December 2013 Project Newsletter

Comings & goings
The second half of 2013 has been marked by two public events for the project (see below), welcoming Dr Hutchison back after the birth of her son, conference presentations, publications, and a new collaboration with Dr Marie Bismark from the University of Melbourne.

Innovative research
Dr Prof Denise Myerson developed a new paper investigating the right to innovative treatment.
Dr Katrina Hutchison (with others from the group working on the definition and classification of innovative surgery) developed a check-list for identifying innovative surgery. This has been presented to the project team and interested stakeholders. We plan to publish this in 2014 as well as meet with relevant stakeholders to see how this can be used to support safe innovation.
Prof Colin Thomson and Dr Marie Bismark furthered the regulatory branch of the project with their work on the framework governing surgical innovation.
Dr Katrina Hutchison continued the project’s qualitative research within West Sydney Local Health District. Interviews will continue during the first half of 2014 with surgeons, health services managers and theatre staff on the identification and management of issues raised by the introduction of innovative surgical procedures.

Meeting & speaking
On October 2nd, the team held a breakfast meeting at the Museum of Sydney for external stakeholders. MQ’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Corporate Engagement and Advancement Prof David Wilkinson hosted this event, which was also attended by Prof Sakkie Pretorius (DVC-Research) and Prof Catriona Mackenzie (A/D Research, Faculty of Arts). The aim of the meeting was to meet with stakeholders to present and discuss our research. Guests included executives from Local Health Districts, NSW Ministry of Health and Prof Clifford Hughes from the Clinical Excellence Commission.
Prof Wendy Rogers and Prof Colin Thomson gave brief presentations highlighting some of the relevant practical applications of the project outcomes. Dr Kim Hill
summarized the collaborative work of the INCISIVE team with Western Sydney Local Health District. The project team received valuable feedback from all guests.

On October 28th the project team organised a workshop on Ethical Issues in Surgical Innovation at ASAM, Mq. There were four project presentations with commentaries by invited respondents:

1. Consent, patient autonomy and surgical innovation: Rebacca Tock (Respondent Dr Marie Bismark, University of Melbourne)
2. Justice, equity and new surgical procedures: Dr Katrina Hutchison and Dr Jane Johnson (Respondent Dr Drew Carter, University of Adelaide)
3. The effects on surgical skills of innovation: do we need a “Surgical ark” to preserve skills: Prof Wendy Rogers and Prof Guy Maddern (Respondent Prof Miles Little, University of Sydney)
4. What are the potential ethical issues if all innovation is treated as research? Colin Thomson (Respondent Prof Vikki Entwistle, University of Aberdeen)

The workshop attracted approximately 30 participants including practising surgeons, ethicists, members of ethics committees (clinical and research) and people working in health services.

2013 Outcomes
2013 Publications


2013 Conference Presentations
Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL), Sydney July 11th – 14th 2013:

1. ‘Bioethics, research metrics and the ERA: how can we make our work count in academia and in practice?’ (Rogers, Hutchison, Newson, Mackenzie)

2. ‘Ethics Oversight of the Process of Diffusion of Surgical Innovation’ (Eyers)

3. ‘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