

GP Liaison Newsletter

Keeping you informed

December 2004

Seasons Greeting

Seasons greetings and welcome.

In recent months we have had several additions to our Surgical and General Practice teams. I would like to introduce to you our new colleagues.

Lynette Cherry

Department of Surgery

The DHB and Mr Alan Shirley are delighted that we now have four surgeons on board. Let me introduce them.

Mr Robert Sahakian



Bob is originally from San Diego, California. He completed his medical and surgical training in California undertaking a trauma fellowship. He came to NZ for a lifestyle change deciding to venture to the other side of the world. In addition to his considerable trauma experience, Bob is also experienced in endoscopy, laparoscopic surgery

and breast surgery. In the States about 40% of his work was with breast cancer.

Mr Russell Ritchie



Russell was born in North Wales and completed his medical training at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College in London. He went on to obtain his surgical fellowship in London and Edinburgh before emigrating to Canada in 1973. Russell maintained a general and vascular surgical practice in the Okanagan

Valley in the interior of British Columbia until his retirement in 2003.

He now provides surgical locum cover and has returned for his second locum placement with us.

Russell will be here until the end of February. He hopes to travel, play golf, fish and follow the Welsh rugby team during his time in NZ.

Mr Daniell Tubb



Daniell comes from Edmund, Oklahoma, a city of similar size to Masterton, where he worked in four different hospitals. He decided it was time for a change when he felt frustrated by the government and health care system in the States. After hearing good things about NZ he decided to set off to find

Frodo and Bilbo. Much to his surprise he ended up closer than he thought to Peter Jackson's Hobbiton.

Daniell has many years' experience in peripheral vascular and laparoscopic surgery including laparoscopic cholecystectomy, hernia repair and appendicectomy. He is loving the Wairarapa and has been very impressed with our theatres, equipment and staff. He has worked very closely with primary care physicians in the U.S. and is looking forward to working with and meeting everybody in the team.

With the new surgeons and Alan Shirley at the helm, you will notice that we have a great mix of experience and skill in the department at present. In addition, our general surgical waiting times are very reasonable - see attached the table of waiting times.

All of our surgeons have expressed their willingness to assess or give advice on any type of surgical problem. If you are unsure if a particular problem can be dealt with at Masterton Hospital they are only too happy to advise. Please feel free to call them anytime. They are all easily accessible through the hospital pager system.

General Practice

Dr Rob Maunsell



Rob joined 'Masterton Medical' in February 2004. He is NZ trained and came to Masterton from Napier, where he had been a GP since 1978. His interests in general practice include mental health and anthroposophical medicine.

Through anthroposophical medicine Rob applies management strategies that come from an extended view of the human body as taught by Rudolf Steiner. This form of medicine includes treatment disciplines such as herbal therapy, rhythmical massage, movement therapy, speech and artistic therapy. It can be used in combination with more orthodox therapy. He learned this form of medicine from Dr Ken Friedlander in Napier and gained experience in this in Europe between 1981 and 1984. He applies this to all types of medical problems.

Dr Simon Snook



Simon started work at Greytown Medical Centre in November. He is originally from England where he completed his medical training. Prior to deciding on general practice as a career, Simon spent several years training in obstetrics and gynaecology completing his 'Part Ones' in this

discipline. However he changed course, moving to family medicine and completing his general practice fellowship in England. As a result Simon has a special interest in family planning.

Dr Cooper Schraudenbach



Cooper is from the U.S. He completed his medical and then family medicine training there before combining travel with his career. NZ is one stop in his working holiday. He comes to us following 18 months in Micronesia and plans to be with 'The Doctors' for three months.

His interests include nutrition and preventative wellness.

Dr David Smith



David is from Sutton, Coldfield, in England where he practised as a GP and registered osteopath for 20 years. He was fortunate enough to win a trip to NZ and visited here in February. He felt so at home during his trip that he returned to work taking up work at 'The Doctors'.

His interests are in general practice and musculoskeletal medicine. He has been overwhelmed by his welcome and the openness to improvement and innovation he has seen here.

It is great to have the benefit of practitioners with so many different backgrounds, experience and interests in the Wairarapa.

Library

The library has a new librarian, Helen Smith. Getting to the library during the normal operating hours of 8.30–4.00pm is almost impossible for most GPs, so many of you may be unfamiliar with what it has to offer:

Access

If you want access to the library outside normal working hours a key is available from Patient Information Services (PIS). PIS is located at the main entrance of the hospital.

Journals

A wide range of journals is available in hard copy and on-line. Helen is happy to demonstrate how to use the libraries computer to read the on-line journals.

Services

- Interloan of books and journals
- Literature searches: Helen will perform a literature search for you
- Copies of the contents page of journals of your interest: Helen can send these to you in hard copy or by email as the journal arrives enabling you to scan journals for articles of interest.

Helen is available on 06 946 9800, extension 5203, and is happy to help in any way she can.

CPAC –Clinical Priority Assessment Criteria

The CPAC are the scoring tools used by surgeons. Once the surgeon has ascertained a patient will benefit from surgery they apply the CPAC and calculate the patient's score. This score will determine whether the patient meets the threshold for publicly-funded treatment.

I have had enquiries about how to access these CPAC tools. They are available on the elective services website, www.electiveservices.govt.nz

To get to the CPAC tools from the Home Page:

1. Click on Guidelines in the green box on the left.
2. Information about the management, referral and assessment guidelines: click on the "Go to Guidelines" link.
3. Guidelines: There are four sets of guidelines: primary care management, patient referral & management, access criteria for FSA, and criteria for clinical priority assessment (CPAC). Click on the CPAC link.
4. Click on the specialty you are interested in. The CPACs available are then listed
5. Click on the CPAC you want.

This public website has an enormous amount of information in addition to the CPAC Tools. This includes performance of the DHB in meeting Elective Service targets, and will soon include information on the volume of work carried out by the DHBs and comparative intervention rates for selected specialties.

Radiology Request forms

The Radiology Department is reporting a dramatic decrease in the number of patients and GPs phoning for non-urgent x-rays with the vast majority of these requests arriving by post.

Having the request form available when making appointments has greatly assisted this process and has freed staff from time-consuming phone calls. This has translated into a definite improvement in patient flow with reduced waiting time in the department.

The staff ensure that non-urgent appointments are made and sent out on the day the request arrives.

**Thanks everyone.
Merry Christmas.**



EXPECTED WAITING TIMES FOR FIRST SPECIALIST APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIVE SURGERY AT MASTERTON HOSPITAL AS AT 15 DECEMBER 2004

Unforeseen events may cause waiting times to change so please use this information as a guide only

FIRST SPECIALIST APPOINTMENT

	Urgent	Semi-urgent	Routine
ENT	2-4 weeks	6 months	9 months
GENERAL SURGERY	2 weeks	6 weeks	4 months
GYNACOLOGY	2-3 weeks	6 weeks	3 months
COLPOSCOPY	4 weeks	As arranged	6 months
ORTHOPAEDIC	2 weeks	6 weeks	8 months
OPHTHALMOLOGY	4 weeks	4 months	9 months
PLASTICS*	4 weeks	8 months	12 months
UROLOGY	3 weeks	8 months	8 months
MEDICAL	6 weeks	5 months Dr Scott-13 months	5 months Dr Scott-17 months
PAEDIATRIC	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	3-4 weeks

*Plastics is provided in the Wairarapa by the Hutt DHB

ELECTIVE SURGERY

	Urgent	Semi-urgent	Routine
ENT	As arranged	4 months	6 months
GENERAL SURGERY	2-3 weeks	6 weeks	4 months
GYNACOLOGY	3-4 weeks	6-8 weeks	4 months
ORTHOPAEDIC	3-4 months	6-8 months	12 months
OPHTHALMOLOGY	1-2 months	6 months	9 months
UROLOGY	1-2 months	2-3 months	2-3 months

Waiting Time = time from date of outpatient appointment to treatment

Waiting Time = time from receipt of referral at Masterton hospital to outpatient appointment