

tiara Tick Induced Allergies
Research & Awareness

ANNUAL REPORT

2013

TiARA (Tick-induced Allergies Research & Awareness) Committee was convened by Clinical Associate Professor Sheryl van Nunen and first met on 26th March 2013.

The inaugural TiARA Committee comprised

- **Professor Antony Basten AO**
- **Professor Nicholas Cowdery AM**
- **Emeritus Professor Derek Anderson AM**
- **Associate Professor Kevin Broady**
- **Maria Said RN**
- **Dr Andrew Ratchford**
- **Stephen Doggett**
- **Edith Arns**
- **Geoff Cook**
- **Dr Stephen Ginsborg**
- **Clinical Associate Professor Sheryl van Nunen**

Professor Nicholas Cowdery chaired the first TiARA Committee Meeting on Tuesday 26th March 2013. Professor Antony Basten and Professor Nicholas Cowdery had kindly agreed to act as co-chairs for the committee. The committee meetings are held four times per annum in Meeting Rooms 3J/3K in the Acute Services Building at Royal North Shore Hospital. Our first meeting extended from 4pm-5pm on 26th March 2013. Attendees were Professor Nicholas Cowdery, Associate Professor Kevin Broady, Maria Said, Geraldine Batty (Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia representative), Dr Andrew Ratchford (by telephone linkage), Stephen Doggett, Edith Arns, Dr Stephen Ginsborg, Melanie Burk (Clinical Research Nurse, Department of Clinical immunology & Allergy, Royal North Shore Hospital) and Clinical Associate Professor Sheryl van Nunen. During the meeting the terms of reference for TiARA were tabled, there was an around the table statement from each Committee member regarding their background and planned contribution to the Committee, a summary of research into tick-induced allergies in 2012 was tabled as were the goals of the TiARA Committee regarding awareness of tick-induced allergies and research for 2013.

A number of Gifts-in-Kind were noted with appreciation at our initial meeting as were cash donations totalling in excess of \$650 (see financial report later). The meeting closed at 4.50pm and the Committee prepared to meet Minister Anthony Roberts (representing the Premier of New South Wales), our Benefactors, Supporters, the Consultant Dietitian (Mrs Lesley Clarke) and Guests at the Official Launch of TiARA.

The TiARA website and pamphlets, both gifts-in-kind from very generous supporters, the Williams Family and Jana Pearce respectively, were also launched at this event.

The Official Launch of TiARA 26th March 2013

The Official Launch of TiARA (Tick-induced Allergies Research and Awareness) Fund was held at Royal North Shore Hospital on Tuesday 26th March, 2013, following the inaugural TiARA Committee meeting. The Minister for Fair Trading and Member for Lane Cove, the Hon. Anthony Roberts, representing the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Barry O'Farrell, very kindly attended the Launch and presented Certificates of Appreciation to our Benefactors (Jana Pearce [pamphlet design and donation of printing costs], the Williams family [TiARA logo design, domain registration, website design and production and website hosting) and Ray and Jenni Rampton [cash donors]), our Ambassadors (Joy C, Janelle W, Merran C, Andrew C and Grahame W), our Consultant Dietitian (Mrs Lesley Clarke) and our Webmaster (Blake Williams). The TiARA Committee and Supporters were delighted with the interest in the tick-induced allergy problems shown by Minister Roberts, whose visit added significantly to the overall goodwill generated by the Launch function, with everyone who has contributed to TiARA to date having the opportunity of meeting each other. All were delighted with progress, with our pamphlet progressing to printing and distribution to stakeholders and our website about to go live. TiARA Committee members and supporters have a busy year planned with our awareness programs, fundraising and research projects.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE TiARA LAUNCH

TiARA webmaster Blake Williams receiving his Certificate of Appreciation from Minister Roberts



TiARA Benefactor Jana Pearce receiving her Certificate of Appreciation from Minister Roberts



TiARA Ambassador Joy Cowdery receiving her Certificate of Appreciation from Minister Roberts



TiARA Benefactor Janelle Williams, on behalf of the Williams Family, receiving their Certificate of Appreciation from Minister Roberts



TiARA Ambassador Andrew Cutler receiving his Certificate of Appreciation from Minister Roberts



TiARA Youth Ambassador Merran Cunningham receiving her Certificate of Appreciation from Minister Roberts



TiARA Committee with Minister Roberts at the Launch

Below: L to R, Stephen Doggett, A/Professor Kevin Broady, Professor Nicholas Cowdery, the Minister for Fair Trading & Member for Lane Cove Anthony Roberts, Clinical A/Professor Sheryl van Nunen, Dr Stephen Ginsborg, Edith Arns and Maria Said



TiARA Committee Meetings were also held in June, August and November 2013.

At the June meeting, Stephen Doggett, delivered a presentation “Ticks in our Environment”, in August, A/ Professor Kevin Broady presented his hypothesis of the development of mammalian meat allergy and in November, Geoff Cook presented the incidence data for tick bites. All of these presentations were greatly appreciated, stimulated lengthy discussions and gave the entire TiARA Committee important background regarding crucial aspects of tick-induced allergies.

At our November meeting we were fortunate in adding to our Committee Emeritus Professor Paul Canfield, a distinguished veterinarian.

A Summary of TiARA Achievements in 2013

TiARA was established in order

- ❖ To promote awareness of tick-induced allergies by the public, health professionals, those in at-risk occupations, educators and government.
- ❖ To provide resources and support for sufferers of tick-induced allergies who live remote from expert medical and dietetic advisors.
- ❖ To promote research into the prevention & cure of tick-induced allergies.
- ❖ To disseminate established tick management strategies and help develop novel, proven tick management measures.

Progress with Awareness Goals in 2013

Public awareness:

- Website developed www.tiara.org.au & links to www.allergy.org.au, www.allergyfacts.org.au and vice versa and www.medent.usyd.edu.au have been established
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia website and Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology & Allergy (ASCIA) link established to www.tiara.org.au . AER (ASCIA Educational Resources) article on Tick Allergies revised 11/2013.
- Kolling Institute Annual Research Report: featured article.
- A/Professor Kevin Broady has produced an audio version of the “Allergies Provoked by Tick Bites“ presentation for placement on the website which constitutes a great improvement.

Health professional awareness:

- Pamphlets distributed to all Emergency Department waiting rooms in our region-

Mona Vale, Royal North Shore, Manly, Hornsby, Ryde & Sydney Adventist Hospitals.

- Electronic notification of details of website and downloadable pamphlet to Emergency physicians via Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) e-Newsletter.
- Pamphlets distributed to all 124 GPs in the Sydney North Shore and Beaches Medicare Local by the Medicare Local CEO, with website and e-pamphlet, and pamphlets and e-pamphlet sent to all 156 GPs in the Northern Sydney Medicare Local as well.
- Pamphlets, e-pamphlets and website details distributed to pharmacists in tick-endemic areas.
- ASCIA (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology & Allergy) 2013 plenary session on anaphylaxis featured the TiARA website.
- International posters: 2; National posters: 2.

At-risk occupation awareness:

- Occupational health information pack distributed to GPs caring for at-risk workers.
- Information from www.tiara.org.au posted on PSA website (47,000 at-risk workers).
- Willoughby, Manly and Pittwater Councils Tick Education Program for Bush Regenerators and Volunteers commitment for 2014

Educator awareness:

- Preschools and schools receiving website and e-pamphlet details.

Government awareness:

- Presentations given for local councils(3).
- All NSW electorate offices have received information and the website address.

Media Awareness:

- Local media: 6 articles
- Radio: 3 interviews
- National media: 2 articles, including SMH
- International newspapers: 3 articles (Wall Street Journal [2], Washington Post)
- Medical newspapers: 1 article

Special Interest Groups Presentations:

- Chase Alive Group

**Progress with provision of resources and support for sufferers of tick-induced allergies
who live remote from expert medical and dietetic advisors**

Achieved via website placement of TiARA Ambassadors' tips and encouragement delivered by personal recounts with considered advice presenting practical solutions to everyday challenges in dealing with tick-induced allergies, both mammalian meat anaphylaxis (cow's milk allergy, if present) following tick bite and tick bite- induced anaphylaxis.

TiARA's Consultant Dietitian, Mrs Lesley Clarke, has developed dietary management resources for mammalian meat allergy sufferers which have been posted on the TiARA website. "Achieving Adequate Nutrition", "Mammalian Meat Free Diet Guidelines" "Dietary Iron". This information has been very valuable for those people with these complaints who live remote from specialist dietetic help.

Progress with promotion of research into the prevention & cure of tick-induced allergies.

A/Professor Kevin Broady with Stephen Doggett and now Emeritus Professor Paul Canfield, are currently investigating the prospect of treating the natural host of the tick, the bandicoot, with an insecticide, thereby reducing the tick burden and examining whether such an approach would be useful in reducing the prevalence of tick-induced allergies.

Emeritus Professor Derek Anderson AM is reviewing the effect of climate upon tick numbers.

Geoff Cook and Edith Arns have been trialling the usefulness of tick bite prevention strategies in exposed workers.

Dr Andrew Ratchford and co-workers published their experience of tick allergies in an Australian Emergency Department this year. Dr Andrew Ratchford and Stephen Doggett are collaborating with colleagues from Murdoch University in an ARC Linkage Grant on tick disease transmission.

Maria Said presented work regarding clinical aspects of tick-induced anaphylaxis at the European Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology in Milan this year.

Dr Stephen Ginsborg has developed a prototype tick removal device and is trialling this device. He is also investigating whether our Aboriginal Australians know of natural means of controlling ticks.

Clinical A/Professor Sheryl van Nunen presented work on the significance of alphagal positivity in mammalian meat allergy at the Asia Pacific Congress of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology in Taiwan this year and formed the Australian Tick-Induced Allergies Medical & Scientific Research Network (ATIAMSRN), bringing together those medical practitioners and medical scientists interested in further researching tick-induced allergies and the background to their development.

Currently, one medical research paper is in preparation as a result of this initiative as is research into

the success of various tick removal approaches and devices for killing ticks in situ. The President of the World Allergy Organisation (WAO), Professor Ruby Pawankar, has undertaken to institute a WAO clinical study on the prevalence of tick-induced allergies which will be co-ordinated by Clinical A/Professor van Nunen.

Progress with dissemination of established tick management strategies and development of novel, proven tick management measures.

Stephen Doggett has written a fact sheet regarding tick management strategies which has been presented to the TiARA Committee for discussion and the final version will be posted on the website shortly. (see also A/Professor Kevin Broady's and Stephen Doggett's research interests).

TiARA End of Year Function 26th November 2013

The TiARA End of Year Function for the Committee and our Supporters was held on 26th November 2013.

Professor Antony Basten AO kindly presented Certificates of Appreciation to

The Williams Family (for their sustained commitment to the TiARA website in 2013)

Joy Cowdery (for her excellent sustained representation fo TiARA in the print media in 2013)

Janelle Williams (for her excellent representation of tiara in the radio and print media in 2013)

Ian Dunlop (for his excellent representation of TiARA in the print media in 2013)

Tanya Holloway (for her excellent communications and media work throughout 2013)

Ray Rampton (for his sustained commitment to supply of TiARA pamphlets to health care facilities)

Kathy Kai (for her sustained contribution to Tiara in organising Ku-Ring-Gai council Information evenings)

Alphapharm (for Eilise Darcy and Melissa from her Pharmacy team for their enthusiastic commitment to pharmacists' education in tick endemic areas)

Sydney North Shore & Beaches Medicare Local: Kris Hume and Cathy Hopkins (for their commitment to disseminating TiARA information to health care professionals in 2013)

Helen Signy (for her excellent article for the Kolling Institute 2013 Annual Report)

Louise Williams (for her brilliant article in the SMH Summer Edition 2013)

TiARA Committee Members

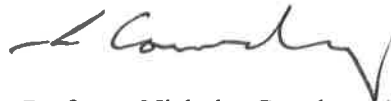
TiARA Committee members contribute considerable time to achieving the goals of TiARA, and do so in an honorary capacity. We are all grateful for the pleasant company and unparalleled expertise of our TiARA Committee members. The remarkable achievements this year attest to the hard work of every member. Our meetings result in a renewed sense of purpose and the constitution of the Committee allows for a high degree of synergism in our efforts.

We would also like to thank Melanie Burk, Clinical Research Nurse in the Department of Clinical Immunology and Allergy at Royal North Shore Hospital for her facilitation of our Committee Meetings.

26 November 2013



Professor Antony Basten AO



Professor Nicholas Cowdery AM