

SPASM MUSE

Newsletter November 2023

Spasm HealthCare Museum, Building 6 Victoria Rd Gladesville
Situating at the Crown Street bus stop on Victoria Road Gladesville



It is often reported that **Christopher Wren** used a goose quill cannula to inject poppy sap intravenously into dogs in 1656! In 1662 & 1665 **Drs Major and Esholtz** tried a similar technique on humans as well as dogs. Possibly the first steel hypodermic needle was made in Dublin in 1844.

(<https://medicine.uq.edu.au/blog/2018/12/history-syringes-and-needles>)

For the estimated 7.7 million Australians who have a peripheral IV Cannula or “drip” inserted each year, a new **50 page** long **Standard** by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality was published in 2021. According to their web site, up to 40% of first time attempts to insert a PIVC in an adult fail – but that information was taken from studies done in 2004 from around the world.

(<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/clinical-care-standards/management-peripheral-intravenous-catheters-clinical-care-standard>)

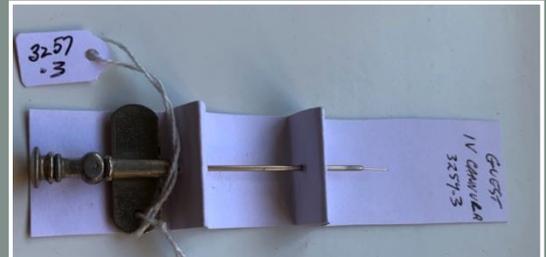
As you would expect for a museum founded by an anaesthetist, we have a number of various needles and cannula: the beautiful, bulbous gold **Hamilton Bailey** Cannula, designed to fit the cannula directly onto the rubber tubing; the **Guest** Cannulae with ? record adaptor; the **Sellick**; similar to the **Gordh** with a rubber diaphragm to allow repeated IV injections easier. Then there is the **Mitchell** with its swinging occlusion plate – still being used in 1972. These cannulae and more are described in an informative article by **C Ball** in *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Supplement*, Vol34 June 2006.

(<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0310057X0603401S02>)

We have come a long way from those days, from metal to plastic, reusable to disposable. But for some they still cause pain and fear. **PTO to learn about “Needle Calm”.**

November 2023

Attendance at a Health Care Museum such as SPASM allows visitors to reflect on the past, to contrast with the present and contemplate the future.



Visiting the HealthCare Museum in real time or online.

Opening hours for the Museum are 11 am – 3pm on the 2nd Saturday and 4th Monday of each month - February to November. Prior arrangements for small Group visits may also be arranged on those days or other days – depending on volunteer availability.

Executive Members :

President: Sandra Solarz

Co Curators : Gary Klopfer & Peter Hartigan

Secretary /Treasurer: Ros Berryman

Volunteer Guides: Val Corcoran, Kate Sauer, Carol Logie, Kerry Moroney, John Murphy & Peter Hartigan

Email : info@spasmmuseum.org.au

Contact SPASM by phone 0414993138

SPASM web sites at www.spasmmuseum.org.au

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SPASM1>

We also feature on the Hunters hill web page:

<https://www.facebook.com/discoverhh>

And the Museum and galleries of NSW website:

<https://mgnsww.org.au/organisations/spasm/>

Entry to the Museum takes you to another era:

Building 1

The Corridor gives a time line of the Tarban Creek Asylum - Gladesville Hospital.

1. The Anaesthetic Room. Showcases the changes in anaesthetic apparatus used by surgeons, dentists and anaesthetists over the years. Look for: the ventilator, which has bicycle gears as part of its internal mechanism

2. The Operating Theatre circa 2000 has a "new" op table, mayo stand, anaesthetic machine and endoscopic tower. All items were donated by Canterbury Hospital.

3. The Pharmacy room shows beautiful jars, and bottles, household remedies and also some early dispensing records, There is also an optical collection and some straight jackets to view.

4. The small room outback has the large EEG machine and ECT machines on display along with additional anaesthetic instruments and equipment.

Building 6

Room 1 takes us to a 1911 Consulting room: "**The consulting room of Dr. John Sand Smyth**" who practiced in Warwick Queensland. Also The Five Dock GP "**Dr. Menzies collection**" is in the large display case at back. The 1936-2006 instruments of GP **Dr. Leslie Bruce Johnson** are also now in this room.

Room 2. The surgical "pick room" contains instrument cupboards with a display of surgical instruments, sutures and blood collecting apparatus.

Room 3 The St Thomas Hospital Operating Theatre has a display of receptacles used in the operating theatres as well as an early operating table, early surgical instruments as well as ENT, obstetric, and general instruments. A timeline is provided for innovations. The early challenges of pain, sepsis & blood loss is explained.

Room 4 The haemostasis room an impressive display of diathermy units as well as other methods used to prevent bleeding during operations. Tourniquets, clamps, suturing material, bone wax, and more. Then there is the 1930's operating table, a swab rack, and a large print photo of RNSH Thoracic Theatre Nurses C1954.

The corridor to the exit takes you past a display of hearing trumpets, tracheostomy tubes and other historical equipment. There are small formaldehyde sterilising cupboards, sterilizing drums, as well as small water bath sterilizers used at the South pole! The dental section shows 4 types of dental drills, including a **very old treadle drill**, used between 1890s and 1930's. Our latest exhibit the C1920's Ritter-Biber Xray machine takes pride of place at the end of the Corridor.

The library work area is now a pleasant place to sit & relax take tea and work on cataloging the many artifacts we have that have not been entered into the computer.

The World War I & II area is now complete with its large photograph of Casualty Clearing Station Operating Theatre in France and various instrument sets used during both wars.

Building 5

The Tea Room where you can have a cup of tea or coffee

The Gladesville room The staff bundy clock, and religious artifacts used at Gladesville during services: a very old bible; church organ & pew. There are photographs and some stories about past patients and attendants, as well as literature about the past history of the asylum.



Above left - **Kate Sauer** doing a little "on line" research last month for information relating to one of our many exhibits.

Above right - A recent visitor to the museum was Nursing **Sister Lauren Barber**. Lauren was awarded the **2023 Health Minister Award for Nursing Trailblazer** for her invention the **Needle Calm**. Lauren spoke to us about her invention that is designed to assist patients who have a needle phobia.

(<https://needlecalm.com.au/about/>)

James Hamilton described this condition in the Journal of Family Practice 1995-08 v41.

(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/7636457/>)

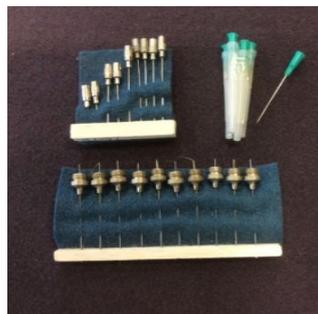
A copy of that article and references is available at the museum alongside a picture of this lovely award statue. **Congratulations Lauren for your efforts!**



Lauren Barber and Volunteer Dr. Kerry Maroney at a recent Open Day



Health Minister Award for Nursing Trailblazer 2023 awarded to Lauren Barber MACN - for her device The Needle Calm (below)



Thanks also to the University of Melbourne for their beautiful presentation of needles from their museum in the 2018 blog, posted by Robert Craig. (I'm on the lookout for this blue felt backing)



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Health Care Museum
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