Blackburn Psychologist at The University of Sydney</td>
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<td>3:30pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Why do antiepileptic medicines fail to work?</td>
<td>Dr Dan McLaughlin Neurologist</td>
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<td>4:00pm - 4:20pm</td>
<td>Epilepsy and spirituality</td>
<td>Assoc. Professor Cecille Lander Neurologist &amp; Epileptologist</td>
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<td>4:20pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td>NDIS and epilepsy</td>
<td>Leonie Hogarth Epilepsy Queensland Services Development Officer</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
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### Princess Alexandra Hospital Campus

- **Russell Strong Auditorium**
- Lower Ground Level Main Hospital Building

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Metro South Health
Epilepsy Queensland Inc. thanks the Princess Alexandra Hospital for use of their venue.
Dr Sasha Dionisio is founder and head of the Mater Advanced Epilepsy Unit. The tertiary referral public epilepsy surgery centre was opened in July 2015. The team provides specialist care in all aspects of epilepsy treatment, primarily focusing on Stereo-electroencephalography (SEEG), brain mapping (CCEPS), cortical stimulation and intra-operative functional mapping. The Mater Epilepsy Unit operates closely with the Princess Alexandra Hospital, where Dr Dionisio also works as an epileptologist. The unit collaborates closely with international specialty epilepsy centres to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients at our service. Dr Dionisio attended medical school in Ireland (Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin), prior to moving to Australia to continue his training in Neurology. He spent two years training in Sydney, then moved to Brisbane to finish his neurology training. He was successful at obtaining a place as a clinical fellow at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic Epilepsy Centre (Ohio, USA), where he spent two years. He was appointed chief epilepsy fellow during his second year. As a fond resident of Brisbane, he returned to better serve epilepsy patients in Queensland. At the time of writing, he is very sore after running the 10K Bridge to Brisbane to raise money for epilepsy alongside his brilliant team!

Dr Piero Perucca MD, FRACP, is Consultant Neurologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Senior Research Fellow at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. He trained at the University of Pavia, Italy; Columbia University, USA; the Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Canada; and the University of Melbourne, Australia. His main areas of interest are the genetics of epilepsy, the pharmacological and surgical treatments of epilepsy, and genetic and electrophysiological biomarkers of epilepsy outcome. He has published in major international journals, including The Lancet Neurology, Nature Reviews Neurology, Nature Biotechnology, Annals of Neurology, Brain, Neurology, and Neurobiology of Disease. He is a member of the Genetics Commission of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE).

Lata Vadlamudi Associate Professor Lata Vadlamudi is a Senior Staff Specialist in Neurology at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Principal Research Fellow, The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research, Faculty of Medicine. She obtained her medical degree in 1989 from the University of QLD and in 2000 completed physician training in the field of Neurology. Further specialized training in epilepsy was undertaken in Melbourne, Sydney and the Mayo Clinic, USA. She obtained her PhD in 2006 from the University of Melbourne, which was entitled “The Genetics of Epilepsy: The Testimony of Twins”. Current research involves an integrated “omics” approach to epilepsy, with a particular interest in twin studies. Previous Achievements have included Glaxo Wellcome-Epilepsy Society of Australia Scholarship; Australia and New Zealand Association of Neurologists Overseas Fellowship; Janssen Cilag Epilepsy Fellowship; Janssen Cilag Top Scholar Award; National Health and Medical Research Council Medical Postgraduate Scholarship recipient; Leonard Cox Award for outstanding contribution to research in the field of Neurology and Pfizer Neuroscience Research Grant recipient. Achievements whilst working at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and The University of Queensland have included Queensland Health Research Fellowship recipient, QIMR-Clinician Research Collaboration Award, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Research Project Grants, Viertel Charitable Foundation Establishment Grant, Ramaciotti Establishment Grant and RACP Servier Barry Young Fellowship in Neurology.

Professor Harry McConnell is the Clinical Subdean at Gold Coast District Health Services and Griffith University School of Medicine where he is also Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Neurodisability. He is Chair of the South East Queensland Disability Advisory Council and serves on the Queensland Disability Advisory Council and nationally on the Prescription Medicines Committee of the TGA. He has trained and worked at the Institute of Epileptology at Kings College, London. He obtained his fellowship with the Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists on the basis of his seniority and international eminence. Professor McConnell is establishing an institute on the Gold Coast.
Dr Rian Dob is a clinical psychologist and clinical neuropsychologist who obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. She completed a clinical postgraduate degree and research PhD at The University of Queensland.

Dr Dob has worked in a number of clinical positions within public health, including Child and Youth Mental Health Service, and paediatric, adult, and older-adult Neuropsychology Services. She works part-time in private practice.

Dr Dob has been affiliated with the Mater Centre for Neurosciences since its establishment in early 2015. She has provided neuropsychological assessments for patients enrolled in the Epilepsy Surgery and Deep Brain Stimulation programs. She is also a core member of the Functional Neurological Disorders Service. Within this service, she provides clinical psychology services to patients with functional neurological disorders, including non-epileptic seizures.

Ruth Blackburn is a Psychologist working as a researcher with The Lambert Initiative, The University of Sydney. She is based in Queensland and is currently engaged with a study investigating community use of medicinal cannabis-based products as treatment for paediatric epilepsy (the PELICAN study).

Dr Dan McLaughlin is a Brisbane based Neurologist specialising in treatment of adults with seizure disorders. His research interests are the pharmacology of antiepilepsy drugs. Over the last twenty years he has been a clinical investigator in a number of trials assessing the newer anti-epileptic drugs. Over the same period of time Dr McLaughlin has been an active member of the Epilepsy Society of Australia including current Chair of the Drugs and Devices Committee. Dr McLaughlin is a member of Epilepsy Queensland’s Medical Advisory Group.

Associate Professor Cecilie Lander is a clinical neurologist and epileptologist in Brisbane. She trained at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, the Austin Hospital in Melbourne and the University College Hospital in London. Returning to Brisbane in 1979, Cecilie has worked continuously in both private and public neurological practice with particular clinical and research interests in epilepsy. She was a Senior Visiting Neurologist at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospitals for 34 years, and continues as an Honorary Visiting Neurologist at the RBWH as Associate Professor in Neurology with the University of Queensland. During the last dozen years, she commenced the Epilepsy Surgery Program at the RBWH and together with her colleagues, many cases of epilepsy surgery have been successfully undertaken with very pleasing results. Cecilie has had a long-standing interest in the pharmacological management of epilepsy, especially in women in the areas of pre-pregnancy planning, pregnancy and post-partum management. She established a specific Antenatal Clinic for Women with Epilepsy in 1979 at the RBWH and this clinic continues to serve women with epilepsy who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy. She is a Co-Investigator of the Australian Pregnancy Register for Women on anti-epileptic medication and a member of Epilepsy Queensland’s Medical Advisory Group.

Leonie Hogarth is the Services Development Officer for Epilepsy Queensland. The purpose of this role is to collaboratively improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy or other seizure disorders and their families/carers, whilst also developing and driving strategies for sustainable service development in the context of a number of changing and challenging environments, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).