KIDNEY RESEARCH EXPERT AWARDED INTERNATIONAL MEDAL

The Kids Research Institute would like to congratulate Professor Jonathan Craig on being awarded The National Kidney Foundation’s 2010 International Distinguished Medal.

The only Australian recipient, Jonathan is being honoured for his outstanding contribution to the study of kidney disease in children and adults.

Jonathan is a paediatric nephrologist at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, caring for children who have chronic kidney disease and those who have received transplants. He holds a Chair in Clinical Epidemiology in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney. His research is based at the Kids Research Institute’s Centre for Kidney Research, one of the largest kidney research groups in the Southern Hemisphere.

Jonathan’s 13 years of work in nephrology has focused on the prevention and treatment of kidney disease. Examples of his research include studies into the prevention of kidney disease in Aboriginal children, known as the ARDAC study – the first large population-based comparison of early markers of chronic disease in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children. He has undertaken research into the prevention of urinary tract infections in children, being the lead investigator in the PRIVENT Trial - the world’s largest study investigating the long-term effects of antibiotics on children with urinary tract infections. Jonathan is also involved in the FEVER Study, where new methods of diagnosing serious bacterial illnesses, like urinary tract infections and pneumonia, are trialled in the emergency room setting.

It doesn’t end there! Jonathan is the Coordinating Editor of the Cochrane Renal Group and Co-Chair of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group, leading the research team that reviews the evidence to improve the detection and management of kidney disease in children and adults, including those with cancer. On top of that he is also Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council’s Large Clinical Trials Panel.

Jonathan’s list of achievements are endless and his roles diverse.

Why is Jonathan’s work so important? Chronic kidney disease is the seventh most common cause of death in Australia, with one in three Australians at an increased risk of kidney disease. The number of patients being placed on dialysis due to kidney failure is increasing and the average waiting time for the solution - a kidney transplant - is five years. New discoveries and better treatments need long-term commitment and researchers like Jonathan are at the forefront of this challenging battle.

Congratulations Jonathan on this prestigious international award!