

Dr Richard G. Bittar

MBBS(Hons), PhD, FRACS Consultant Neurosurgeon

We are pleased to advise that Dr Richard Bittar has established a comprehensive Neurosurgical Service at Frankston Private.

Dr Bittar obtained his Medical Degree, with Honours, from The University of Sydney. He completed basic surgical training as well as advanced training in Neurosurgery in Sydney and Melbourne. During this period, Dr Bittar undertook research at the Montreal Neurological Institute, and this formed the basis for

his **PhD** in functional brain mapping.

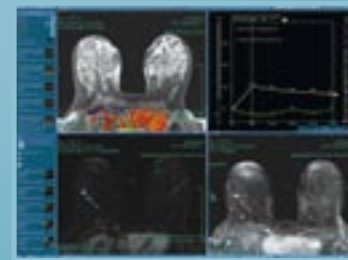
Dr Bittar is a Senior Lecturer at Monash University and is an active member of several neuro-oncology and trauma committees. **His main areas of expertise include the surgical treatment of:**

- Brain Tumours
- Spinal Conditions (Sciatica, Brachialgia, Trauma)
- Parkinson's Disease And Tremor

- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- General Neurosurgery

Workcover and TAC patients are welcome.

Dr Bittar sees patients in Frankston at least once a week. He performs surgery at Cabrini Medical Centre, Knox Private, Epworth Richmond, Epworth Eastern, St Vincent's Private, and Melbourne Private. He is happy to be contacted at any time on Mobile 0404 874 457. Routine appointments may be made by telephoning 03 9821 5718.



MIA Frankston Private Radiology

Frankston Private Radiology can arrange all modern Diagnostic Imaging investigations including advanced multi-slice CT, MR and Ultrasound with computer processing software packages to improve diagnostic accuracy and performance.

The newest CT software packages include:

- Virtual Colonoscopy.
- Lung Nodule Analysis.
- Advanced Vascular Analysis.

The newest Ultrasound tests include:

- 4D Visualisation.

The newest MR tests include:

- MR Mammography using dedicated computer software called DynaCAD.

DynaCAD is a post-processing workstation used for breast MR viewing, interpretation, and biopsy planning. It supports evaluation of dynamic data acquired after the

administration of contrast agent over specific intervals of time. DynaCAD also corrects for motion across the different acquisitions to reduce error in kinetic analysis of the dynamic data.

Breast MR is increasing in popularity as a technique for early detection of breast cancers that may otherwise go undetected by traditional methods. It can also be useful in clarifying or confirming suspicions of malignant growths that are not seen on these other imaging modalities. A typical breast MRI generates in the order of 1000 or more images. On a traditional DICOM viewing workstation, the task of interpreting this volume of information is difficult and time consuming. DynaCAD automatically processes, organises, and displays these images and information in a manner that allows for quicker and more in-depth

analysis of a breast MR study. Furthermore, the combination of DynaCAD and the new Open Breast Coil with Breast Biopsy Device allows for accurate computer-guided biopsy of suspicious lesions that may only be visible under contrast-enhanced MRI.

New MR techniques can improve the workup and management of women with a history or suspicion of breast cancer. DynaCAD helps to streamline and simplify the process.

The Breast MR Program is supervised by Dr. Chris O'Donnell with support from Dr. Chris Holland and Dr. Allan McKenzie.

Bookings for MIA Frankston Radiology can be made by calling:
Frankston Central Booking Office 8781 5200
Direct MR Booking: 8781 5252

Coastal Conference Centre

Conferencing for Today's Professionals



Coastal Conference Centre has been fully equipped and set up to provide for conferences and meetings. It offers three rooms that can be set up in various configurations to tailor it to match individual preferences.

The larger rooms are equipped with very large (2.2 metre wide) high gain projection



screens that provide clear pictures even in bright ambient light conditions. The rooms have built in data projectors, amplifiers, mixers, lecterns and the very latest Crestron controllers. All this permits the presenter to make a presentation with a minimum of set up and fuss.

The third room is set up like a Board Room with a 50" Plasma screen and uses wireless technology to enable presentations and displays to be made conveniently.

The Conference Centre also provides a large

landscaped outdoor deck that can be used as a breakout area or for more informal gatherings. For after hours meetings, an indoor breakout area is also available.

With the Coastal Conference Centre located at Frankston Private, it is ideally situated for meetings and conferences, especially those that are medically oriented. There is also ample parking available in the basement and on the street for people attending the conferences.

The Conference Centre is available to anyone, not just those who are located at Frankston Private. For any further information or to make a booking, please call 9781 5244.

Frankston Private Dispensary

Foot Street Pharmacy

Frankston Private Dispensary is part of Foot Street Pharmacy operating in the Frankston Private Medical Centre. They are responsible for organising the delivery of chemotherapy and the processing of clinical trials for patients at Peninsula Oncology. The Pharmacy hopes that the Centre will become a referral point for Oncologists in the region to enable easy access for their patients to clinical trials for the latest treatments for their cancers. The pharmacy uses the latest in modern technology with the Charm system integrating Prescriber, Pharmacy and the Day Oncology Unit on the same

computer program. The Pharmacy also ensures that the Frankston Private Day Surgery is stocked with their weekly requirements of medication. The Pharmacist on duty is usually Bill Cagliariini who concentrates on clinical trials. In his absence, the other pharmacists are Joe Conway (responsible for Ordering Chemotherapy) and Gary Lewis-Toakley who owns the Pharmacy. Staff at the Centre are entitled to a discount (20%) on most purchases (excl PBS prescriptions) at Foot Street Pharmacy which is 400 metres from the Centre on Foot Street.

Café Vinca

Fresh & Healthy Fare

Visitors to Frankston Private can now get fresh, healthy food and a cup of freshly made coffee at Café Vinca. The café offers a range of sandwiches, foccacias, hot food, fruit and breakfast items. There is also a range of drinks available, from coffees, teas, cold drinks, milk shakes, smoothies and delicious, freshly squeezed juices.

The emphasis is on healthy food, but it is also delicious. Please drop by if visiting Frankston Private and try something from the menu.

Café Vinca also arranges catering for functions and groups. For more information, call on 9771 8960.

Welcome to our Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the quarterly Newsletter from Frankston Private. This brand new, modern medical and hospital facility is now open and has been treating patients for a few months now. If you haven't already visited the facility, please feel welcome to do so – we would love to show you around and let you see the facilities for yourself. With a whole range of medical facilities under one roof, we are capable of offering patients and visiting medical staff the convenience of having everything they need at a single location.

Peninsula Oncology Centre

A Modern, Sophisticated Chemotherapy Hospital

Peninsula Oncology Centre represents the very latest in the provision of Day Chemotherapy services for cancer patients. The Centre has been custom designed and built so as to be able to offer patients –

- Comfort and safety during their treatments.
- Every treatment station has natural light.
- The central nursing station allows

the staff to monitor and care for every patient efficiently.

- Modern, sophisticated equipment and furniture.
- Soft, warm colours have been selected for the Centre to add to the feeling of comfort and ease for patients.

In addition, Peninsula Oncology Centre has invested in a powerful, state of the art Patient Management software, CHARM.



This has been designed specifically for Chemotherapy patients. It allows for the patient records to be stored electronically, has the provision for scheduling patient treatment visits and also connects to Oncology protocols over the Internet, thereby ensuring that the most recent and up to date practices are always available to the Oncologists and staff to provide better, safer treatment to patients.

With the advent of Peninsula Oncology Centre, members of the medical profession in Frankston and the Mornington peninsula can now refer their Chemotherapy patients with the assurance that they will be attending a hospital that is able to provide the very best of care in this area.

Frankston Private Day Surgery -FPDS



Frankston Private Day Surgery (FPDS) opened in September 2006. FPDS includes three (3) operating theatres – one orientated towards interventional endoscopy with the other theatres for laparoscopic and “open” surgery. All three theatres are “state of the art” for optimal sterility have medical gases - via duplicate delivery and comprehensive IT facilities.

The theatres are fully digital allowing for image (stills and movie clip) capture and individual settings eg diathermy, temperature, lighting etc for surgeons to be saved and set for their next procedural list.

Specialty interests include GI endoscopy (Dr Michael Merrett), urology, general surgery, plastic surgery, gynaecology, fasciomaxillary and oral surgery. Neurosurgery, pain services and cardiology procedures such as pacemakers will be possible at FPDS.

The theatres have optical fibre connection with the boardroom, radiology on level 1 and the conference facility upstairs to

allow for live theatre demonstrations and “second” opinions.

Each theatre is equipped with Datex-Ohmeda Units and Monitors which were purchased at the request of Frankston Anaesthetic Services. This is “top of the range” equipment. This allows safe anaesthesia for patients with significant illnesses. We have a latex and glutaraldehyde free environment.

CSSD has been designed with “one-way” flow with washing/disinfection, sterilization and variable height packing tables and is equipped with Belimed appliances.

The theatres are supported by a preoperative area with three (3) cubicles, a reading room and four (4) rooms with ensuite facilities to allow privacy for changing and consultations with the Surgeon and Anaesthetist prior to surgery. It includes a facility for disabled patients. The postoperative area is fully monitored with 15 recovery bays, 2 private rooms and discharge lounge. The postoperative area

allows 10 overnight beds to allow extended recovery and discharge early the next day (ie 23 hour care model).

FPDS exceeds the highest standards of care expected by the medical profession, DHS and the relevant accreditation bodies. It is establishing contracts with all the Health Funds and DVA. FPDS will reinvest any profit to upgrade and maintain these standards to remain at the forefront of technology.

A complete GI endoscopy service will be available daily with provision for urgent cases. Such cases would include dysphagia / food bolus obstruction, PEG tube problems and GI bleeding provided patients are stable. ERCP will be available. **These cases may be booked via pH 9781 6990.** Request pads are being sent out. If you don't receive any please contact us.

Patients with insurance will be fully covered for specialists fees, pathology and hospital theatre/accommodation. Some patients have excess arrangements with their funds. Uninsured patients are welcome with affordable hospital fees. Pathology for all patients will be bulk billed.

Reports can be sent electronically (including argus), fax or mail with patients being given a duplicate copy. Please advise the preferred method of communication.

Bookings for all other proceduralists/surgeons at FPDS are via their rooms. **Details are available by phoning 9781 6900 or visiting www.fpds.com.au.** There is an open invitation for medical practitioners to inspect FPDS.



Frankston Private Diagnostic Unit – FPDU



Level 3 includes Frankston Private Diagnostic Unit (FPDU) which offers a range of ambulatory tests.

Oesophageal function tests include 24 hour pH tests, manometry and impedance. Impedance allows testing for “non-acid” reflux. These tests are useful for evaluation of GORD, atypical chest pain and dysphagia.

Breath testing for lactose, fructose and sucrose intolerance – symptoms can be indistinguishable from IBS. Lactulose breath tests screen for bacterial overgrowth.

Capsule endoscopy or “pillcam” is available daily. Rectal function tests include anorectal manometry and facilities for biofeedback and ultrasound. This allows full evaluation of faecal incontinence and staging of rectal cancer. This is supplemented with colon transit studies.

These services are co-ordinated via our clinical nurse specialist Judy Hooper who has 8 years experience in these investigations. Request pads are being posted out. **For additional pads please**

phone 9781 6950. Costs for these services are minimal and can be obtained on request.

Further details regarding these services our website www.fpdu.com.au (early 2007).

Level 3 includes our consulting rooms with four (4) consulting rooms all with separate examination rooms. These are supported by reception and spacious waiting areas.

FPDS Consulting Rooms



The modern and spacious FPDS consulting rooms are located on level 3 adjacent to the other consulting facilities. This allows for interaction to discuss and resolve the more challenging clinical problems. Furthermore these consulting rooms are linked by cable with radiology and FPDS to share images

allowing prompt “second” opinions and are integrated with FPDU.

Dr Michael Merrett provides a complete gastroenterology service supported by the facilities within Frankston Private. Urgent investigations can be scheduled within

24-48 hours. **Patient bookings are available on ph 97816990.** Further information is available on www.fpds.com.au. Dr Sharon Marks continues her practice in clinical nutrition specializing in Weight management, Osteoporosis, Malabsorption, Diabetes and Dyslipidaemias. Patients considering gastric balloons or a lap-band can be fully assessed to ensure they have had an adequate trial of dietary and medical management prior to any procedure. Bookings for Dr Marks or one of our dietitians are available on ph 97816999. Prof. Brian Davies continues his psychiatry practice. We will keep you informed as other specialists join the practice.



Frankston Private Cardiology



In the modern, spacious and comfortable environment of brand new facilities at Frankston Private Cardiology, Dr Didier Grolaux and his staff are dedicated to providing comprehensive, state-of-the-art and patient-focused cardiovascular health care to all cardiac patients as well as those who are at risk for heart disease. Dr Didier Grolaux has 15 years of specialist experience in Europe and Australia in the diagnosis and management of all aspects of cardiovascular disease in adult patients, such as hypertension, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, valvular heart disease, arrhythmias and heart failure.

Frankston Private Cardiology provides a diagnostic and treatment service for patients referred with actual, or suspected, heart disease. The service comprises a comprehensive range of non-invasive investigational facilities, including **resting and exercise ECG, transthoracic echocardiography, Holter monitoring, 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and pacemaker clinic.** Dr Grolaux also implants **pacemakers and performs coronary angiograms.**

In cooperation with Peninsula Oncology Centre, Dr Didier Grolaux also contributes to the cardiac monitoring of patients at

risk for cardiovascular complications related to cancer therapy (chemotherapy, radiation therapy) and common cardiovascular problems associated with cancer (e.g. pericardial disease).

Dr Didier Grolaux's contact details at Frankston Private Cardiology are as follows:

FRANKSTON PRIVATE CARDIOLOGY
Level 3, 24-28 Frankston-Flinders Road
FRANKSTON, VIC 3199
T: (03) 9770 0844
F: (03) 9770 0255
E: reception@frankston-cardiology.com.au

Frankston Radiation Oncology Centre



For the first time, patients from the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula area requiring radiotherapy can have treatment close to home, with the opening of the Frankston Radiation Oncology Centre (FROC), part of the Frankston Private complex.

FROC is part of the Radiation Oncology Victoria network of private radiotherapy centres, servicing central, eastern, western and now southern metropolitan Melbourne, and north-eastern Victoria.

FROC is staffed by 3 experienced radiation oncologists, Drs. George Quong, David Blakey and Maree Sexton, supported by a dedicated team of nurses, radiation therapists, radiation physicists, engineers, and admin staff.

The Centre has two state-of-the-art linear accelerators, giving it the capability to treat most major cancers requiring radiotherapy. FROC is dedicated to the concept of multi-disciplinary cancer care, and the doctors are active participants in a number of multi-disciplinary, cancer site-specific team meetings in the region.

Most patients treated at FROC will face some out-of-pocket costs for their treatment, with the average weekly cost of treatment being roughly equivalent to the cost of travelling to a city radiotherapy department. FROC aims to be flexible in its approach to fee-setting, and is fully committed to the concept of informed financial consent for patients.

Appointments can be made by calling 9781 8200, or faxing a note of referral to 9781 8282. FROC is located on level 1 of Frankston Private, adjacent to MIA.