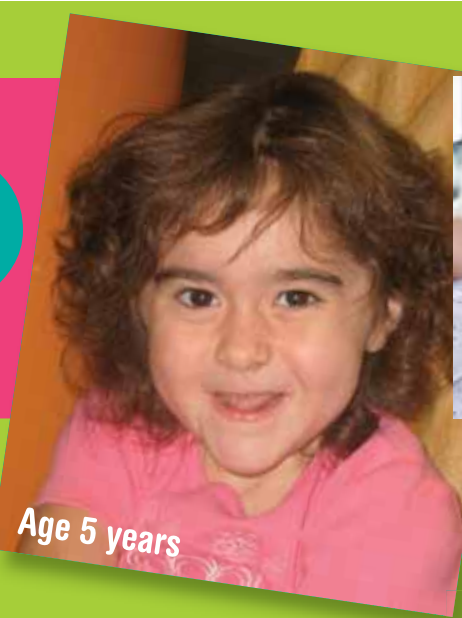


UPDATES... HOW ARE THEY NOW

Age 5 years



Age 8 months



GeORgiA gOEs tO sChOoL

You may remember the story of Georgia Sweeney who at two years old was the recipient of a successful kidney transplant in October 2002. At birth, Georgia was diagnosed with Acute Tubular Necrosis (ATN) – a rare kidney disorder in newborns, that resulted in permanent kidney failure. She was on dialysis for the first 18 months of her life until she received a kidney transplant.

Georgia is now five and started school this year. She is happy, full of energy and is the best of friends with her little brother, Max.

She still has to go for monthly checkups to make sure that the transplant kidney is working well and to adjust medications. At nights, she is attached to a machine that gives her fluids and medicines directly into her stomach. In the future, when she is able to take medicines and enough fluids on her own, she will be able to stop using the machine at night.

"We can't thank Sydney Children's Hospital enough for all they have done for Georgia, the future is really bright for our darling little girl!" said her mum, Dee.



- David Jones, city store
- Elizabeth Arden
- Foote Cone & Belding
- Hothouse
- Michel's Drycleaners
- Oxford Printing and Design
- Ritz Cinema
- SBA Design
- Unigear

YES!

i would like to help sick kids

Please find enclosed my donation of: (please circle)

\$50 \$75 \$125 \$500 or \$ _____

Enclosed is my cheque or money order made payable to Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation, or please debit my credit card details below.

Bankcard Mastercard Visa Amex Diners

Card Number

Name on card _____

Signature _____ Expiry Date _____

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____

Address _____ P/Code _____

Telephone () _____

We respect your privacy and do not give your name and address to any other charity or business. Donations are tax deductible. Please return this coupon and your donation to Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation, Locked Bag 5, Randwick, NSW 2031 and we will forward a receipt. Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation ABN 72 003 073 185. Telephone (02) 9382 1188 email schfoundation@sesahs.nsw.gov.au website www.sch.edu.au. Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation would like to thank those companies who made the production of this newsletter possible. Your generosity and commitment is greatly appreciated. Your name will be placed on our mailing list and you will, from time to time, be mailed fundraising and health information such as this newsletter, invitations to events, Christmas card catalogues, etc. If you do not wish to receive this information or do not want your name to be placed on this list, please tick this box

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news

april 2006



Our bRaVE AiDAn

I cannot put into words the fear I felt when I was told only 10 days after I gave birth to my twins, Aidan and Jessica, that our darling Aidan had a congenital heart problem. Looking back over the past 14 years, little did I know that this first diagnosis was to be one of many hurdles for our family. However, these stressful times have been made easier simply by the fact that he was so well cared for by the best doctors and nurses in the world at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

Aidan is one of my five children, now aged between 12 and 17 and as a single parent, there were many times that I have had to leave Aidan alone in hospital overnight. As heart breaking as it was, I always knew he was in safe hands. I'm blessed that Aidan has always been happy to come to hospital, because Sydney Children's Hospital has always made him and our entire family feel safe and comfortable.

Aidan suffers from a multitude of health problems, affecting his cardiac, gastro-intestinal and respiratory systems. At only ten weeks old, my tiny baby had his first operation because the outlet for his stomach was narrowed, preventing him from keeping his food down.

The first years of his life were the hardest. Investigating and treating the health problems, and attempting to correct as many of them as possible was a challenge on everyone, including his specialist gastroenterology doctors, family, and of course little Aidan himself.

Aidan has been on medication since birth for severe reflux and at five had major stomach surgery to stop the food coming back up and overflowing into his lungs. The reflux damaged his trachea and oesophagus, causing him to constantly cough, increasing the risk of lung infections. Aidan was fed through a tube that bypassed his stomach, which fixed his cough but he was still refluxing severely, even on medication.

"Aidan has a permanent smile on his face... made possible by the dedicated and caring staff at the hospital"



Elizabeth and Aidan

Aidan's most recent admission was because he was losing weight and missing a lot of school due to reflux so the only solution was to repeat the surgery he'd had at five. Before the operation, Aidan was so comfortable in the waiting bay in the theatre that he was actually doing wheelies in the wheelchair while waiting to go in! However, as a Mum of a chronically ill child, it never gets any easier seeing him about to have surgery, no matter if he is seven months or fourteen years old.

Aidan's recent surgery was a success and we stayed a week on the ward before he was allowed to go home.

Looking back on my diary from when the kids were young, I still wonder how I got through every day with Aidan. At times I had to feed him with a teaspoon because he was too tired to suck on the bottle and I had to get fluid into him. His brothers and sisters were so patient and understanding. Now, as a teenager, our brave Aidan has a permanent smile on his face, and is looking to the future by starting a part-time apprenticeship. All this is made possible by the dedicated and caring staff at Sydney Children's Hospital. Thank you never seems enough, but it is said sincerely and meant from the bottom of my heart.

Elizabeth McKinley
– Aidan's Mum

LETTER FROM LES WHITE

“Our gastroenterology team, which has lead the country, covers service as well as the advances in research, leadership, training and education.”



Professor Les White and Ruby George

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As Sydney Children's Hospital continues to address the needs of the children of NSW, our services become increasingly broad and complex and our specialties become increasingly dependant on each other. The feature of this Newsletter is gastroenterology, a speciality that encompasses the many aspects of the gastro-intestinal tract from the mouth to the rectum, liver function and the complexities of nutrition in both normal and various disordered situations.

In terms of complexity, the specialty provides advice regarding the relatively frequent scenarios of colic, reflux, gastro-enteritis and chronic constipation while, at the other end of the spectrum, providing continuing care for serious and chronic conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease, gut malformations, malabsorption and liver failure. Further, almost every specialty at Sydney Children's Hospital depends on the advice of the gastroenterology team regarding the bowel related components or complications of the various conditions they treat in children. This is an excellent example of collaboration and interdependence.

Nutrition has become an increasingly demanding subject, particularly with the increasing incidence of childhood obesity. The impact of this new epidemic threatens to reverse many of the improvements of recent decades by damaging health in childhood with maximal impact in later years. Our multi-disciplinary gastroenterology team, which has lead the country in many recent initiatives, covers the entire spectrum of service as well as the advances in research and leadership in training and education. It is a specialty we all depend on and one that deserves your continuing support and partnership.

Best wishes,
Professor Les White, Executive Director
Sydney Children's Hospital

Gabriella's mIRacle ReCOVeRY

Gabriella Watterson had only just turned one when her parents Lance and Karen noticed that she was not well. She started vomiting and after four days she still didn't seem to be improving.

Karen took Gabriella to the local GP, and as soon as he listened to her heartbeat he advised Karen to take her straight away to the local hospital.

“She was so restless and lifeless, ‘Oh Mummy...’ was the last thing she uttered to me before disaster struck. I knew that she was very sick,” said Karen.

Soon after they arrived at the hospital, little Gabriella's heart suddenly stopped beating and she had to be resuscitated by doctors. Her condition was dangerously unstable and it was vital that Gabriella received specialised medical attention urgently.

She and Karen were flown by helicopter that night to Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick. Lance drove anxiously for four hours through the night to Sydney from their home in Millthorpe, near Orange.

Upon arrival at Sydney Children's Hospital, Gabriella was admitted into the Intensive Care Unit. She was diagnosed with Cardiomyopathy— an enlargement of the heart that reduces the heart's ability to pump properly. She had to be ventilated on a breathing machine for four weeks and during this time her heart arrested twice. It was the most heart-breaking and frightening experience for Karen and Lance – seeing their little daughter so close to death.

“Our sweet little girl looked like a little skeleton in the bed, fighting for her life on life-support machines” said Karen. The family kept a bedside vigil over those dark weeks, for fear that if they left her side her heart might stop again.

“It is a miracle she is back with us, and we are so grateful to Sydney Children's Hospital for saving our little angel”



Karen and Gabriella

Gradually Gabriella did improve and very slowly made progress with her medication and was taken off the ventilator. After two heart-wrenching months in Hospital, Lance and Karen were delighted to take Gabriella back home to Millthorpe.

“There will always be big risks with Gabb's heart but we can only keep on looking to the future and hope that her medication helps to prevent another arrest. It is a miracle she is back with us, and we are so grateful to Sydney Children's Hospital for saving our little angel.” said Karen.

Did you know...

kiDs aNd POisoNs

In NSW every year thousands of children need medical care for poisoning from products commonly found in and around the home. Most accidental poisonings occur to children younger than five, with children aged one to three at greatest risk.

What can be poisonous to your child?

Medicines, cleaning fluids, laundry detergents, gardening and car products, insecticides, perfumes, paint, plants, insects and many others.

How can you prevent a poisoning?

- Dispose of “out of date” and unwanted materials.
- Buy products in child resistant containers.
- Store medicines and chemicals out of sight and reach of children, at least 1.5 metres off the ground and in a locked child resistant container.
- Ensure all products are stored in original containers and are clearly labelled.
- Don't call medicines “lollies”.

REMEMBER:

In some cases poisonings can be life threatening. If your child experiences difficulty breathing, seizures or drowsiness, you should call an ambulance immediately on 000.

For more information about child safety, check out www.kidsafensw.org

What to do if your child has....

SWALLOWED POISON:

- Do not try to make the patient vomit.
- Pick up the container and take it to the telephone.
- Call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26

POISON ON THE SKIN:

- Remove contaminated clothing, taking care to avoid contact with the poison.
- Flood the skin with cool running water.
- Call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26

POISON IN THE EYE:

- Flood the eye with cool water from a cup, jug or slowly running tap.
- Continue for 10-15 minutes, holding the eyelids open.
- Call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26

INHALED POISON:

- Get the person to fresh air quickly without placing yourself at risk.
- Open doors and windows wide, if safe to do so.
- Call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26