PROJECT TITLE: Factors affecting dysphagia management in Malaysia

PhD Candidate: Rahayu Mustaffa Kamal (B.Sp.Sc, MSLT)

E-mail: rahayu.mustaffakamal@uqconnect.edu.au

Supervisors:

Professor Liz Ward (Primary), Centre for Functioning & Health Research, Queensland Health and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Dr Petrea Cornwell (Associate supervisor) Griffith Health Institute, Behavioural Basis of Health Program, Griffith University, Australia

A/Professor Kartini Ahmad (Site supervisor)

Rahayu has been a lecturer of Speech Sciences at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) since 2003. She received a Bachelor in Speech Sciences degree (Hons) from UKM in 2001 and a Master in Speech Language Therapy degree from the University of Canterbury in 2003. Rahayu has published 4 journal articles, and presented 4 papers in the national and international conferences mainly in the area of dysphagia since joining UKM. For her current PhD research, Rahayu is focussing on service delivery with regard to dysphagia management in Malaysia. The project explores current practices of dysphagia management in Malaysia, available infrastructure to support and facilitate dysphagia management in the country, and current skills and training of Malaysian speech pathologists and other health professionals in managing the disorder. The final part of her project identifies the impact of an advanced postgraduate training module provided to the speech pathologists in Malaysia as the first step to address the barrier to the establishment of dysphagia services in the country.
PROJECT TITLE: Swallowing, nutrition and patient-rated function in patients with oropharyngeal SCC treated curatively with altered fractionation radiotherapy with concomitant boost or chemoradiation

PhD Candidate: Bena Cartmill (B.Sp.Path (Hons))

E-mail: bena_cartmill@health.qld.gov.au

Supervisors:

Dr Petrea Cornwell, Griffith Health Institute, Behavioural Basis of Health Program, Griffith University, Australia

Professor Liz Ward, Centre for Functioning & Health Research, Queensland Health and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

A/Professor Sandro Porceddu, Radiation Oncology, Princess Alexandra Hospital

Bena completed a Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Hons) at the University of Queensland in 2001. She is a clinically advanced speech pathologist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane and has been working with head and neck cancer patients for 7 years. Her PhD examines the functional outcomes in patients with oropharyngeal cancer who receive non-surgical treatment. The project aims to explore the swallowing, nutrition, and patient-rated function of those treated with altered fractionation radiotherapy and chemoradiation. She has presented at a number of national and international conferences.
**PROJECT TITLE:** A Systematic Investigation of Communication and Oral Intake Difficulties in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs); Using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) to compare resident need to current intervention.

**PhD Candidate:** Michelle Bennett

**E-Mail:** michelle.bennett@uqconnect.edu.au

**Supervisors:**
Professor Liz Ward (Primary supervisor) Centre for Functioning & Health Research, Queensland Health and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Dr Nerina Scarinci (Associate supervisor) Division of Speech Pathology, School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Michelle completed a Masters of Speech and Language Pathology, Macquarie University in 2004 and has since been working clinically mainly as a sole trader in private practice. Clinically her interests lie in Aged Care, Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorders. However, Michelle has worked within all generalist areas of Speech Pathology. She is undertaking her PhD to step out of the clinical box and begin to pave the way for a diverse career encompassing clinical, research and teaching roles. Her project aims to 1) Determine the nature of communication and oral intake difficulties in residents of high care, Aged Care Facilities and map these difficulties onto the ICF 2) Examine current speech pathology referral and intervention practices and facility based intervention for residents in high care, Aged Care Facilities with communication and/or oral intake difficulties 3) Compare current intervention and referral practices with identified resident difficulties 4) Commence the development of a reliable and valid measure of communication and oral intake difficulties in residents of Aged Care Facilities.
PROJECT TITLE: The effectiveness of intensive voice therapy in the management of vocal nodules

Currently MPhil (advancing to PhD): Sherry Fu (BSc, MSpPathSt)

E-Mail: shezza114@hotmail.com

Supervisors:
Professor Deborah Theodoros (Primary), Division of Speech Pathology, School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Professor Liz Ward (Centre for Functioning & Health Research, Queensland Health and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Sherry is a speech pathologist working at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan. She works mainly with patients with voice disorders and head and neck cancer. Her current project is on the effectiveness of intensive voice therapy in the management of vocal nodules. The aim of the proposed study is to determine if voice therapy, delivered in an intensive therapy model is more effective and has greater patient compliance than a traditional voice therapy protocol for vocal nodules.
PROJECT TITLE: Dysphagia following thermal burn injury: Clinical risk factors and prognostic indicators of recovery

PhD Candidate: Anna Rumbach (BSc, MSpPathSt, GCHEd)

E-Mail: a.rumbach@uq.edu.au

Supervisors:
Professor Liz Ward (Primary) Centre for Functioning & Health Research, Queensland Health and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ
Dr Petrea Cornwell (Associate) Griffith Health Institute, Behavioural Basis of Health Program, Griffith University, Australia

Anna Rumbach had completed a Bachelor of Science (2005) and a Masters of Speech Pathology Studies (2007), alongside a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education (2010) at the University of Queensland. For her current PhD research, Anna is exploring swallowing impairment (dysphagia) in the burn population. The aims of the study are to determine: (1) how large this clinical population is, (2) which patients are more at risk of dysphagia, (3) the physiological basis for the dysphagia, and, (4) what can we expect regarding prognosis.
**PROJECT TITLE:** Telerehabilitation Applications in the Assessment of Swallowing Disorders

**PhD Candidate:** Shobha Sharma (B.A (Comm. Dis), MLSP, MSLT)

**E-mail:** shobha.sharma@uq.edu.au

**Supervisors:**

Professor Liz Ward (Primary) Centre for Functioning & Health Research, Queensland Health and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Professor Deborah Theodoros (Associate) Telerehabilitation Unit and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Dr. Trevor Russell, (Associate) Telerehabilitation Unit and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Shobha is a speech pathologist by training. She is employed at the National University of Malaysia as a lecturer in speech pathology and held the position of the clinical director until her scholarship to Australia. Her passion lies in clinical voice disorders and dysphagia. Having received her first Masters degree from the University of Malaysia in voice disorders and her second Masters degree in dysphagia from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, she is currently pursuing her PhD at The University of Queensland in telerehabilitation in dysphagia. The research entitled Telerehabilitation Applications in the Assessment of Swallowing Disorders aims to assess the feasibility and validity of conducting a dysphagia assessment online. In addition, the research addresses the perceptions of I.T personnel and Malaysian speech pathologists about telerehabilitation and its scope in the Malaysian government hospital setting. She will return to Malaysia on completion of her studies and hopes to have joint collaborations with Australian counterparts to actively promote telerehabilitation in speech pathology.
**PROJECT TITLE:** The impact of dysphagia after treatment of head and neck cancer for the patient and their carer.

**PhD Candidate:** Rebecca Nund

**E-Mail:** rebecca.packer@uqconnect.edu.au

**Supervisors:**
Professor Liz Ward (Primary supervisor) Centre for Functioning & Health Research, Queensland Health and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Dr Nerina Scarinci (Associate supervisor) Division of Speech Pathology, School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Bena Cartmill (Associate), Speech Pathology, Princess Alexandra Hospital

A/Professor Sandro Porceddu, Radiation Oncology, Princess Alexandra Hospital

Rebecca completed a Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) at the University of Queensland in 2010. For her research project Rebecca is investigating the impact of swallowing impairment (dysphagia) on quality of life following treatment for head and neck cancer for not only the patient but for their primary carer. The project aims to describe from the perspective of the patient and the carer, their experiences of either living with dysphagia (patient) or caring for someone with dysphagia (carer). The project also aims to explore the possibility of describing third party disability experienced by carers of people with dysphagia following treatment of head and neck cancer in terms of the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health framework (ICF).
**PROJECT TITLE:** Tracheostomy tube management in the critical care setting: Implications for speech, swallowing and decannulation.

**Currently MPhil candidate (advancing to PhD):** Lee Pryor (BaAppSc - SpPath)

**E-mail:** lee.pryor@health.sa.gov.au

**Supervisors:**

Professor Liz Ward (Primary), Centre for Functioning & Health Research, Queensland Health and School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ

Dr Petrea Cornwell (Associate supervisor), Griffith Health Institute, Behavioural Basis of Health Program, Griffith University, Australia

A/Professor Marianne Chapman (Associate supervisor), Director of Research, Intensive Care Unit, Royal Adelaide Hospital; Associate Professor, Acute Care Discipline, School of Medicine University of Adelaide

Lee has been the Senior Speech Pathologist for critical care and trauma services at the Royal Adelaide Hospital since 2006. Her primary clinical interest is the multi-disciplinary management of tracheostomised patients from acute ventilator dependency through to decannulation. She predominantly works with patients in intensive care and the spinal cord injured population, and contributes to the safe weaning and decannulation of patients through involvement in the Royal Adelaide Hospital tracheostomy team. She has recently been awarded grant funding from the RAH Allied Health, Nursing & Pharmacy Research committee to support her first research project.
PROJECT TITLE:
Improving Self Awareness in People with Brain Injury using Video Feedback

PhD Candidate: Julia Schmidt, BSc (OT)

E-mail: Julia.Schmidt@royalrehab.com.au

Supervisors:

Dr Jennifer Fleming, Conjoint Associate Professor

*The University of Queensland, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences*
*Princess Alexandra Hospital*
*Centre for Functioning and Health Research, Metro South Health District*

Dr Tamara Ownsworth, Senior Lecturer

*School of Psychology, Griffith University*

Dr Natasha Lannin, Senior Lecturer

*Royal Rehabilitation Centre, Sydney*

*Rehabilitation Studies Unit, The University of Sydney*

Julia Schmidt works as an Occupational Therapist at the Brain Injury Unit at Royal Rehabilitation Centre and as a clinical research assistant at the Rehabilitation Studies Unit at The University of Sydney. Julia has extensive experience, interest, and expertise in brain injury rehabilitation and has broad experience in other aspects of Occupational Therapy. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Queensland in cognitive rehabilitation.

Julia’s research involves two major studies. One study is a systematic review methodology to appraise the existing research on the treatment of self-awareness impairments using feedback components for people with acquired brain injury.

The second study evaluates the effectiveness of video feedback in improving self-awareness of patients with traumatic brain injury. This study will use an assessor-blinded randomised controlled trial methodology with three conditions. The study will compare the use of video feedback, verbal feedback, and functional activity alone (control condition) in participants with traumatic brain injury.
PROJECT TITLE: Pathways and Choices for younger people (18-55 years) with high care needs


Email: deborah.mcintyre@uqconnect.edu.au

Supervisors:

Associate Professor Jennifer Fleming (Primary), Centre for Functioning and Health Research, Conjoint Appointment in Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, the University of Queensland and Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Dr Michele Foster (Associate supervisor), Senior Lecturer, School of Social Work and Human Services, The University of Queensland, St.Lucia.

Dr. Sean Tweedy (Associate supervisor), MAIC Research Fellow, Physical Activity & Disability, School of Human Movement Studies, The University of Queensland, St.Lucia.

Deborah has been a Special Education teacher for the last twelve years working with teenagers with disabilities. She received a Bachelor of Arts from UQ in 1996, a Master of Arts from Macquarie University in 2000 and a Masters of Education (Spec. Ed.) in 2002. For her current PhD research, Deborah is exploring the personal experience of housing and support for younger people (18 – 55 years) with high care needs. Her research aims include examination of the major themes and propositions which most adequately describe the lived experience of individuals with high care needs and their family members/caregivers regarding housing and support. An outcome of this research is to contribute to the current debate regarding disability care and support and, in turn, to inform disability policy.