Comings & goings

We are now well into the second year of the INCISIVE project, with a growing research team and a full program of activities for the year. Two PhD candidates have recently joined us. Ms Rebacca Tock, who is working on overcoming the ethical challenges for autonomy in surgical innovation; and Ms Leigh Dayton, who is working on Australia’s quest for the bionic eye & the politics of innovation. We welcome them to the team and look forward to their contributions. Dr Katrina Hutchison took parental leave earlier in the year and has now returned part time to the project after the arrival of her son Rowan in April.

“Innovative” research

The major focus for our research in 2013 is the qualitative research conducted by Dr Katrina Hutchison within West Sydney Local Health District. This involves Dr Hutchison interviewing surgeons, health services managers and theatre staff on the identification and management of issues raised by the introduction of innovative surgical procedures. Several interviews have been conducted to date and we worked with Dr Angela Ballantyne on coding frameworks during her April visit to the project. We hope to complete the bulk of the data collection by the end of 2013.

Meeting & speaking

Our April project meeting provided an excellent opportunity for the project team to meet, review progress and map out our research activities. Prof Colin Thomson gave a presentation on the current research of the legal and regulatory working group, and Prof Tony Eyers presented a version of his work in progress on the diffusion of innovation, using the example of appendectomy.

Several members of the INCISIVE team presented at the annual conference of the Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law conference, held in Sydney in July.
Later this month **Leigh Dayton** will participate in a panel discussion at the Australian & New Zealand Spinal Cord Society Annual Meeting in Sydney. She also spoke last April at the St Vincent’s Institute Unleashing Innovation Forum in Melbourne.

In early October we will hold a breakfast meeting at the Museum of Sydney for external stakeholders. The aim of this meeting is to introduce our research and develop ways of making our findings accessible and relevant for health policy and practice. Prof **David Wilkinson**, MQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Corporate Engagement and Advancement, will host the meeting.

Later in October, in association with our second project meeting for the year, we will hold a workshop on ethical issues raised by surgical innovation. We have invited four external commentators to join us for that workshop: Prof **Miles Little**, Dr **Marie Bismark**, Dr **Drew Carter**, and Prof **Vikki Entwistle**. For further details of the workshop on the morning of 28 October, or to register, please contact **swantje.lorrimer-mohr@mq.edu.au**.

### 2013 Outcomes

#### 2013 Publications


Lotz. Surgical innovation as sui generis surgical research, *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* (accepted).

#### 2013 Conference Presentations

Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL), Sydney July 11th – 14th 2013: 
‘Bioethics, research metrics and the ERA: how can we make our work count in academia and in practice?’ (Rogers, Hutchison, Newson, Mackenzie)
‘Ethics Oversight of the Process of Diffusion of Surgical Innovation’ (Eyers)
‘Governing responsible surgical innovation’ (Thomson with Gisselle Gallego and Falco Thiele [Biotronik Australia]).

For further details on our work, or for copies of papers, please contact **swantje.lorrimer-mohr@mq.edu.au**