



NICS-RANZCR FELLOW 2006 - 2008

Clinical Associate Professor

Stacy Goergen



Director of Research,
Department of Diagnostic Imaging,
Southern Health, VIC

Implementation Project:

Promoting evidence-based diagnostic testing for suspected venous thromboembolism

Dr Goergen's project aims to improve the use of evidence-based guidelines for diagnostic testing of patients with suspected venous thromboembolism (VTE). The project involves introducing, disseminating, and implementing evidence-based guidelines for the use of imaging in patients with suspected pulmonary embolism (PE) or deep venous thrombosis (DVT) of the lower limbs.

Through monitoring clinicians' implementation of the guidelines and addressing barriers to getting the guidelines into day-to-day clinical practice, Dr Goergen aims to reduce inappropriate or unnecessary testing of patients. The implementation project will take place with the emergency departments of the three campuses of Southern Health in outer suburban Melbourne, Victoria.

Implementation Project Progress Report, April 2007:

Dr Goergen and her team have been successful in gaining the in-principle and practical support of the three Southern Health emergency departments in the implementation of guidelines which seek to exclude PE and DVT without the use of diagnostic imaging.

Over 85% of patients referred for imaging of suspected PE or DVT have been appropriately risk assessed and screened with D dimer, where appropriate, prior to referral for imaging. This success has been attributable to:

- support from departmental heads of diagnostic imaging and emergency
- financial support of the RANZCR Quality Use of Diagnostics (QUDI) - -
- Fellowship training in implementation science provided by NICS audit – feedback to stakeholders on a monthly basis gate keeping by medical imaging technologists.

The fellowship has also enabled Dr Goergen to participate more broadly in evidence implementation and quality activities relating to the QUDI program of RANZCR, including the development of a training module for radiologists to facilitate the production of critically appraised topics in radiology for RANZCR.

*The National Institute
of Clinical Studies (NICS)*



Implementation Project Progress Report, October 2007:

The project has achieved completion of a structured risk assessment in patients with possible venous thromboembolism in >85% of emergency department patients at all three hospitals involved in this implementation project.

As an additional benefit, there has been a reduction in the proportion of patients in the top three acuity categories in the emergency department receiving chest imaging for VTE. For lower limb ultrasound, by contrast, there has been a relative increase over the same period. Dr Goergen and her team are currently examining the reasons for this.

Funding Partner:

Dr Goergen's Fellowship is supported by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR).

The RANZCR is the leading professional organisation for the practice of Radiology and Medical Imaging (Diagnostic and Interventional) and Radiation Oncology in Australia and New Zealand.

Project Mentor:

Professor Don Campbell
Monash Institute of Health Services
Research, VIC

NICS Mentor:

Professor Paddy Phillips
Flinders University of South
Australia, SA

Previous NICS Grant:

Targeted Grant in 2001/02 for project: Evidence based clinical assessment and investigation of inpatients and emergency patients with suspected pulmonary embolus

Key Publications:

Gospodarevskaya EV, Goergen SK, Harris AH, Chan T, Decampo JF, Wolfe R, et al. Economic evaluation of a clinical protocol for diagnosing emergency patients with suspected pulmonary embolism. *Cost Eff Resour Alloc.* 2006 Jun 27;4(1):12.

Key Presentations:

Goergen SK. What you need to know when you read diagnostic imaging papers: Journal club with a difference [workshop]. RANZCR National Annual Scientific Meeting. Melbourne; 2007.

Goergen SK. Reducing the inappropriate use of imaging in emergency patients with suspected venous thromboembolism: Implementation of an evidence-based protocol [poster]. RANZCR National Annual Scientific Meeting. Melbourne; 2007.

Goergen SK. QUDI program project overview. RANZCR NSW Branch Monthly Scientific Meeting. Sydney; 2007.

Goergen SK. Quality use of diagnostic imaging forum. RANZCR National Annual Scientific Meeting. Melbourne; 2007.

Goergen SK. Paediatric CT and Radiation Dose - an audit of Australian paediatric hospitals. Victorian Branch RANZCR Scientific Meeting. Melbourne; 2007.

Goergen SK. How do we create a research culture in radiology? RANZCR National Annual Scientific Meeting. Melbourne; 2007.

Goergen SK. Evidence based investigation of possible pulmonary embolism. WA Branch RANZCR Annual Scientific Meeting - Error in Radiology. Perth; 2007.

Goergen SK. NICS-RANZCR Fellowships. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging Program: 2nd Annual QUDI Research Seminar. Melbourne; 2007.

Goergen SK. What You Need to Know When You Read Diagnostic Imaging Papers. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists: Journal Club With a Difference. Melbourne; 2007.

Goergen SK. NICS-RANZCR Fellowship. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists TAS Branch Meeting. Hobart; 2007.

Goergen SK. Thrombo Embolism Guidelines: NICS and Lessons Learned. Error in Radiology. Perth; 2007.

Goergen SK. Paediatric CT Radiation Dose: Protocols, Clinical Guideline Development. Error in Radiology. Perth; 2007.

Cornish R, Goergen SK. Using examples from primary care [workshop]. National Institute of Clinical Studies Symposium - Using Evidence: Using Guidelines. Melbourne; 2006.

Goergen SK. Changing the approach to investigating venous thromboembolism in the emergency department [presentation]. National Institute of Clinical Studies Symposium - Using Evidence: Using Guidelines. Melbourne; 2006.

Goergen SK. Changing the approach to investigating venous thromboembolism in the emergency department [poster]. National Institute of Clinical Studies Symposium - Using Evidence: Using Guidelines. Melbourne; 2006.

Goergen SK. Appropriate DI testing for venous thromboembolism. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging Program: Inaugural Research Seminar. Sydney; 2006.