

# Churack Chair of Chronic Pain Education and Research

MAY 2017



Edition #3

## Afternoon Tea



Moira and Geoff Churack

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Celia Hammond, recently hosted an Afternoon Tea for the Churack family, members of the Fundraising Working Party, the School of Medicine and others associated with the Chair. We were also fortunate to have in attendance the Churack Chair, Professor Eric Visser, and Professor Peter Drummond and Dr Philip Finch from Murdoch University.

The Vice Chancellor thanked those involved in the Churack Chair of Chronic Pain Education and Research in their various capacities.

Professor Hammond acknowledged the foresight of Geoff Churack who, while suffering from chronic pain himself, has sought to help others through the establishment of the Churack Chair of Pain Education and Research.

## Churack Chair Update

It is with great pleasure that we provide this Newsletter to our donors and supporters of the Churack Chair of Chronic Pain Education and Research.

The Churack Chair of Chronic Pain Education and Research continues to make an impact in both research and education at Notre Dame and in our community.

Professor Visser's work will be further augmented with the appointment of the Churack Postdoctoral Science Research Fellow. This is a shared position between The University of Notre Dame and the Centre for Inflammatory Pain Research under the direction of Professor Peter Drummond at Murdoch University.

The Fellowship is a unique position which fosters vital basic science research into the links between inflammation, the adrenaline-based nervous system and chronic pain. This research will help develop new treatments for chronic back pain, whiplash neck pain, headache and neuropathic nerve pain.

With my recent appointment as Chief Executive Officer at St John of God Subiaco Hospital this will be my last Churack Chair update from The University of Notre Dame Australia. Fortunately with the Churack Chair partnership between Notre Dame and St John of God Subiaco Hospital I will still have some involvement and be keenly developing this relationship.

I thank you for your support of this important initiative.

**Professor Shirley Bowen**  
Dean, School of Medicine Fremantle

## Churack Chair Postdoctoral Pain Neurosciences Research Fellow 2017-2018

Professor Eric Visser was awarded the inaugural Elaine Lillian Kluver Research Grant of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists to establish a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

Dr Natalie Morelli has been appointed as the inaugural Churack Chair Postdoctoral Pain Neurosciences Research Fellow for 2017-2018. This is a shared position between The University of Notre Dame and the Centre for Inflammatory Pain Research under the direction of Professor Peter Drummond at Murdoch University.



Dr Philip Finch, Professor Eric Visser, Professor Peter Drummond

The position received one-off 'seed' sponsorship via the inaugural Elaine Lillian Kluver Research Grant of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, and some generous corporate donors. We thank them very much for their support. To make this a long-term research Fellowship, further donations are required and any help will be much appreciated.

If you would like further information or to discuss your gift to the Churack Chair of Chronic Pain Education and Research please contact:

Ms Jennifer Healey  
Director, Office of University Relations  
Phone: (08) 9433 0614  
Email: [jennifer.healey@nd.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.healey@nd.edu.au)

Please see the article on page 35 of the ANZCA Bulletin:

<http://www.nd.edu.au/anzca-Dec-2016>

### Media

Channel Seven News coverage on migraine research at UNDA and St John of God Subiaco Hospital was aired in February with two more TV items planned this year.

<https://thewest.com.au/news/medicine/beating-the-migraine-bc-5330862371001>

Articles have been produced in the *Business Review*, *Medical Forum* and *Pain Management Today*.

## Pain Medicine Education

- The Churack Chair is providing lectures to medical students on pain topics, as part of the new Notre Dame MD curriculum.
- Acute Pain Service ward rounds are being planned with Notre Dame medical students at St John of God Subiaco Hospital in 2017-18.
- Third and final year medical students at Notre Dame are being tutored on medical research as part of their MD program.
- Professor Visser is supervising two current PhD students and one new MPhil candidate in pain research.
- Pain rounds are being conducted with students from the University of Western Australia at Joondalup Health Campus (8 students per week).
- University of Western Australia medical students have also been introduced to the Churack Chair website.
- The Churack Pain Medicine specialist trainees' workshops, masterclasses and weekly tutorial program are being conducted.
- 20 lectures, tutorials and seminars have been presented to GPs, students, nurses and consumers since the beginning of 2017.
- The 2017 lecture series for Southern Cross Care is being presented on pain management topics, for staff and clients.

### Study of pain and analgesia use after discharge from surgery

Professor Visser will commence undertaking a study of pain and analgesia use after discharge from surgery at St John of God Subiaco Hospital.

The aim of the study is to gain information to help reduce chronic pain and opioid addiction after surgery.

Please see the article in *Medicus*: Discharge Opioid analgesia following surgery: The 'one-four-the-road rule'

<http://www.nd.edu.au/Medicus-April-2017>

### Chronic Pain Masterclass

Professor Eric Visser is presenting *'What a headache. Management of chronic daily headache.'*

<http://www.nd.edu.au/Chronic-Pain-Masterclass-invite>

Churack Chair Website: <http://churackchair.nd.edu.au/>