Let’s Go Linkway!

One of the common questions the project team get is about how a link between hospitals will be maintained during construction of the central acute services building between Westmead Hospital and The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. The answer is through much careful planning and consideration!

Last Friday project team members got together with representatives from Westmead Hospital, The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Work Health and Safety to run through a test exercise of the proposed ramp which will connect the temporary linkway at each end of the hospitals. A test ramp was specially constructed to review its capacity for safe patient transfers.

“The current linkway represents an integral part of the neonatal infant transfer process. It’s critical that these high-dependency babies are able to be brought through to receive necessary care in a safe, secure and timely manner,” project director Deanne Turner said.

“The project team recognises the significance of preserving this vital link to ensure that all patients who utilise this service can continue to receive the best possible care as soon as possible.”

“It’s important that we test and retest infrastructure components like the linkway ramp to make sure they’re functional before we move ahead with the final installation. Something as critical as the safety of newborns during transfer can’t be second guessed—we need to iron out any kinks to ensure a seamless transition when we switch over to the temporary linkway,” project director Tim Mason said.

The temporary linkway will commence construction in September. For the best source of updates on the temporary linkway be sure to check the redevelopment website, read our weekly project update. If you have a question you’d like answered by the Redevelopment team, ring us on 1800 990 296 or email us at WSLHD-WestmeadProject@health.nsw.gov.au
On Thursday 4 August nearly 200 people attended a student open day for the Westmead Research Hub at the Westmead Institute of Medical Research (WIMR). Hub partners include the WIMR, University of Sydney, Children’s Medical Research Institute, Kids Research Institute at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, and Western Sydney Local Health District. Prospective students mingled with staff, supervisors and current PhD students to discuss options for research careers at the Westmead precinct.

We interviewed four students and asked them “Why they chose Westmead?” and “Where do you see yourself in 10 years?” A big thanks to Hannah, Cosmo, Jason and Alex for chatting to us! We wish you well for your future and hope to see you at work in the new acute services building and the Innovation Centre.

Hannah Frazer, Bachelor of Science — 3rd year

Why Westmead?
Right now I’m double majoring in pharmacology and physiology and I’d like to undertake a masters of philosophy next year and eventually study medicine.

I’d like to study medicine because I want to help people and I know that there are many ways to help people but I think health is one of the most important because you can’t enjoy anything else if you’re not healthy.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Ten years from now I’d like to be a surgeon and I think I knew for sure that surgery was the path that I’d like to pursue in my first anatomy lab when we worked with cadavers for the first time. I’d like a career that allows me to put all this theoretical knowledge that I’ve learnt and all the things that I’ve researched into practical use and I think that Westmead allows me to do that.

Cosmo Liu, Bachelor of Science — 3rd year

Majoring in Anatomy and Cell Pathology

Why Westmead?
I don’t know too much about other hospitals but all I know is that Westmead offers the best and [has] probably the most amount of opportunities compared to other hospitals and this is the hospital that is affiliated with the University of Sydney, which is my alma mater soon to be.

[Today] there was a … a professor at the University of Sydney … and she offered us a bunch of projects that we could choose from. There was one about cardiovascular disease, diabetes and you know there was also one related to children’s hospital projects which I find pretty interesting so, yeah, so I’m very keen to look into it.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
So, ten years from now I would love to be not just a doctor or a surgeon, but someone who is also researching methods and possible cures for the cancers and diseases like Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s. Because I really think the people, and the families, who are suffering from those diseases need the help … all the help that they can get.
Students answer “Why Westmead?”

(continued)

Jason Luong, Bachelor of Med Science / Doctor of Medicine — 3rd year

Why Westmead?

At Westmead I think one of the great things is that it’s very interdisciplinary. It offers a range of supervisors that are doing research in really ground-breaking fields. And I think that’s something that’s not really available everywhere else in the sense there’s a lot of groups that are doing lots of different types of research.

They are also so close to a place where people are doing clinical research, people are at the bedside and they can bring information from the bench to the bedside and they can bring information from patient back over into basic and fundamental research which I think is really, really important, especially in the field of medical research.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Well ten years from now I hope to be practicing as a clinician, so I’m enrolled in the MD program here at the University of Sydney as well, and I hope to get clinical placement out here at Westmead and also keep a couple of limbs in research, so to speak. I hope that I will be able to communicate some of my clinical skills with a research setting and see whether I can sort of have that interplay. So, do a little bit of clinical work but also do a bit of research that relates to that and maybe discover something interesting.

Alex Agyekum, PhD student, WIMR
Research area: Infectious Diseases

Why Westmead?

I chose Westmead because it had a lot of potential with a little background and a lot of research that I did I realised that it was close to the hospital and most of the supervisors and students are also in one particular area so there is a lot of collaboration and because it is close to the hospital you are able to see the direct translation of research into clinical management. So I thought that was an opportunity for me looking at my background as a clinical microbiologist — something that would really help me. So that’s why I decided to come to Westmead Hospital.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Well, ten years from now I have always wanted to impart knowledge. I’d want to be a researcher [and academic] ... because I thought that there’s a lot that I’d impart to future generations. Try to teach them what I’ve learned ... the steps I’ve taken to this particular level. Let people also understand and share knowledge. I mean, it is important at the end of the day, to try and let people understand, disseminate and share information, and make the world a better place. That’s what I believe in.
Westmead Hospital Traffic & Transport Staff Forum

The next Westmead Hospital Traffic and Transport staff forum will be held on Tuesday, 9 August 2016. It will cover:

- An update on the construction vehicle staging plans for the central acute services building
- What’s next for car parking across the precinct
- The Parramatta light rail team will be present to provide an update on planning for the project.
- Information about the construction of a temporary linkway between Westmead Hospital and The Children’s Hospital at Westmead

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Works On Site

Infrastructure upgrades underway.

Changes to Redbank access for pedestrians and vehicles. Please follow the instructions of traffic wardens.

Car parking construction. Access to Oval is closed until the new car park is opened in late September 2016.

Construction works occurring in this location on Wednesday 3 August. Please follow the instructions of traffic wardens.

Area closed for construction.

Car parks closed for construction. Changed traffic conditions.

Construction of the new helipad