



Summer 2016

Another year down!

It's that time of year when we all realise how time flies! As we approach the festive season and the end of 2016, I hope many of you can find the time to reflect on happy and positive moments from the year that has been.

I feel lucky to be able to think about the great year we have had in the LTU. We have had some terrific outcomes and it has been a joy to see so many of you thriving after transplant. I am also constantly in awe of the strength and resilience shown by those waiting for that phone call – you do so well under really tough circumstances, hang in there and stay strong. We have recently had a record run of transplants - **9 people in 11 days**. It was a huge team effort – I hope everyone has caught up on some sleep! The LTU has now performed over 1,100 transplants since we started 28 years ago, what a great figure. We are also mindful of all donor families at this time of year with gratitude for their precious gift of life.

On behalf of the liver transplant team, I wish you all a very happy festive season. Keep well and stay safe.

Bob

Professor Robert Jones – Director, Liver Transplant Unit

Post Transplant

The LTU Post Transplant Christmas Party is on this Friday 9th December, 2016, 10am – 12pm, Level 4, Austin Tower, Room 4.5

Post Transplant Education Sessions 2017:

Tuesday 11th April, 2017, 10am – 1.30pm, Level 4 Austin Tower, Room 4.4 (information to follow)

Tuesday 3rd October 2017, 10am – 1.30pm, Level 4 Austin Tower, Room 4.4 (information to follow)

Next year's Post Transplant Christmas Party is on Friday 8th December 2017, 10- 12pm, Level 4, Austin Tower, Room 4.5

Reminders:

Post transplant patients who need to have CMV monitoring (patients usually receive 2 blood slips stapled together) are advised not to go to Dorevitch Pathology as there have been invoicing problems. Other pathology centres that can be used are Melbourne Pathology, Australian Clinical Labs (the old Healthscope) or Saint John of God Pathology (SJOG).

With Christmas just around the corner please make sure that you keep your appointment and that you have enough medications to last you into the new year. There will be reduced LTU services over the Christmas and New Year period.

Staff news

A huge congratulations to Dr Paul Gow who is the recipient of Austin's 2016 Senior Medical Staff Teaching Award.

Letter to the Editor:

Thank you all for the newsletters, I really enjoy reading them, keep up the great work,

Garry Clarke

Pre Transplant

Upcoming Pre Transplant Support Groups:

Tuesday 21st February, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Level 4 Austin Tower, Room 4.4. Topic: Welcome back to the world of transplantation, team and roles, staff changes, adjustments, raising awareness of organ donation.

Tuesday 21st March, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Level 4 Austin Tower, Room 4.5. Topic: When you are called in for transplant, dummy runs, what to expect in Intensive Care, on the ward and in post liver transplant clinic.

Notices

Car Parking:

Austin Health's concession car parking policy has changed to ensure that patients and visitors receive fair and consistent car parking rates and that concessional rates can be given to those that need them the most. To be eligible patients must:

- Hold a Department of Veteran Affairs White or Gold Card
- Attend Austin 2 or more times per week for a 1 to 6 week period
- Attend Austin more than once per week for a period greater than 6 weeks
- Demonstrate financial hardship

If you meet any of the above criteria, please speak to an authorised staff member who will submit a Concession Application. This can now be done by a range of staff members, both in clinic and on the wards, including nurses, reception staff and Social Workers. Your Concession Pass can be picked up at your next visit at the parking office on Level B3 of the Austin Tower. Renewal of existing car passes can be done electronically and also require the submission of the Concession Application.

DonateLife Thank You Day:

This is a national day to honour all living and deceased donors and their families. It was held on the 20th November this year. People were asked to say 'thank you' by creating and sharing a message on social media as part of the #ThankYouDay campaign. Stay tuned for next year's DonateLife Thank You Day date. In the meantime, would you consider sharing what you have done to honour your donor on the LTU Patient Website? If so, go to www.ltuonline.com.au and join the forum!



Patient News

Welcome to **Oliver Harvey**, who is pictured below with our post transplant nurse Jules. Oliver is the delightful son of Jacqui who is nearly 20 years post transplant. Congratulations **Jacqui** and welcome Oliver.



Transplant Games:

Australian Transplant Games

The 2016 Transplant Games were held in Western Sydney. We had 7 Victorian/Tasmanian liver transplant recipients and their families participate.

Congratulations to the following participants and their families: Mary Bawden, Johnnie Cameron, Wayne Fogarty, Robert Jones, Annabelle Taylor, Bella Dyer and Tony Harding. Also participating were two donor families.

Thank you to all participants for flying the flag and helping raise awareness about organ donation. The next Australian Transplant Games will be held in 2017, the venue is still to be decided.

World Transplant Games 2017

The World Transplant Games will be held on Sunday 25th June to Sunday 7th July in Malaga Spain, see Transplant Australia Website for further information.

Pictured Left: Transplant recipients Mary Bawden and Robert Jones, with Robert's wife Linda.