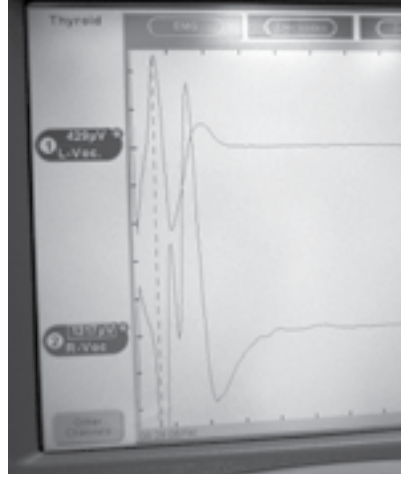




The Alfred



*Nerve stimulator applied to the recurrent laryngeal nerve to visually monitor its integrity during thyroidectomy.*



## GENERAL SURGERY

Director: Professor Jonathan Serpell MBBS, MD, FRACS, FACS

The Alfred Department of General Surgery has undergone significant consolidation during 2008 and has built on its research program. The department remains committed to clinical research, some areas of basic science research, databases, clinical trials and audit and quality assurance processes. Those entering into surgical training are well supported in research projects, and of the ten surgical trainee research presentations at the DS Rosengarten Prize in December 2008, seven were from the General Surgery Department.

### BREAST, ENDOCRINE AND GENERAL SURGERY

Established databases in thyroid surgery, parathyroid surgery, adrenal surgery, parotid surgery, and soft tissue tumour surgery have contributed to clinical research projects. A dedicated thyroid cancer database has also been established.

#### Current Projects

- Anatomical studies on the recurrent laryngeal nerve (Prof. J Serpell). This study has identified that the motor fibres supplying both the abductors and adductors of the intrinsic muscles of the larynx are located in the anterior extra-laryngeal branch of the recurrent laryngeal nerve. This has important implications for thyroid surgery.
- Ongoing study of the rate of bifurcation of recurrent laryngeal nerves (Prof. J Serpell)
- Changes in the diameter of the recurrent laryngeal nerve during thyroid surgery and its relationship to recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy (Prof. J Serpell)
- Hypothyroidism following hemithyroidectomy (Dr S Su, Prof. J Serpell)
- Incidence of thyroid tumours in thyroid nodules greater than 4cm in diameter (Dr M Raj, Prof. J Serpell)
- The role of fine needle aspiration cytology in the management of thyroid cancer (Dr M Raj, Prof. J Serpell)
- Follicular thyroid cancer presenting as bone metastases without a demonstrable primary thyroid tumour. (Dr A Andrabi, Prof. J Serpell)
- Preoperative investigation of brachial cysts facilitates surgical management (Dr J Slater, Prof. J Serpell)
- Preoperative fine needle cytology and imaging facilitates the management of submandibular gland lesions (Dr M Taylor, Prof. J Serpell)
- Contribution to a tissue bank for follicular tumours (Prof. J Serpell)
- The investigation and management of thyroglossal duct cyst (Dr J Eteuati, Prof. J Serpell)
- Heuristics of thyroidectomy (Prof. J Serpell)
- The anatomy of the final 2cm course of the extra-laryngeal recurrent laryngeal nerve: a new operative surgery concept of two facial layers enveloping the recurrent laryngeal nerve (Prof. J Serpell)

### COLORECTAL AND GENERAL SURGERY

#### Current Projects

- Deficiencies in pathological reporting of colorectal cancer in Victoria (Dr S Bell, Dr K Farmer)
- Clinical and endorectal ultrasound staging of circumferential rectal cancers (Dr A Smith, Dr K Farmer)

### UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL AND GENERAL SURGERY

The Upper Gastrointestinal Unit has several databases in hepatectomy, pancreatic surgery, oesophagectomy, gastrectomy and bariatric surgery.

#### Current Projects

- Randomised trial of VLCD post FOLFOX chemotherapy prior to liver resection for colorectal metastases (Dr C Pilgrim, Dr A Smith, A/Prof. W Brown)
- The use of VLCD prior to liver resection for colorectal metastases (Dr C Pilgrim, Dr P Evans, Dr V Usatoff, A/Prof. W Brown)
- Vascular preconditioning of the gastric tube prior to oesophagectomy (Dr P Burton, Dr A Smith, A/Prof. W Brown)
- Traumatic bile duct injuries/leaks (Dr C Pilgrim, Dr V Usatoff, Dr M Smith, Dr P Evans)
- Outcome of patients with liver trauma (Dr P Evans, Dr V Usatoff, Dr P Burton)
- Follow-up of patients following traumatic diaphragmatic hernia repair (Dr P Burton, A/Prof. W Brown, Dr S Kemp)
- Follow-up of respiratory patients following laparoscopic fundoplication (Dr P Burton, A/Prof. W Brown, Dr A Smith, Dr S Hassen, A/Prof. P Nottle)
- Assessment of improvement of laparoscopic skills using a basic trainer (Dr J Choi, Dr P Evans, Dr V Usatoff, Dr A Smith, A/Prof. W Brown, A/Prof. P Nottle)
- Follow-up of patients treated surgically for achalasia (Dr K Heggie, Dr C Pilgrim, Dr A Smith, Dr S Hassen, A/Prof. W Brown, A/Prof. P Nottle)
- Laparoscopic hernia repair – tackler versus glue (Dr E Kaplan, Dr V Usatoff, Dr A Smith, Dr P Evans, A/Prof. P Nottle)
- Survival following hepatectomy (Dr V Usatoff, Dr M Smith, Dr P Evans)
- Follow up of liver resections for metastatic colorectal cancer (Dr V Usatoff, Dr M Smith, Dr P Evans)
- Laparoscopic liver resection (Dr C Pilgrim, Dr V Usatoff, Dr M Smith, Dr P Evans)
- Motility disorders and LAGB surgery (Dr P Burton, A/Prof. W Brown, Dr A Smith, A/Prof. P Nottle)

#### PUBLICATIONS

12 Journal Articles