

The Occupational Therapy Service aims to enhance people's quality of life by enabling them to participate in their chosen life roles and personal occupations, including self care, leisure, study and/or work.

Research output for 2010 has included two publications in peer-reviewed journals, as well as 12 free papers and 8 posters at national and international conferences. Key projects undertaken or completed in 2010 have reflected the breadth of speciality areas that occupational therapists work across. These have included:

- Evaluation of targeted occupational therapy services for elderly trauma patients
- Patient adherence to treatment in acute hand injuries
- Assessment of high level cognition based communication disorders in traumatic brain injury
- Conservative management of wrist pain caused by ulnar abutment
- School-based intervention to develop young children's social competency
- Adult accomplishment in cystic fibrosis

In March, Annabelle Bond, along with colleagues from Speech Pathology, presented at the International Brain Injury Association's Eighth World Congress on Brain Injury in Washington, USA. In May, three Occupational Therapy staff from The Alfred (Rebekah Clutterbuck, Michelle Farquahar and Lisa O'Brien) and two from Alfred Psychiatry (Lorae Mynard and Gabby Pitt) presented their work at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) Congress in Santiago, Chile. Lisa O'Brien also presented two papers at the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (IFSHT) Congress in Florida, USA in June.

Lisa O'Brien submitted her PhD thesis (by publication). Her studies have included a multicentre randomised controlled trial comparing the effectiveness of different splints for mallet finger injury, a systematic

*Lisa O'Brien completed a randomised controlled trial comparing three different splints in 2010. It was published in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in early 2011.*



review, a qualitative study of patients' experience of distraction splinting for intra articular finger fractures, and a two-centre cohort study comparing long-term outcomes with patients from Southern Health who received treatment other than distraction for the same injury.

Alison Hardman completed a Master of Public Health, travelling to Bangladesh to collect data for her thesis 'Factors affecting utilisation of rehabilitation services by people with an upper limb injury in Bangladesh'.

The 'Adult accomplishment in individuals with cystic fibrosis' study, a joint project between Occupational Therapy and the Department of Allergy, Immunology and Respiratory Medicine, has continued.

## Current Projects

Group-based fatigue management education for improving chemotherapy and radiotherapy patients' performance and satisfaction with daily living activities (Anna Loughnan and Lisa O'Brien, supported by Southern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service Supportive Care Research Grant, 2010-2011)

Alfred Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service schoolyard participation project: implementation and evaluation of a targeted school-based intervention program to develop young children's social competency (Allison Cox)

Conservative management of wrist pain caused by ulnocarpal abutment (Alison Hardman and Lisa O'Brien)

Efficacy and patient experience of distraction splinting for complex intra-articular finger fractures (Lisa O'Brien and Dr Andy Simm, The Alfred; Dr Ian Loh and Kim Griffiths, Southern Health)

Women's experiences of acute admission to an acute psychiatric ward (Jennifer Grigg and Tracy Fortune, La Trobe University; Scott Presnell)

Adult accomplishment in cystic fibrosis (Dr Rob Stirling, Fiona Hore-Lacy, Jenny-Maree Marshall and Scott Presnell)

Effectiveness of brief smoking cessation intervention with hospital patients: pilot study (Judy Shepherd, Sandringham Hospital)

Viability of occupational therapy involvement for pre-elective sternotomy patients (Carly McKeough)

## Postgraduate Students

1 PhD Student  
1 Other Doctoral Student  
9 Masters Students

## Publications

2 Journal Articles