Project Newsletter and 2012 Overview

2012 was the first year of the three-year INCISIVE project on the ethics and regulation of innovative surgery. The project officially started on 1 Feb 2012 with the appointments of Dr Katrina Hutchison (Research Associate) and Ms Swantje Lorrimer-Mohr (Research Assistant). One of our major research tasks for 2012 was to develop a philosophically robust definition of ‘surgical innovation.’ A simple and practical definition is essential in order to identify which surgical activities are innovation, and might therefore require different governance compared with normal practice. We presented draft results from this research at our 2012 workshop, and papers are in preparation for 2013. A second major research task related to scoping out the legal and regulatory terrain in relation to innovation. Outcomes from this work included a conference presentation and a publication in press (see below), as well as a meeting with Sir Ian Kennedy in London. Research into the ethics of innovative surgery focused on conflicts on interest, with one paper in press and another in preparation for 2013.

We had a very productive year engaging with our Partner Organisations. Dr Hutchison worked closely with Dr Hill and her team at West Sydney Local Health District. These visits provided excellent insights into the practical management of surgical innovation in a local health district, and laid the foundations for the qualitative research planned for 2013. Members of the team visited ASERNIP-S and Bellberry Ltd in Adelaide, while Dr Ballantyne made a research visit to Macquarie from the University of Otago.

We are looking forward to another busy and productive year in 2013, with qualitative interviews planned at Westmead hospital, as well as ongoing legal and ethical research.

The panel (Johnson, Lotz, Ballantyne, Rogers, Thomson) during the project presentation at the IAB
2012 Activities and Outcomes

2012 Publications
Addressing within-role conflicts of interest in surgery W Rogers and J Johnson, *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* (accepted 11/12/12).

2012 Conference Presentations
11th World Congress of the International Association of Bioethics (IAB), Rotterdam, 26-29 June 2012: Special Symposium ‘The Future of Surgical Innovation: Can Progress, Safety and Accountability Be Ensured?’ (Rogers, Thomson, Ballantyne, Johnson, Lotz)
Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL), Auckland 12-14 July 2012: ‘The Drivers of Surgical Innovation’ (Eyers) and ‘Responsibility and Surgical Innovation: Locating Ethics in Responsive Regulation’ (Thomson)

2012 Workshop
Defining and Managing Innovations in Surgery, Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD), Westmead Hospital, Sydney, 7 Dec (Chair: Stephen Leeder; panellists Rogers, Hutchison, Thomson, Hill)

2012 Engagement with Partner Organisations
Research visits at WSLHD Multiple throughout year, meeting key staff at Westmead Hospital (Hill, Hutchison, Rogers, Thomson, Lorrimer-Mohr)
Research visit to ASERNIP-S (Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Intervventional Procedures – Surgical), Adelaide, 17 – 19 Sep (Rogers, Eyers, Hutchison, Meyerson, Thomson)
Project update to Bellberry Ltd, Adelaide 19 Sep (Rogers, Eyers, Hutchison, Meyerson, Thomson)
Research visit by Dr Ballantyne (University of Otago) to Macquarie, 6-7 Dec (meetings with Rogers, Hutchison, Johnson, Lorrimer-Mohr)

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