

PREGNANT WOMEN TO BENEFIT FROM PROGESTERONE TRIAL

Mater's Fertility Assessment and Research team require more pregnant women who are at risk of miscarriage to take part in a trial which aims to lower the rate of miscarriage in pregnancy.

The randomised, placebo-controlled trial—Supporting Threatened Outcomes with Progesterone (STOP)—involves women in their first trimester who have a 'threatened' miscarriage taking daily doses of progesterone.

Mater Fertility Service Principal Investigator Dr Luke McLindon said progesterone was necessary for maintenance of pregnancy and often these levels were lower in pregnancies that ended in miscarriage.

"Progesterone creates a mature endometrium and a favourable immune environment for early embryonic development," Dr McLindon said.

"With the exception of anticoagulants for thrombophilias, there is presently no agreed therapeutic approach which has been shown to reduce the risk of pregnancy loss in women who present with a threatened miscarriage.

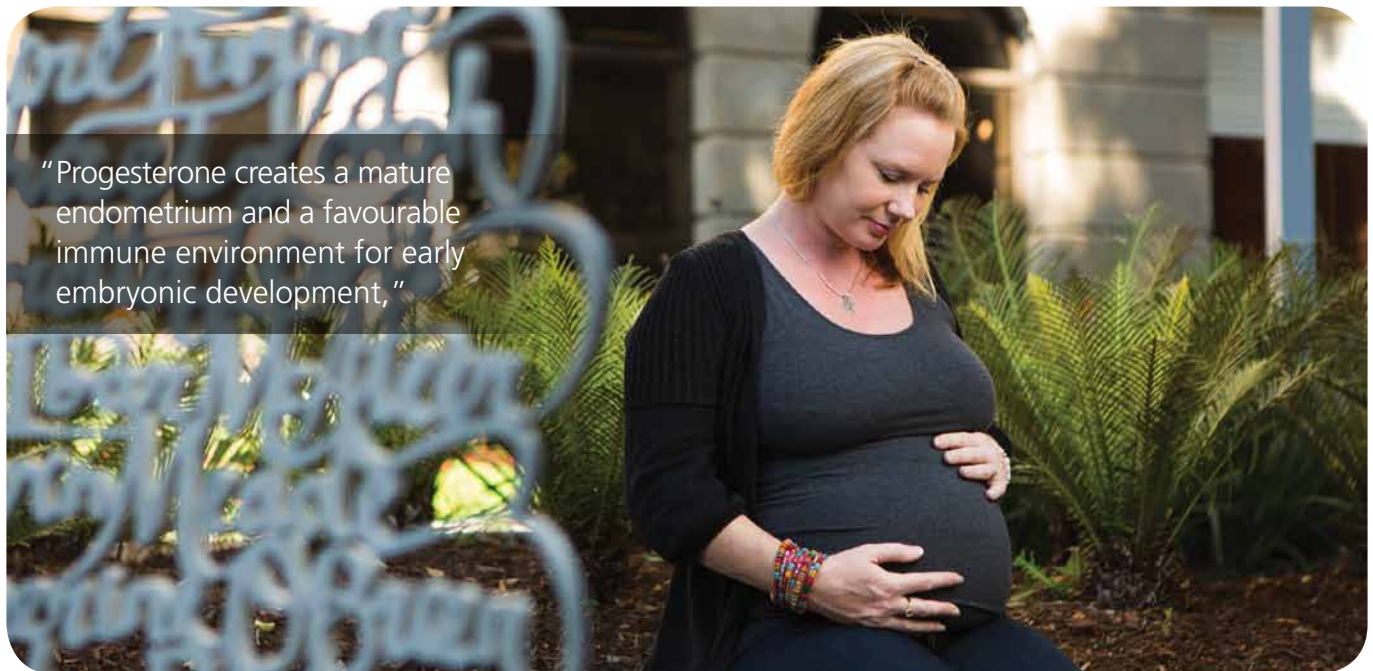
"Our belief is that by supporting early pregnancy with progesterone we may be able to improve the pregnancy outcome for many couples."

Women who are up to 10 weeks pregnant and who present with a threatened miscarriage, including spotting and bleeding, are suitable candidates for the trial.

Participants will be required to self-administer pessaries containing either progesterone or placebo every night up to 12 weeks gestation.

"There are minimal side-effects from the pessaries and they are safe to use in pregnancy," Dr McLindon said.

For more information contact Mater Fertility Clinic on telephone 07 3163 8437.



GENERALLY SPEAKING DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX

Generally Speaking is transitioning to an e-newsletter format, making it more convenient for you to access relevant news from Mater.

The e-newsletter will be sent directly to your nominated inbox on a bi-monthly basis to provide you with important information on GP education events and exciting news on Mater services and medical advancements.

If you would like to register please email the following details to Sara McDonald, sara.mcdonald@mater.org.au (Name, email, practice name and telephone number).

MATER FORMS EDUCATION ALLIANCE WITH UQ

Mater Health Services and The University of Queensland have strengthened their relationship by entering into an *Alliance Agreement* to create a unique clinical teaching environment for nursing and midwifery students.

The agreement extends to the \$30 million restoration and refurbishment of the Whitty Building at Mater Health Services as the home for The University of Queensland Campus.

The refurbishment of the heritage-listed facility will accommodate education and teaching spaces, administrative offices, student amenities and various business units.

To include world-class training facilities for nursing, midwifery and allied health students, the education centre will also house the existing Mater Clinical School for medical students.

The start of construction is planned for the middle of this year with the facility scheduled to open in 2016.

Mater Health Services CEO Dr John O'Donnell said the Alliance between both organisations made the facility at Mater the largest UQ clinical school in nursing and midwifery.

"The Alliance, and consequently the restoration and extension of the Whitty building, is one of the ways Mater plans to achieve its Mission of providing optimal patient outcomes

through inter-professional education and practice," Dr O'Donnell said.

"The new facility focuses on theoretical and practical aspects of the UQ Bachelor of Nursing and dual Nursing and Midwifery degrees, with students utilising a range of Mater facilities to gain practical clinical experience."

"The demand for integrated tertiary education and hospital-based training is exemplified by this new program, attaining the highest OP entry scores for nursing and midwifery in Australia," Dr O'Donnell said.



AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST MATERNITY SERVICE LAUNCHES MATER NAPPIES

Mater Mothers' maternity and baby care product range is expanding with the launch of Mater Nappies.

The product range, developed by Mater Midwives + Mums, continues the exceptional care and expertise from the hospitals into the home.

Mothers with babies born at Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane and Mater Mothers' Private Redland will receive the first size of nappies, Mater Nappies — Newborn First Weeks, specially designed to fit babies up to 3.5 kg.

These nappies feature umbilical cord protection to reduce the pressure on a baby's cord as it heals. Mater Nappies — Newborn will also be provided to babies above 3.5 kg.



Mater Nappies are made from ultra-soft materials that quickly absorb liquid and draw away moisture to help keep baby's delicate skin dry. These nappies have also been dermatologically tested and proven not to cause skin irritation.

The Mater Nappies range includes five sizes to suit growing babies up to toddler age, with the larger size nappies being launched later in the year.

The maternity and baby care product range also includes Mater Baby Wash, Mater Baby Moisturiser and Mater Body Balm for pregnancy, with more products coming soon in 2014.

Mater products are available from Mater Pharmacies, Mater Florist, online via www.matermothers.org.au and selected pharmacies.

Proceeds from Mater products support Mater Little Miracles. For more information call 1300 162837 or email products@mater.org.au.

WHICH DOCTOR?

DR JERMAINE (JIM) COWARD



A consultant medical oncologist specialising in gynaecological and thoracic cancers, Dr Jermaine (Jim) Coward has recently started a private practice at Mater Cancer Care Centre in South Brisbane and visits patients at Mater Private Hospital Brisbane and Mater Adult Hospital.

Dr Coward was appointed a UK Medical Research Council Clinical Fellow at Barts Cancer Institute, London (2006) and conducted basic research into the role of IL-6 in ovarian cancer. This included the first translational clinical trial of anti-IL-6 antibody therapy in patients with platinum resistant ovarian cancer and this work culminated in his PhD award in 2010.

After completing specialist oncology training at the world-renowned Royal Marsden Hospital, London (2012), he was appointed a Senior Research Fellow and Leader of the Inflammation and Cancer Therapeutics Group at Mater Research.

Dr Coward collaborates with researchers at Peter MacCallum and MD Anderson Cancer Centres with a focus on investigating the role of inflammatory cytokine networks in ovarian cancer.

Dr Coward is also a senior lecturer at The University of Queensland's School of Medicine and regularly delivers talks at national and international conferences about gynaecological cancers.

Referrals can be made to Dr Coward at:

Mater Cancer Care Centre
Mater Corporate Services Building
Level 2, Raymond Terrace, South Brisbane QLD 4101
Telephone: 07 3163 5222 **Facsimile:** 07 3163 5252
Website: cowardoncology.com.au

DR ROBYN ALDRIDGE



An obstetric and gynecology specialist, Dr Robyn Aldridge provides care to women with a range of gynaecological concerns, as well as to mothers pre and post pregnancy. Dr Aldridge delivers at Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane.

A graduate of The University of Otago, Dr Aldridge worked as a junior doctor in Palmerston North, New Zealand, where she specialised in women's health.

As part of her specialist training she worked at Hastings Hospital as part of her rural rotation and Wellington Women's Hospital for her tertiary experience. Dr Aldridge completed her training at The Townsville Hospital and then Monash Medical Centre in Victoria.

Having gained her FRANZCOG, she consulted at Monash Medical Centre where she became a training supervisor and initiated a number of changes to its training program. Dr Aldridge was appointed the Director of Clinical Governance for Women's Health where she focused on improving the review of perinatal morbidity and mortality. As an obstetrician on birth suite, she cared for a number of women with multiple pregnancies.

Dr Aldridge was a senior lecturer at Monash University, where she taught medical students and led the writing of medical student examinations. She is also an instructor for Managing Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma (MOET), and a tutor for the Australian Medical Council's workplace based candidates.

Referrals can be made to Dr Aldridge at:

Eve Health
Shop 5, 199 Grey Street, South Bank QLD 4101
Telephone: 1300 383 432 **Facsimile:** 07 3332 1990
Website: evehealth.com.au

EASY ACCESS TO MATER PATHOLOGY INFORMATION

GPs are able to access up-to-date information on every test conducted by Mater Pathology online.

Visit pathology.mater.org.au/for-doctors, click on 'Pathology test guide' to access the PathTest webpage and use the search function to find test-specific information including Medicare status and collection requirements.



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2014 - AN EXCITING YEAR FOR GP EDUCATION

GP EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Marriott Resort and Spa, Surfers Paradise

Date	Category Points*
Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 November	
Topics: Adolescent health care, cardiology, dermatology, emergency medicine, interactive skills update – strapping, hands only CPR and airway management, neurosciences, paediatric orthopaedics, paediatrics, radiology, urology and women's health expert panel.	40 Category 1 Points

SOUTH BRISBANE GP EDUCATION

Mater Medical Centre, 293 Vulture Street, South Brisbane

Date	Category Points*
Tuesday 18 February	
Tuesday 17 June	4 Category
Tuesday 5 August	2 Points per event
Tuesday 11 November	

REDLAND GP EDUCATION

Mater Health Centre Redland, 16 Weippin Street, Cleveland

Date	Category Points*
Tuesday 18 March	4 Category
Tuesday 16 September	2 Points per event

BROOKWATER GP EDUCATION

Brookwater Golf & Country Club, 1 Tournament Drv, Brookwater

Date	Category Points*
Thursday 6 March	4 Category
Thursday 24 July	2 Points per event
Thursday 6 November	

HOPE ISLAND GP EDUCATION

Links Hope Island Golf Club, Hope Island

Date	Category Points*
Tuesday 11 March	4 Category
Tuesday 9 September	2 Points per event

GP MATERNITY SHARED CARE ALIGNMENT PROGRAM

Mater Medical Centre, 293 Vulture Street, South Brisbane

Date	Category Points*
Saturday 29 March	40 Category
Tuesday 19 and Tuesday 26 August	1 Points per program

GP MATERNITY SHARED CARE ADVANCED ALIGNMENT PROGRAM

Mater Medical Centre, 293 Vulture Street, South Brisbane

Date	Category Points*
Saturday 1 March	40 Category
Tuesday 27 May and Tuesday 3 June	1 Points per program

*These activities will be submitted to the RACGP for point allocation for the Quality Improvement and Continuing Education Program for the 2014–2016 triennium. The outcome of this application will be published at a later date.

TO REGISTER OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit www.materonline.org.au/events or contact Sara McDonald by telephone 07 3163 1036 or email sara.mcdonald@mater.org.au.

MATER HEALTH CENTRE BROOKWATER TURNS ONE

Mater Health Centre Brookwater celebrates its first birthday this month after a successful year of providing much-needed healthcare to the Greater Springfield community.

The centre, located within Woolworths Brookwater Village Shopping Centre, is a multidisciplinary healthcare hub comprising a GP practice, a number of specialist suites, as well as Mater Pharmacy, Mater Pathology, Active Rehabilitation Physiotherapy, my FootDr podiatry services, Greater Springfield Orthodontics, Queensland X-ray and Brookwater Dental Surgery.

Mater Private Hospital Executive Director Don Murray said Mater Health Services, the Health Centre team and the local community had many reasons to celebrate the centre's first year of operation.

"The centre opened with specialists from urology, obstetric and gastroenterology and hepatology disciplines and this has grown substantially to 11 specialties, including orthopaedic surgery, neurosurgery and cardiology," Mr Murray said.

"Instead of travelling to larger centres, the Greater Springfield community can easily access a range of specialist care and allied health services locally."

The Health Centre was Mater's first foray into the western Brisbane region and its third health centre in South East Queensland, with one established at Redland and Hope Island on the Gold Coast.



"Mater chose Brookwater as an ideal location for the Health Centre after identifying the region as a community in need of allied health and specialist services now and in the future," Mr Murray said.

"The development of Mater Private Hospital Springfield, to open in late 2015, is an extension of Mater's commitment to providing exceptional healthcare to the people of Greater Springfield."

Construction of stage one of Mater Private Hospital Springfield, an 80-bed, \$85 million hospital, will commence in the coming months, with future expansion planned to meet the needs of the growing region.

For further information on Mater Health Centre Brookwater visit www.materonline.org.au/publications/quick-guide-for-gps