

## Patients benefit from new purchase

With the support of St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney and a generous donation, on the 4 January 2012, the St Vincent's Hospital Medical Imaging Service placed an order for a 1.5T MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) machine with Philips Healthcare.

Due to be fully operational in May 2012, the MRI will give St Vincent's Hospital access to the world's best digital broadband Magnetic Resonance (MR) system with the largest homogenous Field of View (FOV) for a 70cm bore system.

### Some of the MR features attractive in selecting this unit:

- **dStream:** An exciting new MR system architecture that delivers crystal clear images, remarkable speed, and technology that makes resonance frequency upgrades a thing of the past
- **DirectDigital:** Philips exclusive DirectDigital RF samples the MR signal directly in the coil on the patient, and sends it to the reconstructor via fiber-optic cable. The result is up to 40% higher SNR (signal to noise ratio), and a dynamic range that exceeds 185dB
- **FlexStream:** Designed to streamline workflow and reduce exam time, FlexStream enables imaging with fewer coils and reduce patient set up time, bringing about a throughput increase as much as 30%.

### Patients will benefit from:

- **Improved spinal imaging** – spine images are far superior at 1.5T. Imaging times are shorter which is of particular importance for patient groups in tremendous pain (e.g. oncology; spinal fracture)

Once a month they spend one hour in face-to-face training with trainer Michael Wood from Lennox Institute, and afterwards Michael spends a few hours with the participants in the workplace, assessing what they do and how they do it, and providing coaching and mentoring where necessary.

Their manager, Henry Davoodifar said "It's great that these guys have the opportunity to get formal recognition for the work they do and the skills and knowledge they have. Some of these guys have been working here for nearly 10 years and this is the first time they have been offered a qualification that they can complete through work".

### The participants are:

- Aaron Thorn
- Ivan Garcia
- Giovanni Deias
- Neil Stanbridge
- Romeo Policarpio
- Rudy Belak
- Scott McKeon

Human Resources Learning and Development are making use of the Federal Government's Traineeship grants which cover the cost of the course fees for most participants. "It's rewarding to be able to provide programs that give our staff the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications" said Lisa Fripp, Acting HR Learning & Development Coordinator.

If you'd like to find out more about qualifications you can participate in relation to your role, please contact Human Resources Learning and Development on 8382 3987.

- **Safety for patients with implants** – worldwide safety standards indicate that many surgical implants cannot be scanned safely on 3T e.g. deep brain stimulator for Parkinson patients; cardiac pacemakers; cardiac stents
- **Improved cardiac imaging** – 1.5T MRI is the gold standard worldwide, consistently producing high quality, diagnostic images
- **Improved patient experience** – the wider opening (bore) enables larger patients to be scanned and more comfortable for claustrophobic patients
- **Improved imaging of orthopaedic implants** – many orthopaedic fixation devices require scanning at 1.5T only
- **Interventional MRI** – most devices are only approved for use at 1.5T. MRI modality can often be the only means that a biopsy or intervention can occur.

This machine will be fully configured and include a complete range of coils enabling imaging of all body areas to meet the increasing patient demand for this very valuable diagnostic service, except for prostate and breast as this service is already well performed at St Vincent's Hospital Medical Imaging Service.

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Scott McKeon



Scott McKeon, Storeman at Xavier Stores

## Staff Profile

Scott McKeon has worked as a storeman at Xavier Stores for nearly three years. Health Spirit chats to him about work and study.



### What does your role involve?

My role involves replenishing the IV fluid stocks throughout the public and private hospitals. Each day, rostered wards need to be scanned into the oracle system and then their stock is delivered later in the day. I also take care of the nutritional supplements, which involves charging foods to the oracle system and also re-ordering stock levels to the correct quantities. Pallets of stock are usually delivered two to three times a week for Baxter and ITV's external orders - luckily the other guys in stores help me out.



### What do you need to do to complete the Certificate III in Transport and Logistics?

To complete the certificate in transport and logistics we attend classes before work once a month to be taught the various aspects and techniques in the logistics industry. Throughout the classes we need to study and answer questions in the brick-like folder we've been given. It all takes about a year and half to complete.



### What made you decide to do the Certificate III?

I decided to do the certificate as it is a great opportunity to gain more skills and because the course is well organised. I am really enjoying it – the classes have a casual atmosphere and are full of familiar faces and at the end of the day we learn how to improve our services in the storage areas.

I think it's great that St Vincent's has worked with the Lennox Institute to provide our team with the opportunity to undertake this course and it's also great that the stores team has gotten on board. It also really helped that the government is covering the cost of the course.



### Once finished the Certificate III what extra qualifications will you gain?

When the course is finished we will have gained an extra qualification in warehousing and the major benefit of the course is that it covers all areas of logistics ranging from transportation and delivery to mechanical processing and automated workshops. This makes it a worthwhile course as it can be applied to many industries and a wider range of warehouse structures.



### When you aren't working or studying, what do you get up to in your spare time?

In my spare time I like to do a lot of fishing. Living close to the water allows me to fish most days, weather permitting.

## Trading forklifts for text books

Congratulations to the seven staff members from the St Vincent's Supply Department who have reached the half-way point of their Certificate III in Transport and Logistics (Warehousing Operations).

Having started last August, they now have less than six months remaining of the program and they are passing their units of competency with flying colours. Topics and skills within the course have been chosen to closely match business needs and the current roles of the staff, with existing skills and knowledge credited through an assessment process.