





Wolper Jewish Hospital The first 60 years









We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which Wolper Jewish Hospital stands, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

© Wolper Jewish Hospital 2021

While every care has been taken to trace and acknowledge copyright, Wolper Jewish Hospital tenders its apologies for any accidental infringement or where copyright has proved untraceable.

Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (including but not limited to electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or recording), without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN: 978-0-646-84489-3

A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia.

Project Leaders: Richard Glass, Jaqui Herman Contributing writers: Richard Glass, Dr David Golovsky AM, Harry Aizenberg Assisting editors: Avril Janks, Simon Enticknap Designed by compu-vision Printed by Clark Murphy Print



Dedication

Dedicated to Sam Karpin OAM Founder and President Wolper Jewish Hospital.

We honour his vision, courage and great tenacity in founding this Hospital, and his unique, selfless dedication in serving as its first President for 25 years.





PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

WOLPER JEWISH HOSPITAL 60TH ANNIVERSARY

I am delighted to contribute to this celebration of the 60th anniversary of Wolper Jewish Hospital.

From its opening in 1961 until today, Wolper has been a place of care and compassion for the people of Sydney.

Wolper holds a special place in my family. In the last months of my father's life, the people at Wolper cared for him with gentle and loving kindness. And my mother, too, has been given exceptional care at Wolper.

My father often said to me: if you want to understand community, understand the Jewish community. At Wolper, you create community by seeing the image of G-d in all who you care for.

I know so many others have also been deeply impacted by Wolper over the last 60 years, because Wolper welcomes everyone.

As you tend to the needs of your patients, you celebrate the dignity of their humanity. In your acts of mercy, you recognise each individual as — in the words of the Psalmist — fearfully and wonderfully made.

In the time of COVID-19, safe and expert healthcare has never been more important. I am grateful for Wolper's support for our national vaccination program, and the encouraging and insightful advice you continue to provide to your community.

Your founders were inspired by a vision to uphold the principal of dignity, compassion and quality of care for all. In Wolper, that inspiration has become an achievement, in which you can take great pride.

Congratulations to all who preserve Wolper's founding mission to heal and soothe in a spirit of goodwill and dedication. May the same spirit sustain the next 60 years of healthcare and community...

The Hon Scott Morrison MP Prime Minister of Australia

September 2021

Foreword

It is an honour and a privilege to have been elected the seventh President of Wolper Jewish Hospital.

Over the span of 60 years the vision and energy of those who have come before me have enabled a small cottage hospital to evolve into a thriving medical and rehabilitation centre of excellence. This has been realised and enhanced through the dedication and expertise of our successive Boards of Directors, the Chief Executive Officers Harry Aizenberg and John Tucker and their management and staff (some of whom have served for over two decades) as well as our community leaders.

Whilst Wolper as a Jewish hospital—indeed the only Jewish hospital in Australia—is committed to the traditional and religious principles that have been the hallmark of the Wolper brand, our ethos is one of inclusivity. Our adherence to these principles has enabled Wolper to at all times provide outstanding care focused on the health, comfort, wellbeing and dignity of all our patients. At the same time, through both our direct outreach and the opportunities provided by the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation, we strive to contribute to the wellbeing of the broader community beyond our walls.

We are proud of the achievements of our first 60 years, evidence of our ability to anticipate change and 'move with the times'. The Wolper team will continue to evolve and to provide services that meet the ongoing and developing needs of the Jewish and wider community, within and beyond our walls, well into the 21st century and beyond.

President, August 2021

Richard Glass



Contents

Introduction iv
The beginnings: Start of the dream
1950s: The gift of kindness4
Dr Fanny Reading MBE
1960s: A new era
1970s to early 1990s: Hand in hand
Late 1990s to 2000s: A major private hospital
For the wellbeing of the community
2010s: Fifty years and growing26
<i>Words of gratitude</i> 36
Friends in the community38
Establishing a health foundation40
Supporting our staff42
Positioning for the future46
The continuing Jewish spirit50
2020–2021: A time like no other52
A community united56
Sixty years and looking forward58
Wolper leadership64
Foundation grant recipients69
Endnotes
Acknowledgements

Introduction

Wolper Jewish Hospital celebrated its 60th anniversary on 20 August 2021.

Wolper, originally a shared vision realised through the efforts and generosity of many people, has evolved considerably over those 60 years. Adapting to the changing times and needs of the community Wolper has gone from strength to strength, consolidating its reputation as an institution renowned for its medical expertise, empathetic care and general support for the wellbeing of the broader population.

The hospital first envisioned after World War II was a modern Jewish hospital which would meet the needs of the Jewish residents of Sydney and that it would also serve a broad spectrum of patients, irrespective of background, religion, ethnicity or beliefs. Indeed, whilst the Hospital is sponsored by the Jewish community, the majority of its patients are not Jewish. And for that reason, Wolper—as well as offering the highest quality healthcare—provides a wonderful 'bridge' between the Jewish and non-Jewish community.

This is the story of the dedicated community leaders, the organisations, the doctors, the benefactors and the staff who together conceived, created, developed and nourished Wolper Jewish Hospital through its first 60 years. It is their vision, tireless efforts and passion that have enabled Wolper Jewish Hospital to thrive, to achieve the standards of excellence it provides, and to strive for continual improvement in all its endeavours.

"The idea of a Jewish hospital in Sydney was for many years the dream and inspiration of a small group of idealists whose objective was the establishment of a modern Jewish hospital to serve the community in general, irrespective of creed, but especially to provide for Jewish patients facilities that are not available in any other hospital."

Sam Karpin, 1961¹

The beginnings Start of the dream

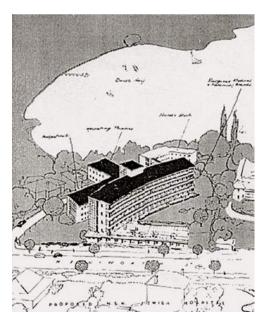
Wolper Jewish Hospital was opened in 1961 in Woollahra, Sydney, but its story began under another name, at another time, and in another location.

The first move to establish a Jewish hospital in Sydney was made in 1947 by Professor A. Lippmann, a doctor who arrived in Sydney from Europe in 1938.² The NSW Jewish Hospital was subsequently established through the collaboration of several leading figures of the medical profession, together with the Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA), the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJW),³ and the NSW Fellowship of Jewish Doctors. The site for the hospital—a large house named White Ivy, at 4 Wentworth Street, Point Piper—was adjacent to the headquarters of the YMHA. The Association, while primarily a social organisation, had been particularly active during and immediately after World War II, raising funds to support war refugees through the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (now known as JewishCare).

The Chairman of the NSW Jewish Hospital was Mr Sam Karpin, then President of the YMHA. The Vice-President was Dr Fanny Reading MBE, representing the NCJW; her life would become closely bound up with that of Wolper Jewish Hospital.

After the death of Professor Lippmann, the Medical Board was chaired by recently returned military man Brigadier Dr Joe Steigrad CBE. Dr Hans Landecker was the Secretary and Dr Lennie Greenberg was the Treasurer.

Below left: Plans proposed for the NSW Jewish Hospital in Point Piper Below right: Linlithgow was, with the home White Ivy next door, the first home of the NSW Jewish Hospital







The highest concept of benevolence

The official opening of the Hospital in Point Piper was attended by more than 400 people. In his dedication, Rabbi Falk said: "The establishment ... of a Jewish Hospital here in Sydney is a continuation of the Jewish tradition and in keeping with the highest concept of benevolence".⁴

On 3 June 1948 the NSW Jewish Hospital was incorporated. The founders' vision was to commence a major development, which included an operating theatre, a delivery room, an outpatients department and nursing quarters. An appeal was made to the public for funds to support this development. The architectural representation showed an extensive establishment—really quite ambitious—in a locality that was principally residential.

The first Hospital Dinner of the NSW Jewish Hospital was held at the Trocadero, George St, Sydney, on 26 October 1948. Over a thousand people attended the function, which is believed to have been the biggest in the history of Australian Jewry. Assurances of support were provided on the night by Mr A. Landa MLA (on behalf of the NSW Minister for Health and the NSW Government), Alderman L. Duff, Mayor of Woollahra Council, and many leaders of the Jewish community. The sum of £20,000 was raised on the night and an additional £15,000 was subsequently donated; however the estimated cost for the building of the hospital at Point Piper was £100,000.

But these promising beginnings were to be short-lived.

Lack of financial support

In the year 1953–54, funds raised for the building fund fell substantially short of expectations and Sam Karpin noted in the 6th Annual Report that 'without some more permanent demonstration of regular public support and financial backing, the hospital could not expect to survive, let alone advance or expand'.⁵

At the time the NSW Jewish Hospital had considerable assets, with its two adjacent houses—White Ivy and Linlithgow—in an excellent location. In 1954 Linlithgow was the first to be sold, thereby reducing the bank overdraft to a manageable level; as a result the financial position of the NSW Jewish Hospital was reasonably sound.

However, the lack of public financial support made it obvious the dream of an operating theatre and delivery room could not be realised. This meant that the vision for a major hospital was not viable, and it was decided that the NSW Jewish Hospital would cease operations. It closed in June 1954 and the remaining property, White Ivy, was also sold.

"The NSW Jewish Hospital was a fairly grandiose building, a converted private home. It was a pseudo modern hospital in surroundings that were anything but modern. It was mainly medical but it was not an acute care hospital."

Dr Joachim Schneeweiss AM, who consulted at the NSW Jewish Hospital from 1952 and then at Wolper Jewish Hospital



Above: The first fundraising dinner of the NSW Jewish Hospital at the Trocadero on 26 October 1948. Sam Karpin is seventh from left at the main table, next to Dr Fanny Reading Right: NSW Jewish Hospital appeal brochure, 1951

N.S.W. JEWISH HOSPITAL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

PRESIDENT:

Hans Vidor, Esq.

CHAIRMAN: Sam Karpin, Eog.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Abram Landa, Esq. LL.B., M.L.A. Dr. Fanny Reading C. G. Whitmont, Esq.

HON, SECRETARY: HON, TREASURER: Mrs. Bernard Cohen

Bernard Cohon, Esq.

BON, SOLICITOR: Maurice Allen, Esq., LL-fi

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Ann Einfeld

Adalph Baser, Esq. Arthur D. Robb, Esq. Sol. Einfeld, Esq. Dr. A. S. Rending Mouriee Salkind, Eaq.

> CHAIRMAN OF MEDICAL BOARD. Brig, Dr. Joseph Steigrad, C.B.E.

Vice-Chairman of Medical Boards Dr. H. M. Landecker

Secretary of Medical Boards

Dr. L. L. Greenberg

GENERAL SECRETARY: Mr. H. Greenfield

MATRON Miss V. M. Couch

HON. AUDITOR: J. J. Simon, Esq.





A Lasting Memorial Dedicated to Europe's Martyred Jews 1935 - 1945 To Restore Faith in Mankind By Soothing the Sufferer and Healing the Sick

1951 BUILDING APPEAL N.S.W. JEWISH HOSPITAL

& WENTWORTH STREET, POINT PIPER, PM 2883 - PM 2287

1950s The *gift* of kindness

In April 1953, a year before the NSW Jewish Hospital closed its doors, another institution caring for Jewish community members opened in Woollahra—the Wolper Convalescent Home. Like the NSW Jewish Hospital, it sprang from the desire to create a health facility for Jewish community members who were ill.

Its story begins with an act of kindness that was to have a far-reaching impact. The NSW division of the NCJW had set up a Hospital Visiting Committee to visit sick community members in hospitals. During one of her visits, Committee member Mrs Becky Lake came upon a Mrs Gertie Stone, who was not receiving adequate care. Becky Lake took Gertie Stone into her own home and nursed her. When Gertie Stone died in 1950, aged 73 years, she showed her gratitude by bequeathing her family home in Berwick Street, Coogee, to the Hospital Visiting Committee of the NCJW in trust, with the request that it be used as a convalescent home or hospital for Jewish patients, and that it be known as the Aaron and Gertie Wolper Convalescent Home. Aaron Wolper was Gertie Stone's





INAUGURAL MESTING OF "THE WOLPER CONVALESCENT HOUSE" HELD AT 8 TRELAWNEY ST., ON MONDAY 13th APRIL 1953, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Dr. Fanny Reading (in the Chair)
Mesdames Max Lake, B. Zions,
H. Wolfensohn, R. Renoff, S. Renoff,
Rose, I. Silk, Shaw, B. Cohen,
R. Burman, Kornfield, Ginsberg,
Levy, Hyams, Myers, Rychter,
E. Jacobson and Sister C. A. Hannah.

APOLOGIES:

An apology was received from Mrs. Cecil Gordon.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Max Lake to report on the purchase and the bequest of the late Mrs. Wolper Stone.

In her brief summary of the facts which lead to the purchase of this home, Mrs. Lake said that because it had been impossible to find a suitable home for Mrs. Wolper Stone when she needed it, she had made this bequest. It was her specific wish that there should be a Jewish convalescent home, to be administered by the hospital visiting Committee of the N.C.J.W. The trustees of the home to be Dr. Fanny Reading, Mrs. Max Lake and Mrs. E. Zions.

It was originally intended that the Coogee home of Mrs. Wolper Stone should be used for this convalescent home, but for a number of reasons it had been found that this was not practicable. The main disadvantages were the high cost needed for converting the property to a convalescent home - it would not have been large enough, and also there were two tennants in the home at Coogee. After legal advice, it was found that it would be in order to sell the Coogee home, and purchase a more suitable property. When the Trelawney St. property became available, it was unanimously agreed

Above left: Gertie
Stone and her first
husband Mr Aaron
Wolper, early 1900s
Above right: Extract
from the minutes of
the meeting discussing
the bequest of Gertie
Wolper's house

first husband. The residual of the estate was to be divided between the NSW Jewish Hospital and the Convalescent Home. If it was not possible to use the Coogee property as bequeathed, it was to be given to the NSW Jewish Hospital.8

Gertie Stone's house, a small cottage, was unsuitable for use as a convalescent home. Accordingly, the Trustees sold it and the proceeds helped to procure the current hospital site at 8 Trelawney Street, Woollahra.

Wolper Convalescent Home

The Wolper Convalescent Home was opened in April 1953 by the Trustees of the Hospital Visiting Committee, Dr Fanny Reading, Mrs Becky Lake and Mrs Ethel Zions,⁹ and commenced operations as a convalescent home.

Three years later, the Wolper Convalescent Home was experiencing trading difficulties and the Trustees noted that its financial position 'caused great alarm to all concerned'; to address this, cost savings were instigated, including staff retrenchments, the renting out of the car port and a leasing agreement for the tennis court. 10 By 1957 the trading position had deteriorated further, incurring such a high trading loss that the bank threatened foreclosure of the mortgage.





Garden party fundraiser at Wolper Convalescent Home, 1953

A transfusion of hope

It seemed logical for the NSW Jewish Hospital to work together with the NCJW to provide a hospital facility for the Jewish community. It was in 1953 that the possibility of an amalgamation of the NSW Jewish Hospital with the Wolper Convalescent Home run by the NCJW was discussed for the first time.¹¹

In February 1954, whilst agreement had been reached on the principles of amalgamation, ¹² a merger did not proceed at that time. However, it became increasingly clear that an amalgamation would provide the only possible solution for the survival of a Jewish hospital. The NSW Jewish Hospital had a substantial amount of money invested, but no property or business to operate, and the convalescent home had property as an asset but was a business in difficulty, suffering trading deficits.

Fortunately all parties came to agree on the terms of a merger, and in 1959 Mrs Ena Rychter, one of the Trustees, stated: "our institution has amalgamated with the NSW Jewish Hospital and in the future will be known as the Wolper and NSW Jewish Hospital". The Executive was to be made up of Sam Karpin and Maurice Allen as the representatives of the NSW Jewish Hospital and the three Trustees of the Hospital Visiting Committee including Dr Fanny Reading who was immediately appointed a Patron of the Hospital in acknowledgement of her pivotal role in Wolper's development.

"When one has known the life and work of Dr Fanny Reading, one never again doubts the power of the individual in creating peaceful change."

Stella Cornelius, 1981¹⁴

Dr Fanny Reading MBE

Fanny Reading, a Russian migrant, obtained her medical degree from Melbourne University in 1922 and dedicated her life to improving the health and social welfare of the community.

Left: Dr Fanny Reading MBE Right: Left to right: Sam Karpin OAM, Fanny Adler, Dr Fanny Reading MBE (seated), Vera Cohen MBE, Victor Greenberg, Vi Falson (matron), Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth Dr Israel Brody (seated)





Dr Reading worked with her brother Abraham in general practices in Bondi and Kings Cross and as honorary medical officer at three hospitals, including Wolper.

She believed Jewish women should act to improve both their own community and Australian society in general. Dr Reading founded the Council of Jewish Women of New South Wales in 1923 to focus on four ideals: Judaism, Israel, Jewish education, and philanthropy in the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. She was President of the National Council of Jewish Women in Sydney from 1923 until 1929. Dr Reading, by her example, inspired Council women to work together to become leaders in the community and active participants in their own right. Through her influence, branches opened in other States and when the National Council of Jewish Woman (NCJW) was formed in 1929 she became President of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia and then Life President from 1955.

The Wolper Convalescent Home was established by the NCJW Hospital Visiting Committee during her Presidency and officially opened on 17 May 1953. In the ensuing period, Dr Reading was actively involved in discussions on the amalgamation of the Wolper Convalescent Home and the NSW Jewish Hospital. It was these discussions that enabled the eventual establishment of Wolper Jewish Hospital in 1961.

Dr Reading lobbied Australian governments at the highest level to open doors for Jewish refugees arriving in Australia. Her wider social work was recognised by receiving the King George V Jubilee Medal (1935) and the King George VI Coronation Medal (1937). In 1961, the War Memorial Fanny Reading Council House was opened in Woollahra and in the same year she was appointed an MBE for welfare services to New South Wales.

In 1962, suffering from Parkinson's disease, she moved into Wolper Jewish Hospital, where she lived until her death in 1974.

"She was always known as a wonderful woman—a woman of vision."

Phyllis Glasser & Lilli Bergman, Members of the National Council of Jewish Women

1960s

A new era

Despite these long-lasting teething problems, the amalgamation resulted in the birth of a healthy Jewish hospital. The Wolper Jewish Hospital was opened by the NSW Minister for Health The Hon. Billie Sheahan on 20 August 1961, 'in the presence of dignitaries representing every sphere of social and welfare influence in this city'.¹⁵

The Hospital grew in strength, and Sam Karpin, in his role as President, acknowledged the ongoing contributions of the NCJW, "We are particularly gratified by the continuous support of the National Council of Jewish Women and the NCJW Hospital Committee which is regularly organising fund-raising functions on our behalf and bringing our work before the notice of a wider circle in the Jewish community". 16

Plans were prepared for the building of an operating theatre and a new surgical wing. The new facilities were completed in 1966, and at the opening ceremony Rabbi Dr Israel Porush, Chief Rabbi of The Great Synagogue, presided over the dedication of The Fanny Reading Surgical Wing.

This significant expansion of capabilities in 1966 launched a new era for the Hospital. The most recently completed stage at this point of the long-held building plan delivered the new surgical wing comprising 12 single rooms as well as many new and modern hospital amenities and service facilities. This meant the Hospital could now offer 37 beds and one long-awaited operating theatre.

Below left: Objects of Wolper Jewish Hospital at the time of its opening, adapted from Wolper Jewish Hospital Memorandum and Articles of Association, 1961 Below right: Mr Ludi Adler and Dr Bruce Reading affixing the mezuzah to the new Fanny Reading Surgical Wing in 1966



OBJECTS OF THE WOLPER JEWISH HOSPITAL

- A. To promote the highest concept of good inter-faith relations by providing hospital facilities for citizens of all religious faiths in accordance with the highest standards.
- To make special provision for the religious and dietary requirements of orthodox Jews.
- C. To provide hospitalization to Jewish people of indigent circumstances.
- D. To assist other Jewish Institutions in caring for the sick and needy.









The official opening of Wolper Jewish Hospital, 1961

Top: Sam Karpin, President, unveiling a plaque

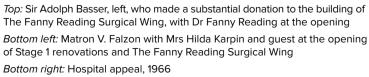
Centre: Guests seated at the opening Bottom: At the opening, left to right: Rabbi Dr Israel Porush, Mrs Becky Lake, unknown nurse, Dr Fanny Reading MBE, The Hon. Syd Einfeld MLA





















Above left: Nurse at work in the Wolper Jewish Hospital's operating theatre, 1967 Top right: Wolper Jewish Hospital operating theatre, 1967 Bottom right: Single patient room, Wolper Jewish Hospital, 1967

1970s to early 1990s Hand in hand

The Hospital continued to prosper with strong support from the membership of the NSW Fellowship of Jewish Doctors. Plans were made for an expansion to 51 beds, and an update of the operating theatre. This involved the building of an additional floor above The Fanny Reading Surgical Wing with a connection to the existing second floor.

The funding of these changes necessitated a bank loan, but the Hospital was unable to offer the required security as the title deed for the land was still in the name of the Trustees of the Hospital Visiting Committee of the NCJW (NSW). The Trustees graciously transferred the title of the land to Wolper Jewish Hospital on 14 May 1982, thereby enabling bank funding to be secured.

In recognition of the role played by the NCJW, the Hospital agreed to the following:

- "i) 3 members of the NCJW [were] to be appointed to the Board of Wolper
- ii) The three members [were] not ... required to be elected at each general meeting but [would be] appointed by the NCJW
- iii) A plaque [would] be placed to recognise the contribution of the Late Gertie Stone and the Hospital Visiting Committee
- iv) A substantial area of the Hospital [would] be named in honour of the NCJW
- v) A communal function [would] be held to celebrate the transfer."17

The lounge on the first floor was named for the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia. A communal function was held at the NCJW offices in Woollahra to mark the transfer of the title into the name of the Hospital. At that event, the plans for the 1982 rebuilding were displayed.

"The surgical facility was very good. There was a camaraderie, unique. I still associate with some of the people I worked with in the late '60s. The theatre staff atmosphere was just phenomenal."

Dr Paul Lendvay, surgeon, who operated at Wolper from 1968 to 2002

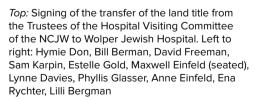
"G-d knows what my life would have been like without your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity!"

Z. Davies, patient, 1980









Centre left: This appeal advertisement was designed to gain support for Wolper Jewish Hospital; it appeared in the Australian Jewish Times on 10 December 1981

Centre right: The Fanny Reading Surgical Wing, 1970s

Bottom: Shared patient room, 1970s







Coming of age

At the start of its third decade, Wolper was flourishing and—with the land title in hand—was able to move to the next stage of its development. The proposed building works commenced in 1982 and were so extensive that it was decided to close the Hospital for 18 months. In August 1983 it reopened, with 51 beds and a new operating theatre.

The direction of the Hospital continued to evolve with the appointment of the Medical Board. By-laws were drawn up to govern the accreditation of medical practitioners, the implementation of strict infection control, and licences for use of the operating theatre even though State requirements for accreditation were not to come into force until the end of the decade. Dr Victor Bear was the first elected Chairman of the Medical Board. In the words of its Vice-President, David Freeman, the Medical Board was to be "instrumental in increasing the high standards of medical and surgical treatment". 18

It was a combination of the accreditation process and the building works that marked the coming of age of the Hospital. The Wolper Jewish Hospital could now offer acute medical care and a substantial surgical service. It had travelled a long way from its beginnings as a small cottage hospital. President Lynne Davies noted in the 1983–84 Annual Report, "It is definitely not a nursing home or convalescent hospital, as the old hospital was regarded by many patients and some medical practitioners. This situation is brought about by new Federal health regulations and strictly enforced by health authorities and medical benefit funds."

Wolper's research had identified a need for quality retirement accommodation in the eastern suburbs for the aged and disabled. In 1987–88 Wolper acquired land overlooking Bronte Beach with a conditional exchange on an adjoining block. However this venture could not proceed due to an amendment to SEPP 5; the conditional contract was rescinded and the owned land divested.

In 1991 the house adjoining the Hospital in Fullerton Street was acquired to accommodate a palliative care centre and support team. This initiative was an expression of Wolper's mission to serve the community spiritually as well as physically.

The building extension facilitated the provision of palliative care within the general

Below left: Building under way, 1982 Below right: Harry Aizenberg, CEO, left, with Dr Peter Arnold, Chair of the Building Committee, at the new Fullerton St site, 1992







Right: The Hospital following extensive renovations, 1983



acute Medical Ward. This enabled Wolper to meet the requirement of Halacha (Jewish law) that the terminally ill should not be separated from the general community, and are able to remain productive members of society for as long as possible, offering hope and support to their families. ¹⁹ Like all services of the Hospital, palliative care services were offered to both Jewish and non-Jewish patients.

An application was made to the Department of Health for 20 beds to accommodate palliative care services and an increased demand for the Hospital's services generally. Twelve beds were granted, and a further eight were purchased.

The existing single operating theatre was replaced by an operating theatre suite of two theatres and a six-bed recovery ward, all located on a new third level. Building works were carried out while the remainder of the Hospital functioned, albeit with a reduced number of beds. In 1993, with the construction completed, the Hospital offered 71 beds (in three-bed, double and single rooms) with two operating theatres and was one of the few Jewish hospitals outside Israel that offered palliative care services.

Below left: Dr Victor Bear AM (right) passed the baton to Dr David Golovsky, his successor as Chair of the Medical Executive Committee, in 1994

Below right: Murray Landis, President, with Dr Michael Huang in Wolper X-Ray Department, 2002





Late 1990s to 2000s A major private hospital

More expansion followed. In 1998 the Scottish Hospital in Paddington decided to close its doors, and as a result the Ear, Nose and Throat surgeons and Rehabilitation Unit of the Scottish Hospital were transferred to Wolper. It was an exciting time for the Hospital. Although there was no intensive care unit available, a high dependency ward was required given the calibre of the surgery performed at the Hospital. Arrangements were also made with a group of orthopaedic surgeons but this initiative never really came to fruition.

In the words of President Lynne Davies, "the takeover stamps Wolper as a major private hospital in the eastern suburbs". With the acquisition of services and staff from the Scottish Hospital, Wolper had created new high-dependency and rehabilitation units." 21

To make provision for the Rehabilitation Unit, five beds were set aside for a dedicated physiotherapy room and an occupational therapy area.

Given a desire to promote the Hospital's broader scope of services, the Hospital engaged a public relations organisation that proposed the name of the Hospital be changed to 'Wolper Hospital'. The rationale was that the branding of the Hospital as 'Jewish' created the impression that the Hospital catered only to those of the Jewish faith, thereby limiting its patient base. All branding—on communications, signage and uniforms—was modified accordingly.

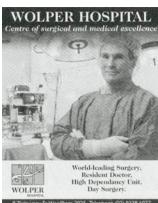


NSW Minister for Health The Hon. Peter Collins and Wolper President Lynne Davies unveil a stained glass rendition of the Wolper logo at a ceremony in 1998 to mark the transfer of services from the Scottish Hospital



Left: Front page news. Sunday News, New Zealand, 22 March 1987, reporting groundbreaking surgery by Dr Lyon Robinson at Wolper, only the sixth time surgery of this kind had been performed in Australia Centre: Advertising of Wolper's expanded surgical capability when 'Jewish' was temporarily dropped from the Hospital's branding circa 1999 Right: Advertising of Wolper's expanded services circa 1999







David v Goliath: facing up to the health fund giants

Coming of age as an institution did not allow Wolper to rest on its laurels. From the late 1980s the Hospital faced two major obstacles to its financial stability.

The first was the need to negotiate hospital fees with the health funds, which were not offering private health insurance rebate increases to the hospitals that kept pace with increases in operating costs. "This has put enormous pressure on the Hospital's ability to set fees commensurate with the service we provide,"²² noted President Lynne Davies.

Second, large conglomerates were taking advantage of the situation to acquire beleaguered private hospitals, and their bed licences, to enable them to build large modern hospitals in coexistence with public hospitals. "There has been an unprecedented amalgamation of smaller hospitals into the large corporate groups, who are using their market share as a negotiating tool with the health funds and building some new magnificent facilities."²³

The combination of these two market forces, along with a decline in uptake of private health insurance, was very challenging and was characterised as: "... the most disruptive, divisive and precarious period for the health industry since the introduction of Medicare".²⁴

The frustration evident in Wolper's Annual Reports of this decade was palpable, and not surprisingly so given the feeling that "we, the providers, are having our financial viability threatened. Wolper ... does not have the market power to be able to negotiate higher rebates from the funds for our patients ... It is extremely difficult for an industry when those fees are controlled in the major part by insurers. Wolper, being a non-profit charitable hospital is fortunate to receive generous donations and bequests which this year have enabled us to survive".²⁵

"Never in [my twenty years on the Board] ... have conditions been so difficult nor the challenges facing the Hospital so awesome. All around us, smaller private hospitals have been closing as a result of the Health Funds squeeze on rebates, there are constantly rising costs, shortened bed stays from surgery, and increasing demands for more sophisticated equipment and supplies."

Murray Landis, 2000²⁶



Closing and opening doors

Despite acquiring the surgical and rehabilitation staff and services of the Scottish Hospital, by 2000 it was clear that the Hospital's trading position had deteriorated. Deficits were increasing, and in March 2000 a discussion paper was presented to the Board identifying that in addition to the health fund pressures, the operating theatres were trading at a loss. While the number of surgical admissions increased, the growth was primarily in short-term surgical admissions, and as a result average surgical occupancy was declining, adversely impacting the profitability of the Hospital.²⁷ Operating theatre utilisation between July 1999 and March 2000 was on average only 66.8%,²⁸ as many of the surgical procedures performed at Wolper could be facilitated in Day Surgery Units and did not require a surgical stay.

Wolper's President Murray Landis remarked, "The total number of surgical admissions increased only 27% over ten years after doubling the capacity of the theatres ... (while in the same period) ... medical admissions increased 82% and rehabilitation (which opened in 2000) added a further 36% increase in admissions ...".²⁹

Attempts to solve the surgical shortfall, including strategic planning sessions with other communal organisations and doctors, were unsuccessful.³⁰

The Hospital had to face the reality that it was incurring a loss on every theatre case. This called into question the role of surgical services at Wolper in relation to its core mission to meet the health needs of the Jewish and general community.³¹ The operating theatres were clearly not fulfilling a community need. This was also confirmed through consultation with other communal organisations.

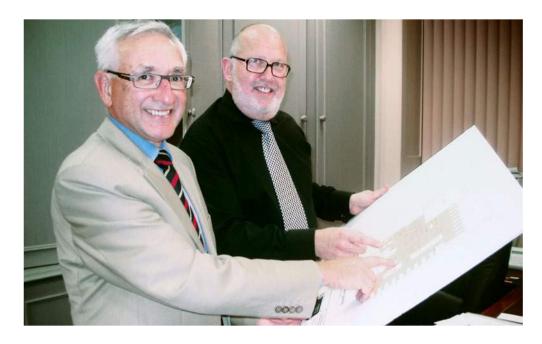
In September 2002 it was announced that the operating theatres would close. As noted by Murray Landis, President, "It was no easy decision [and] required a readjustment and a leap of faith that we could make the Hospital work. We had to work towards the real needs the community had of us". The theatres were then leased to the Vision Group, trading as Sydney Eastern Eye Centre, which operated an Ophthalmic Day Surgery at Wolper until 2008.

The closure of the operating theatres was controversial but, as noted by President Murray Landis, "This was not an issue upon which a consensus could be reached by a popular vote of doctors or Members. What was required was a business decision". And as time has shown, it proved to be the right decision. It enabled the Hospital to refocus its activities and almost immediately reversed the current negative trading position. The Hospital further developed its Rehabilitation centre, expanding in 2002 with the construction of a hydrotherapy pool, a purpose-built physiotherapy room on the ground floor and a new occupational therapy area. This addition returned the Hospital's capacity to 71 beds.

In 2002 the Hospital reverted to its prior branding—Wolper Jewish Hospital—as there was little evidence that the name change had improved the Hospital's occupancy. Indeed, it was felt that the word 'Jewish' was for many people an important assurance of quality, and should be reinstated. And so it was.

In September 2003, Day Rehabilitation programs began in two converted three-bed wards. Palliative care and medical admissions increased, doubling the proportion of Jewish patients.





Graham Einfeld, Wolper President, with Harry Aizenberg, Wolper's CEO, examining building plans in 2008

"Demand for rehabilitation services was growing strongly and with an ageing population it became apparent that the Hospital would need to provide more space to service this growing need. It also became clear that inpatients preferred the privacy of individual, self-contained rooms which we incorporated into the refurbishment plans."

Graham Einfeld, Wolper President, AGM 2007

In 2005 a Development Application was approved by Woollahra Municipal Council, but it was put on hold while a proposal to move Wolper to the proposed new Montefiore Home site in Randwick was investigated. The latter proposal did not go ahead, and a major rebuilding program commenced at Wolper in 2008.

The building work proceeded smoothly, with less than anticipated disruption to occupancy levels. Final changes included a new roof, and improvements to the car park and landscaping. All work was completed in July 2010.

In line with patient preferences, the rebuilding program saw the Hospital extensively refurbished, with all the rooms private with ensuite, the latest entertainment, internet facilities and up-to-date nurse call technology. A new enlarged Day Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Centre was created, the Rehabilitation Ward was enlarged to 32 beds on the first floor, and the Medical Ward was reduced to 22 beds on the ground floor, a total of 54 private rooms. The new foyer was graced by vivid fused glass panels created by Marc Grunseit, titled 'Bereshit'—'In the Beginning'.

"You helped me walk out of your Hospital with a positive outlook."

Barbara Buckett, patient, 2017









Top: The new, larger, Sam Karpin Hydrotherapy Pool opened in 2010

Centre left: Patients exercising in the Lewin Family Rehabilitation Centre

Centre right: Graham Einfeld OAM,

Wolper Immediate Past President;

Dr David Golovsky, Wolper President;

Victoria Nadel, NCJWA (NSW) President, and Zara Young OAM, NCJWA (NSW) Life Member, at the re-dedication ceremony of the NCJWA Lounge at Wolper Jewish Hospital, October 2011

Left: The fused-glass mural, titled Bereishit—In the Beginning, is located in the Hospital foyer

For the *wellbeing* of the community

Wolper has for many decades sought to support the community beyond its walls through the establishment of a range of diverse programs.

Surgical Subsidy Scheme—from 1987

In 1987 the Hospital developed its Surgical Subsidy Scheme, assisting patients without health insurance by reducing the fees for surgical and, later, non-surgical admissions.

Wolper Outreach program—from 1988

In 1988, the Wolper Outreach Program joined with the Australian Jewish Welfare Society to "provide support for frail, disabled and isolated people, enabling them to continue living independently". Initially the program provided an outreach worker and a vehicle. In September 1992 a further outreach worker and vehicle were added to the program.

Community Genetics Program—from 1995

In 1995, Wolper launched the Community Genetics Program developed by CEO Harry Aizenberg, Professor Leslie Burnett and Associate Professor Kris Barlow-Stewart. This was the first community-wide genetic screening program in Australia and aimed to reduce the incidence of certain severe genetic conditions that particularly affect the Jewish community. The Tay-Sachs Disease Prevention Program (as it was then known) was initially funded by the Hospital and the NSW Jewish Communal Appeal³⁵, the latter subsequently being replaced by funding from NSW Health.

The Program, as District Winner in the 1995 *Sydney Morning Herald* Australia Day Awards for Community Service, was acknowledged as one of the top 10 communal initiatives in NSW.

Left: Lynne Davies, Wolper President, handing over the keys to Norton Whitmont, President of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, for a bus donated in Sam Karpin's honour ('the Sam Bus') after his retirement from the President's role in 1986 Right: Article on Wolper's new Outreach Service with Leah Krimatat, one of Wolper's two Outreach Workers, in the Wolper Report 1988



Outreach Services: Extending Wolper's Quality Care Sometimes, when a potient is due to be dischorged from Wolper Jewish Holgelful, a need orises for support and care of home. Wolper, in conjunction with the AJWS Burger Centre, established a professional Outreach Service for patients. Outreach links into existing community services to ensure that potlents receive extra care at home, after discharge. Wolper employs two Outreach workers Altending multi-disciplinary meetings at the Hospital.

Initially screening only for carriers of the Tay-Sachs genetic variants, the Program was offered at no charge to Year 11 students in Jewish day schools. DNA testing followed an education and consent process with the results reported to the students or stored for their future access. From 2000 onwards, screening was gradually expanded to include up to 11 genetic conditions. In 2019 the Program was extended to another school, Reddam House, which has a significant number of Jewish students.

Concurrently, a service was established in the Hospital to facilitate genetic screening of couples planning to marry or start a family.

The Program has raised broader genetic awareness in the community and helped break down the stigma associated with genetic conditions in the past.

In 2020, with assistance from the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and its Kinghorn Centre for Clinical Genomics, online education and consent was introduced to enable the school program to continue, given face-to-face interactions were limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pre-conception genetic testing is now also available online through Wolper and, in both cases, genetic counselling is available as required.

The Program has been hugely successful—since inception no children with Tay-Sachs disease have been born to the screened population.

Genetic technologies continue to evolve, enabling genetic information to be analysed more comprehensively and at a gradually reducing cost. The collection of samples is becoming more efficient, now utilising buccal swabs or saliva rather than a blood test, thereby encouraging greater participation.

In 2021 Wolper, alongside the Garvan Institute and Kinghorn Centre for Clinical Genomics, supported and facilitated a proposal to the Federal Government submitted by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. The parties proposed that a Medicare item number be provided to 'democratise' genetic screening, to enable more widespread screening for genetic conditions common in other ethnic groups. Wolper's genetic screening program was used as an exemplar of the benefits that can be achieved by such a program.

Below left: Report of the trial in selected State High Schools of the expanded genetic testing program, Australian Jewish News, 21 March 1997

Below right top: Article on Tay Sachs testing in Wentworth Courier 26 June 1996, referring to the Australia Day award for the program

Below right bottom: Australian Jewish News, 23 August 1996 citing the success of the Gift of Life Australia program

Tay-Sachs testing at state schools







Three Wolper marrow donors matched

900 gearing up for Moriah Spring Fair





Gift of Life Australia—from 1998

Shula Endrey-Walder, a Director of Wolper from 1996 to 2009, founded Gift of Life Australia (GOLA) in 1998 and maintained a close relationship with Gift of Life in the USA. GOLA's mission is to raise awareness of the lifesaving potential of stem cell, bone marrow and cord blood transplants and to recruit potential donors, particularly from the Jewish community and other ethnic backgrounds, to the Australia Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR). Given that there is a much higher likelihood of a successful match with a member of the same ethnic group, it was important to address the underrepresentation of Jewish and other minority ethnic groups on the ABMDR.

The program has saved lives by matching donors to recipients both nationally and internationally, and owes its success to the energies of the founder and her team of volunteers. From the commencement of the program Wolper Jewish Hospital has sponsored GOLA by providing both financial support and onsite facilities for blood collection and genetic counselling.

Following the passing of Shula Endrey-Walder in 2019, it is the Hospital's intention to honour Shula's legacy by continuing to support GOLA's activities. This has included GOLA's participation in the successful 2019–2020 pilot of ABMDR's Strength to Give initiative, in which sampling was collected by way of cheek swabs rather than the more invasive venapuncture method.

Jewish Communal Appeal—from 1967

Wolper Jewish Hospital was a founding member of the Jewish Communal Appeal (JCA) and for many years received funding from the JCA Joint Communal Appeal. Whilst Wolper President Sam Karpin stated that Wolper would continue to be 'dependent largely on public support for improvements, expansion and capital repayments'³⁶ and that Wolper 'needs the (JCA) money to ensure its permanence as a community institution'³⁷, he and the Wolper Board aspired to financial self-sufficiency. In years when trading results allowed, Wolper asked JCA to divert its allocation to other JCA member organisations in need. Whilst Wolper continues to be a proud member of JCA, sound financial management supported by a number of substantial donations and bequests has meant that not since 1983 has Wolper requested or received a funding allocation, preferring to leave those JCA funds for other community organisations that have a greater need for financial support.

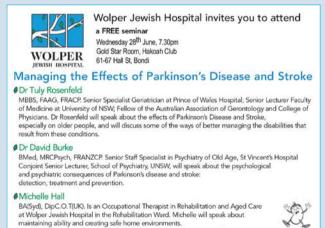
Above left: Professor Leslie Burnett and Harry Aizenberg, CEO. co-founders of the **Community Genetics** Program, at Wolper's 50th Anniversary celebration at Sydney Jewish Museum in 2011 Above right: Shula Endrey-Walder, The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, Michael Faust (a transplant recipient) and Rabbi Dovid Slavin at the launching of the Gift of Life bus provided by Wolper, 23 August 2009

Wolper Wellbeing Program—from 2002

Wolper's Wellbeing Program was created as a community education program to "expand the services of the Hospital beyond its gates". The Wellbeing Program encompasses an ongoing calendar of seminars covering a broad range of topical health issues such as suicide prevention, organ donation, lifestyle, sexuality and wellbeing, diabetes, sleep problems, mental health, pain and arthritis, as well as cancers, heart, stroke and vascular health. Each seminar features a panel of highly qualified experts in their field, and these have been recorded and are available on the Wolper website for future reference.

In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions meant Wellbeing seminars could not be held face to face. Sessions were moved online, allowing the Hospital to stay connected to the community by delivering relevant health and wellbeing information at a crucial time. This was especially the case with the four-part series of webinars focused on mental health during the pandemic, and a seminar on vaccine hesitancy. The online platform enabled the Hospital to conduct seminars more frequently, with more attendees than ever before, allowing access to people across Australia. Each seminar achieved record audiences, ranging between 250 and 450 people, including for the first time many people either interstate or in rural areas.

As of August 2021, the Hospital had run more than 100 Wellbeing seminars.



The speakers will be available for questions at the end of the evening's presentation. Please bring along your family and friends. All are welcome. WOLPER JEWISH PROSPITAL, FRENDS OF WOLPER AND COARNITE YOU TO ATTEND A FREE CIA.

SUPPORTING
OLDER PEOPLE IN
A TIME OF CRISIS

LIVE ON ZOOM - WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY, 7.30PM

Moderater Julie McCrossis AM: Preduce journalist, fasilibator, stainer & speaker
Professior Henry Brodsty AGI, None-force Char of Health Blank Appling Demental
Centre for Energed Calabarotom out General for Indiable Blank Appling Demental
Centre for Energed Calabarotom out General for Indiable Blank Appling Demental
Centre for Energed Calabarotom out General for Indiable Blank Appling Demental
Centre for Energed Calabarotom out General for Indiable Blank Appling Demental
MRMs Law Centre (Indiable Prof. 1)

JEWIS Jackson of HONGW and Westmands's Transmist Stems Class
MRMs Law Centre Blanks Law Centre Indiable programme of Centre and Community Relations, Mosterfore
Beginter at workpar, com, July-Webburg
Ouestions can be a sated anonymously at registration and during the sention.

Pert of ane a sate on a mental health is the time and COVID 19

JEWA GENERAL TOTAL TO

of Parkinson's Disease and Stroke, June 2006 *Right:* Advertisement for Wellbeing forum on Supporting Older People in a Time of Crisis, July 2020

Left: Advertisement for

Wellbeing forum on

Managing the Effects



wellbeing

Wolper Wellbeing forum, 3 March 2009— Hereditary Cancers: Prevention and Control. Left to right: Professor Graham Newstead AM, Dr Lesley Andrews, Dr Kerry Tiller, Dr Allan Shell





Wolper's donation of first-responder vehicles to Hatzolah (Sydney)

Above left: Rabbi Mendy Litzman,
Hatzolah President, with Harry Aizenberg,
Wolper CEO, 2007

Above right: Daniel
Goulburn OAM, Wolper President with Rabbi Mendy Litzman, 2019

Support for Hatzolah—from 2007

The Hatzolah organisation was established in Sydney by Rabbi Mendy Litzman in 2006 and is an all-volunteer emergency medical services organisation staffed by Jewish Orthodox medical technicians and paramedics. Wolper's association with Hatzolah dates back to its beginning when Rabbi Litzman approached then Wolper President Graham Einfeld and CEO Harry Aizenberg about supporting its establishment. Wolper's support has included partially funding the organisation's day-to-day expenses (through Foundation grants in 2015, 2016 and 2017) and the provision of emergency response vehicles in 2007 and 2019.

Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation—from 2014

The Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation was established and funded by the Hospital specifically to support community health and wellbeing initiatives for the benefit of the general and Jewish community; see page 40 for details.

Care for people in need—from 2015

The Board of Wolper Jewish Hospital recognised that not all Jewish patients requiring Wolper's services had private health insurance, and that an alternative approach was needed to enable people in these circumstances to have access to appropriate care. Since 2015, Wolper has partnered with JewishCare, which assists by assessing the patient's financial situation to determine whether a benevolent admission would be warranted. If so, and the patient meets the Hospital's admission criteria, they are admitted, and the cost is borne by Wolper.

"I want to thank the Wolper Hospital for taking care of me—such exceptional care, fantastic staff, wonderful nurses. I can't thank JewishCare and Wolper enough, you have given me hope to return to normal life."

Shula Mazor, patient, 2021

2010s Fifty years and growing

In August 2010 the newly refurbished Hospital was officially launched by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, in the presence of many leaders of the community.

The Hospital was re-dedicated, a new mezuzah was affixed to the Hospital entrance and a plaque highlighting the role of the NCJWA (NSW) was unveiled.

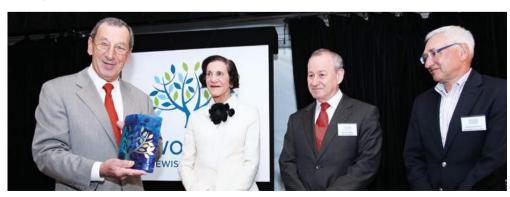
A tour of the Hospital on the opening day showcased the Smorgon Family Medical Unit's rooms with the latest facilities, the expansive state-of-the-art Lewin Family Physiotherapy Centre for inpatients and day patients, and the new enlarged Sam Karpin Hydrotherapy Pool.

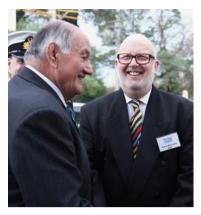
Along with the physical changes, this was a time for renewal and development of the Hospital's public face. This occasion was marked by the unveiling of Wolper's new corporate logo (pictured below), to be utilised throughout the Hospital, in signage, on staff uniforms, in all advertising and throughout an extensive suite of new marketing collateral. The new logo symbolised the beginning of a new era for the Hospital whilst at the same time acknowledging the Hospital's past.

"The new logo reflects the colour and vibrancy of the new Wolper, represented in a contemporary representation of The Tree of Life, symbolic almost universally of nourishment, succour, life, and the interconnectedness of the human spirit, the forces of nature and the spiritual world. It is particularly pertinent to both our location in leafy Woollahra and the caring environment of Wolper."³⁹

In the words of Dr David Golovsky, President of Wolper from 2009, "Life is paramount, and this branched robust tree is vibrant and alive with blue leaves on white, an obvious Jewish motif and the green representing healing. 'Eytz Chaim'—truly a tree of life. We fully intend to uphold these values and maintain our reputation for delivering the highest standard of medical care to the community."⁴⁰

Left to right: Dr David Golovsky, President; Her Excellency Prof Marie Bashir AC CVO; Murray Landis, Honorary Life Governor and Graham Einfeld, Honorary Life Governor, at the launch of the refurbished Hospital in August 2010















Top left: Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE and Harry Aizenberg, CEO Top centre: The Honourable Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull AO

Top right: Murray Landis, Hon. Life Governor, and Rabbi Slavin affixing a mezuzah to the door of the Hospital



Centre left: Her Excellency Prof Marie Bashir AC CVO, Richard Glass, Honorary Secretary, and Dr Philip Redelman, Chair, Wolper Medical Executive Committee

Centre right: Dr David Golovsky, President, and Her Excellency Prof Marie Bashir AC CVO



Bottom left: Janice and Graham Einfeld, Immediate Past President Bottom centre: Murray Landis, Honorary Life Governor, and Daniel Goulburn, Honorary Treasurer Bottom right: Adele and Dr Victor Bear AM









Above left: Exhibition capturing the history of the Hospital, at the Sydney Jewish Museum, coinciding with Wolper's 50th Anniversary

Above right: Dr David Golovsky, Wolper President

Celebrating Wolper's 50th anniversary

Wolper Jewish Hospital's 50th anniversary was celebrated on 21st August 2011. To mark this important milestone a series of events were organised for staff. Friends of Wolper and other stakeholders. This included a curated exhibition at the Sydney Jewish Museum depicting the rich history of the Hospital. This comprehensive exhibition was launched at the Museum with a cocktail evening attended by many community leaders, Hospital alumni and current Directors and staff. A special feature was a video with interviews of many Directors (past and present), doctors, management, staff and patients. 41 Other highlights of the evening included a discourse by Dr David Golovsky, Wolper President, who also launched a book overviewing the 50 year history of the Hospital. The audience was also addressed by a number of dignitaries. Mr Norman Seligman, CEO of the Sydney Jewish Museum, spoke of the Wolper exhibition and Wolper's role in the community. Ms Victoria Nadel, President of the NCJWA (NSW) paid tribute to the longstanding relationship between Wolper and NCJWA (NSW). Professor Leslie Burnett reflected upon his involvement with Wolper's highly successful community genetics program. Guests were entertained by Tessa Rosenberg and, following the formalities, were free to browse the exhibition which was also well received by the general public and remained in place at the Museum for over three months.

Wolper entered its sixth decade well-recognised for its high standard of care and medical excellence and the Hospital consistently ran at close to full occupancy. Demand for Wolper's key areas of expertise—sub-acute medical care, rehabilitation and palliative care—continued to grow in response to community demand.

"We are privileged to have been associated with the founding of Wolper and congratulate you on the wonderful milestone of your 50th Anniversary."

NCJWA (NSW), 2011

















Top left: Peter Ryba, Director 2002–2006, and Edith Ryba Top centre: Jenny Coombs, Director of Nursing, 1994–2011 Top right: Professor Leslie Burnett

2nd row left: Graeme Einfeld OAM, Immediate Past President, Cr. Isabelle Shapiro and Dalia Ayalon Sinclair

2nd row right: Murray Landis, Honorary Life Governor, and Peppa Landis; Richard Glass, Director, and Liza Glass; Dr David Golovsky, President, and Beverley Golovsky

Above left: Norman Seligman, CEO, Sydney Jewish Museum Above centre: Tessa Rosenberg

Above right: Victoria Nadel, President NCJWA (NSW)

Right: Harry Aizenberg, CEO, Dr Allan Shell, Vice President and Roma Shell, Vice President, Sydney Jewish Museum





New and expanded services meeting community needs

Wolper was well positioned for continued success with upgraded facilities and an enhanced multidisciplinary rehabilitation team including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nursing staff, exercise physiologists, speech pathologists, a dietitian, a discharge planner and a pharmacist.



Patient undergoing rehabilitation in the Day Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Centre, 2016

Orthopaedic rehabilitation reimagined

The Hospital's reputation for offering a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation program was firmly established. The program was achieving its goal: to enable patients to return to a safe and relatively independent lifestyle within their home and community. Day rehabilitation and reconditioning programs were also provided, supported by the Hospital's large hydrotherapy pool and fully equipped gym.

In 2015 Wolper restructured its allied health offering. Until then rehabilitation offered to outpatients, while provided onsite, had been outsourced. Restructuring enabled the inpatient and outpatient teams to be consolidated as a single allied health team, employed and managed directly by Wolper. This provided a better and more efficient continuum of care for patients transitioning from inpatient to day rehabilitation programs.

Further, whilst the focus historically had been primarily on rehabilitation following elective surgery on hips and knees, the services were extended to encompass rehabilitation following trauma (such as spinal injuries) and cardiac incidents.

"I have been referring patients to Wolper for over 22 years and its reputation as the premier rehabilitation unit in Sydney is well-founded. Wolper serves a critical role in the after care of hip and knee replacement surgeries both through its inpatient and outpatient services. I have nothing but praise for the dedicated nursing staff and excellent physiotherapy and hydrotherapy staff. Patients speak glowingly about the compassionate care, personal attention and the food—so much so that they are reluctant to leave!"

Dr Michael Solomon, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and President of the Arthroplasty Society of Australia



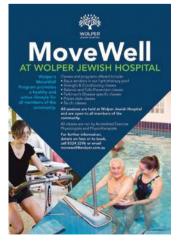
Specialist Allied Health Services

The Physiotherapy at Home program was introduced in 2017 to support patients who were unable to come to Wolper or preferred at-home treatment. Private physiotherapy and exercise physiology was introduced onsite in August 2018, to enable people to directly book private appointments with members of Wolper's allied health team.

MoveWell

Wolper's MoveWell exercise program was initially designed to support patients once they had completed their Day Rehabilitation program. However, as time passed it became apparent that beyond the initial audience there was general broader community demand for such a program. Classes were therefore tailored for a wider population to address both general and specific needs, and to expand the program to offer strength and balance classes. These classes helped patients address many conditions, including chronic disease, falls and balance issues, chronic fatigue, Parkinson's Disease, diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis and musculoskeletal conditions.





AQUA CLASS TIMETABLE										
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
7:15 – 8:00am	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove					
8:10 – 8:55am	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove 8 - 8:45am				
5:00 – 5:45pm	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove	AquaMove						
6:00 – 6:45pm	AquaCore	AquaMove	AquaCore	AquaMove						
MOVEWELL CLASS TIMETABLE										

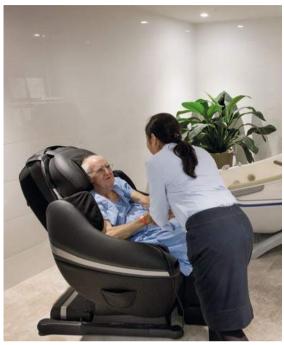
MOVEWELL CLASS TIMETABLE										
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
7:45 – 8:30am	MoveStrong			MoveStrong	MoveBig					
11:30 – 12:15pm	MoveStrong	MoveSteady	MoveSteady	MoveSteady	MoveSteady					
12:30 – 1:15pm	MoveSteady	MoveSteady	MoveSteady	MoveSteady	MoveStrong					
3:00 – 3:45pm	MoveSteady	MoveStrong	MoveSteady	MoveSteady	MoveSteady					
3:30 – 4:30 pm	BackInMotion (3:45pm)	Tai Chi								
4:00 – 4:45pm	MoveSteady	MoveSteady	MoveStrong	MoveStrong						

Above: MoveWell hydrotherapy class, 2016

Left: MoveWell brochure, 2017

Right: MoveWell timetable, 2017





Above left: MoveWell class, 2019
Above right: Patient enjoying the massage chair in the Sensory Room, 2016

Rehabilitation for older people

With an ageing community and people generally living longer, it became increasingly apparent that there was a growing need for specialist geriatric care. From 2016, Wolper's medical ward commenced an inpatient rehabilitation program for older people with complex medical needs. The specialist rehabilitation program is managed by a team of visiting geriatricians based at St Vincent's Hospital and, from 2021, Prince of Wales Hospital. These patients are accommodated in private rooms with ensuites primarily on the ground floor. They are supported by Wolper's multidisciplinary services and clinicians including the Hospital's rehabilitation services, dietitian, pharmacists, resident medical officer, discharge planner, speech pathologist and social worker. Patients attend therapy six days per week.

"Wolper plays a vital role that I truly value in providing safe, high quality rehabilitation that enables my patients to rebuild their health, strength and capacity. The expertise, compassion and individualised care the patients receive are a true testament to Wolper's deserved reputation."

Dr Nicholas Mills, geriatrician, 2021

"It's the best rehab I have ever had. Thank you for helping me to a quick, safe recovery."

Ms Teresa Symonds, patient, 2016



An expanding palliative care service

From the 1990s, palliative care services were provided by Visiting Medical Officers specialising in palliative care, supported by specially trained nurses. Wolper's well-respected palliative care service continued to gain a reputation for empathetic support of not only patients but also their families. Staff were extensively trained in the special needs of both groups including the extra care required for Holocaust survivors dealing with their hospitalisation.

Wolper has always gone to great lengths to ensure a patient's end-of-life journey is as comfortable as possible. Patients are admitted for both symptom control and end-of-life care. Palliative care patients can have their loved ones stay overnight, and their pet dogs can visit. Some patient rooms have outdoor terraces. There is a sensory room with spa and massage chairs, available to all patients. There is also a 'quiet room' to provide privacy for grieving families and friends.

In 2012 Wolper began working with JewishCare to provide grief counselling both at the Hospital and in the community, and this became an increasingly important aspect of support for patients, their families and carers. A social worker offers further support.

In 2019 Wolper joined the Australian Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC), a voluntary national program, which provides a framework for collating and sharing information on the treatment of patients in palliative care. The PCOC enabled Wolper to measure and continually improve the care provided for these patients and their families.

"We were so fortunate that our father's last journey was made at Wolper Jewish Hospital, a very special institution for which loving kindness is the well-spring for its patients and families, especially at critical moments between life and death." 42

The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG and family, 2012

"Over the decades the Hospital has excelled in palliative care and rehabilitation, providing a crucial care and healing service to the community. The palliative care nurses are like angels. No matter what one's background, every patient has a sense of being physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for."

Jeffrey B. Kamins OAM, Senior Rabbi, Emanuel Synagogue, 2020

"To lose my husband has been immensely difficult but the process was made less difficult due to the team's love, care and support. There was never anything that was too much or too hard and I would not have done anything different if I were caring for him myself. They made me feel as though they were caring for their own family member."

Maria Ingelmo, Wolper staff member, 2015





Hospital pharmacists Ben and Jake Basger (right)

Onsite Hospital Pharmacy Service

In 1983 Commonwealth regulations deemed Wolper to have too few beds to have its own dispensary license. Sam Karpin was interested in the Hospital having an academic, cost-efficient, seven-day service run by experienced pharmacists, and engaged Basgers Pharmacy in North Bondi. Established in 1953, Basgers was managed by Bernie Basger and his sons, Ben and Jake. Ben had completed postgraduate studies in Hospital Pharmacy and was teaching Pharmacy Practice at the University of Sydney.

Wolper has successfully partnered with Basgers for the past 38 years. Ben and Jake have represented the Hospital through numerous successful accreditation audits as well as providing regular business reports, quality improvement projects, patient education, medication reviews and medicine audits. In 2006—with the cooperation of the Board and Medical Executive Committee—Ben received a research grant from Medibank Private for a hospital-based project investigating medicine related problems. This study has had a direct benefit to the Hospital and its patients.

Staff research enhances patient care

A number of Wolper's clinical staff have conducted empirical studies at Wolper that have been published in highly regarded journals. This enables quality, evidence-based patient care to be provided to both Wolper patients and the wider community.

These studies have included research into the relationship between gait, cognition and falls,⁴³ the findings of which have been incorporated into clinical practice at the Hospital. In 2016 a further study by Ben Basger looked into identification, resolution and prevention of medicine-related problems in people aged over 65 years. This project resulted in six research articles published in peer-reviewed medical journals and the awarding of a doctorate from the University of Sydney to Ben Basger.⁴⁴ This study led to Wolper introducing a medicine review and discharge service for all medical and suitable rehabilitation patients. The program has been supplemented since 2019 with weekly pharmacy education sessions for patients.



Words of gratitude

"I would be pleased if you would convey to the members of your staff my appreciation of the kindness, courtesy and consideration extended to me during my stay in Wolper."

Rt Hon Sir William McKell, 1980s

"Everyone was kind, thoughtful, attentive, caring and without exception seemingly only had one consideration, which was to attend to my every need. To be specific, the accommodation is excellent, the staff are, as mentioned above, exceptionally caring."

Patricia Fellows, 2013

"Your kindness, caring and compassion have helped me to have hope that I will in time be able to resume my old life once again."

Amelia Katz, patient, 2020

"The professionalism and commitment by all staff members was exemplary. The time and effort devoted to my case management was amazing and I am extremely grateful for the care you have given to me. I felt completely safe and confident in this environment. Thank you all."

Susanne James, 2020

"If there is a better rehabilitation hospital anywhere in the world, I would like to see it! The facilities, expertise, accommodation and food offered at Wolper Jewish Hospital are outstanding. And the staff? What can I say? Every single person who took care of me was simply the best. I will never forget the kindness displayed to all the patients during my stay at Wolper. My local GP and physio team are amazed at my progress following my surgery. I could not have done it without the assistance of everyone at Wolper."

Alan Harris, from Cape York, Queensland, 2017

"Barry was treated with respect, dignity and good humour by everyone. All staff were very caring and the doctors' expertise was obvious. The allied health team provided practical support and advice to give us peace of mind, we had expert guidance on home modifications, diet and medications. A big thank you to the amazing Wolper team."

Barry and Roberta Thompson, 2021

"Be proud of your hospital, it is exceptionally good."

Michael Crouch AC, 2015

"Your hospital is surely one of the top medical institutions in the State—if not elsewhere—and is absolutely superlative in every way, AND, where else would you get such delicious food!!"

Miss Norma Grimshaw, 2007

"My heartfelt thanks for keeping me magnificently well fed over the past two weeks. Always healthy, nutritious, tasty and 'just right'. Always delivered by someone with a smile! It all makes a difference to the long healing road."

Jules Maxwell, patient, 2019

"We have never encountered a standard of care, and caring, even close to that of Wolper. I will be forever grateful."

Kirsty Esson, 2019

"Wolper is an absolute credit to all involved, the care was outstanding."

Diana Temby, August 2021

"We all feel privileged to have been part of your palliative family albeit through a very painful and trying time. We have been left with a less fearful attitude towards death, which can only be attributed to you."

Resnick, Aronstan and Zinman families, 2013

Friends in the community

Whilst Wolper enjoyed an oustanding reputation with patients and the medical profession the Board wished to broaden the Hospital's engagement with the general community and in 2011 Friends of Wolper was re-established.

Friends of Wolper provides a forum for raising awareness of the Hospital's evolving service offerings, enables Wolper to reach an audience beyond its traditional base, and provides a platform for marketing Wolper activities and programs. Friends of Wolper receive regular communications, by way of Wolper's *Pulse* newsletter, Facebook page and website. Events are held regularly, and include Wellbeing seminars, movie nights, golf days and social events with guest speakers. These have included The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG, Australian of the Year (2014) Adam Goodes, and The Hon. Malcom Turnbull AC. A number of events have been held at Swifts, the heritage-listed late-Victorian mansion that is the home of Dr Shane Moran and family.



events included: Top: Guest speaker Adam Goodes on 20 November 2017. Left to right: Adam Goodes, Steven Hobday, Shalom Gamarada Indigenous Scholarship recipient, and Dr Hilton Immerman, Shalom Gamarada Director Below left: Guest speaker The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG and Daniel Goulburn, Wolper President, on 29 September 2016 Below right: Guest speaker The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull AC with news presenter John Mangos on 30 June 2019

Friends of Wolper

















Top left: Friends of Wolper event in the gardens of Swifts, Darling Point, November 2017

Top right: Friends of Wolper event with Adam Goodes, in the main foyer of Swifts, November 2017

Control left: Tips Pener POS: Darlin Goulburg OAM, President: Dave Sharma MP. Bishard Glass, Vice President

Centre left: Tina Boger DCS; Daniel Goulburn OAM, President; Dave Sharma MP; Richard Glass, Vice President, and John Tucker, CEO, September 2019

Centre right: Richard Glass, Vice President; Daniel Goulburn, President; The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP; Dr David Golovsky AM, Immediate Past President; Dr Phillip Redelman, Chair, Medical Advisory Committee and John Tucker, CEO, March 2015

Bottom left: Johnny Pahos, Sam Bertuzzi, Peter Yanakis, Golf Day 2019

Bottom right: Rabbi David Freedman and Professor David Sonnabend, Director, Golf Day 2014

Establishing a health foundation

Through the responsible investment of successive surpluses, Wolper had built a reserve of funds in excess of its envisaged operating needs. In 2012, it was suggested by the Honorary Treasurer, Daniel Goulburn, that Wolper create the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation.

It was envisaged that the Hospital would provide initial funds to the Foundation, and the earnings on those funds would be used to support community health and wellbeing initiatives for the benefit of the general and Jewish community. This was well supported by Wolper's President, Dr David Golovsky, and the Board of the Hospital.

"The Hospital was already directly providing financial support to many organisations. However, establishing a separate entity would provide greater transparency and accountability, as well as a specifically purposed identity that could be actively promoted as a supporter of community health initiatives."

Daniel Goulburn, Honorary Treasurer, in 2013

The Foundation was established with its own Board of Trustees and an initial contribution from the Hospital of \$3 million, and Daniel Goulburn was appointed as the inaugural Chairman. The official launch in February 2014 was held at the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Point Piper, in conjunction with a formal farewell to Harry Aizenberg after his 32 years of dedicated service as CEO of the Hospital. President Dr David Golovsky expressed his sincere gratitude on behalf of the Board for Harry Aizenberg's significant contribution to Wolper's standing as the successful community hospital it had become.

The Foundation Board invites two rounds of applications annually. Applications are assessed on their merits, and successful applicants need to provide yearly progress reports to the Foundation.

In line with an in-principle commitment to contribute further funds in subsequent years should the Hospital make an operating surplus above a certain threshold, the Foundation has been fully funded by the Hospital with capital (at August 2021) close to \$6 million. Over \$1.1 million has been issued in grants. A list of recipients to July 2021 is provided on page 69.



Advertisement for Foundation grants



"The Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation's Gamarada Scholarship has allowed me to pursue my studies to the best of my ability as it has alleviated economic stressors and supported my general wellbeing. In the future I hope to work with Aboriginal communities to create meaningful change and advance Aboriginal Health to close the gap."

Steven Hobday, recipient of the Shalom Gamarada Scholarship to support his medical studies

"Wolper has for many years been an outstanding advocate for, and supporter of, people living with Parkinson's. The Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation has generously funded specialist Parkinson's counselling services, and provided office space, enabling over 140 consultations per year as well as supporting our Eastern Suburbs support group for people with Parkinson's and their carers."

Jo-Anne Reeves, CEO, Parkinson's NSW, 2021



Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation grant recipients, 2019, with Foundation Chair, Daniel Goulburn OAM

Supporting our Staff

Over its six decades Wolper has always demonstrated its commitment to support, develop and acknowledge its staff and their importance in enabling the Hospital to provide compassionate, skilled care of its patients. In return, Wolper staff have demonstrated their loyalty with many having worked at Wolper for over 20 years.

Graduate program

In 2017, Wolper introduced a 12-month professional development program for newly graduated physiotherapists and registered nurses, with the Hospital enjoying a high retention rate from the 12 participants who have completed the program.

"Wolper Jewish Hospital has opened the door for many nursing professionals like me. When I finished my degree, I did not think twice about applying for the New Graduates Program... The transition from Assistant in Nursing to a registered nurse was difficult, but the amazingly supportive team provided a positive work environment."

Marjorie Agustin, Registered Nurse

Day in 1994, Wolper nursing staff members Maree O'Dwyer and Georgina Grech hired 'Florence Nightingale' nurse uniforms from the ABC costume department and toured the Hospital as 'visitors from the Royal College of Nursing in London' Below left: Maree O'Dwyer and Georgina

Grech with patient The

Hon. Sydney D. Einfeld

Below right: Jenny Coombs (centre),

Director of Nursing,

in historical dress,

jumping for joy

In celebrating

International Nurses

Staff camaraderie

Staff camaraderie has always been very strong at Wolper. To enable staff to get together, the Hospital holds regular staff barbeques and afternoon teas to celebrate events such as International Nurses Day. A Hospital team regularly enters the annual City2Surf race. For International Nurses Day in 2020, during the pandemic, morning and afternoon tea were provided together with a memorable TikTok competition.









"What's great about working at Wolper? The camaraderie within the team, meeting patients, learning about Jewish culture, the community spirit—feels like a community hospital and one big family."

Tina Boger, Director of Clinical Services, 2020

Understanding our Holocaust survivors

The Sydney Jewish Museum offers education programs, developed from working with Holocaust survivors. Since 2016 Hospital staff have been attending a program designed to acquaint healthcare workers with, and sensitise them to, the additional complexity of managing older people who are survivors. The sessions are ongoing and have proven to be an effective addition to staff training, equipping staff to better support not just those patients who survived the Holocaust but also patients who have been exposed to a wide range of different traumas.

"I heard the experience of trauma recounted by a Holocaust survivor ... hearing her examples of how that trauma impacted her later life made me, an experienced health professional, really stop and think about how much life history our patients may have of which we are not aware."

Marcelle Segal, Wolper Occupational Therapy Manager, 2017

Staff wellbeing

Staff safety and welfare are of the highest priority and Wolper provides all staff with confidential access to an Employee Assistance Provider—Psychnet—that offers 24/7 on-call access to counsellors day or night free of charge to staff, and one-on-one counselling as required. Regular newsletters and onsite education including awareness/ stress management training to support staff is also provided.

Above left: Wolper Jewish Hospital nurses, 1980

Above right: Wolper staff wear beanies to support brain cancer research at Wolper's 'Beanies for Brain Cancer Day', 2017

Staff recognition

A staff recognition awards program was launched in June 2017 to supplement the existing service awards. This enabled staff to acknowledge and nominate their fellow staff member's initiative, service or achievements, and makes tangible how much their service is appreciated. An awards ceremony is conducted quarterly, and there is an annual Staff Member of the Year award.

Top left: Wolper staff recognition awards, 2017

Top right: Andrew Driehuis, Deputy Director Clinical Services, and Tina Boger, Director Clinical Services, presenting to Anupa Karki her Staff Member of the Year award in 2020

Centre left: Daniel Goulburn, President, presenting Judy Amzalak an award for 25 years of service on 27 June 2016

Centre right: Dr David Golovsky, President, presenting a gift to Harry Aizenberg on his retirement after 32 years of service, 2014

Bottom left: Anne Andrews retired after serving as the Hospital's Discharge Planner for 15 years. Left to right: Dr David Golovsky AM, Anne Andrews and Dr Allan Shell, July 2015

Bottom right: John Tucker, CEO, and Tina Boger, Director Clinical Services with Simon Weeks, Maintenance Officer, who received the first Staff Member of the Year award in 2017















Positioning for the future

While the challenge of meeting excess demand for the Hospital's inpatient and day patient services continued to build, so too did the ongoing challenge presented by the health funds.

Mastering health fund challenges

The Hospital derived the great majority of its revenue from private health insurance funds. Wolper's higher operating costs (nurse to patient ratios, higher cost of kosher food) were not taken into account by the health funds when setting those fees. Wolper was, and remained, a 'price taker'. Fee increases rarely kept pace with cost increases.

As Wolper reached its 50-year milestone, Dr David Golovsky noted in the 2011–12 Annual Report that "Delivery of healthcare is a challenge in today's environment. A small hospital such as Wolper has to maintain a vigilant stance against the policies of health funds and government that are forever trying to limit the remuneration for healthcare". A decade later, the challenges remain the same.

The Hospital had made a conscious effort to reduce—if only to a small extent—its reliance on the health fund revenue. It did so by establishing the MoveWell program in 2016 and private physiotherapy sessions at Wolper in 2018, both of which were an immediate success. Participants were directly charged by the Hospital, the fee determined solely by Wolper. This revenue stream, whilst initially small, has consistently grown year on year.

Yet the pressure from the health funds took another turn, with President Richard Glass commenting in 2019: "some health funds are looking to reduce their costs associated with orthopaedic rehabilitation by, in effect, indirectly limiting inpatient referrals".⁴⁵

The health funds seemed to be moving to reduce the cost of health care delivery by pressuring referring hospitals to limit the proportion of procedures referred for inpatient rehabilitation or reducing the duration of stay. Whilst advances in orthopaedic procedures meant that day rehabilitation was appropriate in certain situations, particularly for younger patients with less complex procedures, the health funds appeared to apply this more broadly.

However, this was not appropriate for many of Wolper's more complex cases—people who were older, more frail, with multiple co-morbidities and at times with no-one at home to adequately care for them post-operatively. Whilst the Hospital continued to enjoy strong occupancy, caring for such patients was more demanding, requiring a heavier nursing load. Yet the health fund fees did not reflect that load and continued to place pressure on Wolper's profitability. It was seen as a reflection of the Hospital's sound management practices that despite these challenges the Hospital continued to prosper.



Board governance

The Wolper Board had always been very conscious of the need for strong governance. A review of the Constitution, ratified in 2010, reduced the Board from 16 to 13 Directors and added term limits specifically for office bearers as well as other Board members.

In a further review in 2015, it was noted that whilst the full Board of Directors met four or five times a year, an Executive Committee had for many years met monthly. This Committee comprised the office bearers (President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary), the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, and the CEO. At meetings of the full Board of Directors, general Board matters were discussed, and matters raised by the Executive Committee were reviewed, discussed and ratified.

As a result of the review, in accordance with modern good governance principles for not-for-profit organisations, the Executive Committee was disbanded and full Board meetings took place monthly. This meant that all members of the Board, which had itself gone through a process of renewal, were able to contribute more fully to the discussion of matters previously debated primarily by the Executive Committee.

"This restructure better enabled management to focus on managing, and for the Board of Directors to concentrate on providing leadership, formulating strategy and overseeing risk. This meant that the skills of the entire Board were better utilised," said Daniel Goulburn, President 2014–2019.

Additional Board committees were also established at this time, including the Governance and Nominations Committee. In 2018 this Committee reviewed the Hospital's Constitution, which precipitated further changes, including the maximum term for office bearers being reduced to four years, two-year terms for Directors were introduced and the maximum terms of service were updated. Following discussions with the NCJWA (NSW) on matters of good governance, a mutual agreement was reached that it was no longer appropriate to continue the long-standing agreement that two of the Board seats would be offered to the NCJWA (NSW). This enabled the appointment of two additional independent Directors to the Wolper Board.



A special event in the NCJWA (NSW)
Lounge at Wolper in acknowledgement of the past support of the NCJWA (NSW),
September 2019.
Left to right: Ruth Osen,
Josephine Holland,
Robyn Lenn OAM, Zara
Young OAM, Anne
Biner, Miri Orden and
Victoria Nadel OAM



Refurbishment and renovation

Wolper had for many years been operating at close to full occupancy, which unfortunately meant some patients were waitlisted or unable to be admitted. Despite the challenges presented by changes in health fund policy, it was decided that the Hospital should seek to add additional capacity given the established trend of an ageing population living longer and the potential for growth in rehabilitation for older people.

Wolper's ability to increase capacity on the site was limited by Woollahra Municipal Council planning controls. Following a review of space utilisation within the Hospital it was decided that the capacious roof spaces, used only for storage and accommodation of plant and equipment, offered an opportunity. Reorganising the roof space reclaimed a significant amount of usable space both within the roof and on the second floor. Extending the existing lift shaft into the roof area enabled the creation of substantial storage areas and a modern, well-fitted office space to accommodate the marketing, finance and medical records personnel, previously located on the first floor. Once these areas on the first floor were vacated, they were converted to three patient rooms, bringing Hospital capacity to a total of 57 private rooms with ensuites. Security infrastructure was also substantially upgraded.

Additional works were identified to improve the amenity and efficiency of the Hospital. These included the relocation of the recently introduced coffee kiosk to its permanent home beside the ground floor lounge and terrace, the renovation of the reception area, the refurbishment of the entire ground, first and second floors including all patient rooms, the creation of three purpose-built consulting rooms, professional landscaping of Wolper's gardens, and restoration of the sandstone fencing.

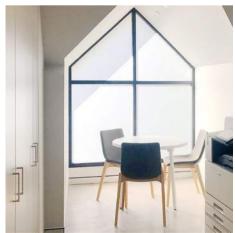
Following extensive planning, building work commenced in February 2020 and was completed in February 2021 under the watchful eye of Daniel Goulburn OAM in conjunction with CEO John Tucker and President Richard Glass.

Needless to say, the building works were disruptive, but management and staff of the Hospital minimised any inconvenience to patients and visitors, with patient care at all times paramount. As it turned out, the anticipated disruption was about to pale into insignificance relative to a new and unprecedented challenge.

Below left: Richard Glass, President, presenting Daniel Goulburn OAM, Immediate Past President, with a trophy in appreciation of him managing the Hospital renovations project, AGM 2020

Below right: Breakout nook in new Administration offices in roof space

















Top left: Roof space building works
Top centre: Barista in the ground floor café
Top right: Patient and nurse at new visitor check-in kiosk
Centre left: New consulting rooms
Centre right: Day patient dining area, second floor Left: Renovated patient room

The continuing Jewish spirit

For more than 60 years, the spirit of Judaism has both underpinned and informed all Wolper activities, and is fundamental to both its ethos and its standing in the community.

Wolper Jewish Hospital has been and will continue to be, in every sense of the word, a 'Jewish' hospital. It celebrates the Jewish holidays and has a mezuzah at the entry of every room. Rabbis visit weekly with some—Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins OAM and Rabbi Mendel Kastel OAM—having done so for over 30 years.

"Through your care I can feel my soul and my heart healing at the same time as my body. I feel that I am healing on multiple levels."

Chaiya Milner, long-term rehabilitation patient, 2010

Every Friday evening throughout the year patients (Jewish and non-Jewish) and their family members are invited to the lounge to enjoy a traditional Shabbat (Sabbath) dinner. Many times a year a visiting Rabbi joins these dinners to lead and explain the shabbat prayers and practices. These popular dinners have been held regularly at the Hospital since 2015, other than a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are a wonderful opportunity for multi-faith learning and celebration.

Wolper has always served strictly kosher food so that any member of the Jewish community, no matter their level of observance, can feel comfortable as a patient there. On her retirement in 2020, after 29 years, Food Services Manager Judy Amzalak said, "We always strive to give our patients the best food possible and invite their feedback to enable us to add variety to the menu. What hasn't changed over the years is our use of only the best fresh and nutritious ingredients to help our patients' recovery."

While the majority of the Hospital's patients are not Jewish, Wolper is uniquely placed to provide a bridge between the Jewish and non-Jewish communities, demonstrating to the Hospital's non-Jewish patients the Jewish way of life, and Jewish values and culture.

This spirit of Judaism is honoured in the conduct of Wolper's palliative care services. Staff are trained in practices that meet the requirements for Jewish beliefs, such as ensuring the patient does not die alone, and imminent death is notified in an acceptable manner for Orthodox Jews who do not answer the telephone on Shabbat.

A specially produced booklet titled 'About Judaism' summarising historical, religious and cultural insights is provided by the Hospital to better inform non-Jewish (and sometimes Jewish) patients and it is recommended reading for all new staff.

"Jewish patients enjoy a sense of 'yiddishkeit' at Wolper, whether it's walking into their rooms with a mezuzah on the door, the taste of their kosher meals or the lighting of Shabbat candles."

Rabbi Mendel Kastel, CEO, Jewish House, 2011

















Top left: Sydney Jewish Choral Society Chanukah concert for Wolper patients, 2016

Top centre: Food preparation at Wolper. The Hospital receives audit accreditation at the highest level for its food handling standards *Top right*: Michael and Ruth Goulburn, Purim concert with students from Yeshiva Cheva Chabad, 2017

Centre left: Shabbat dinners are held regularly at Wolper with patients and their families attending. This photo was taken before Shabbat

Centre right: Rabbi Rafi Kaiserbluth at Wolper Shabbat dinner, October 2017

Bottom left: Ilan Kidron and Eddie Bronson, Rosh Hashana concert, 2018

Bottom centre: Richard Glass, President, and Rabbi Mendel Kastel OAM at Wolper AGM, 2019

Bottom right: Daniel Goulburn OAM, Immediate Past President, and Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins OAM at Wolper AGM, 2019

2020–2021 A time *like no other*

Just as building work was getting well underway, news emerged of a possible global pandemic, and by February 2020 it was clear that this was a reality.

Adapting for safety

Europe was thrown into chaos as hospitals in Italy and Spain were overrun by the COVID-19 coronavirus. Cases of COVID-19 were appearing in virtually every corner of the globe and as the death toll spiralled doctors and scientists were struggling to understand how to combat the deadly virus and how best to treat those with symptoms.

It was against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic—and with Hospital building and refurbishment works in progress—that Wolper's Board, management, staff and medical practitioners worked diligently to protect patients and staff from infection. Hospital operations were dominated for the next 18 months by the need to constantly adapt programs, working conditions and safety protocols to protect patient, staff and visitor health and safety.

"In the more than 40 years of my association with Wolper, the Hospital and its Board have never had to deal with a situation as difficult, disconcerting and disruptive as the COVID-19 pandemic."

Dr David Golovsky AM, 2020

From 4 March 2020, Wolper introduced precautionary measures beyond those required by NSW Health, imposing more stringent restrictions on visitor entry in order to protect the Hospital's generally older patient cohort, and Hospital staff. The Hospital conducted intensive infection control re-training for all staff and established a comprehensive COVID-19 management plan. This included enhanced deep-cleaning of all surfaces, compulsory mask wearing, having all clinical staff dress in scrubs, registration of visitors and the limiting of visitor numbers, the rapid sourcing of additional personal protective equipment (PPE), physical distancing and daily temperature checking upon arrival of all staff, patients and visitors.

In March, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic. MoveWell classes were suspended and Day Rehabilitation sessions, initially reduced in size, were also suspended.

In April, all elective surgery in Australia that was not urgent was cancelled at the direction of state governments, leading to a significant but temporary reduction in the



referral of orthopaedic rehabilitation inpatients, adversely impacting Hospital revenue.

At this time NSW Health entered into a Viability Guarantee with many private hospitals, including Wolper, to ensure staff and facilities would be made available to support NSW Health efforts to manage the pandemic. In return NSW Health provided funding to Wolper to ensure staff retention irrespective of workload. Possible scenarios foreshadowed included Wolper taking non-COVID-19 patients from the public health system or providing staff and/or equipment to the public health system as required.

Elective surgery recommenced in June 2020 and an increase in inpatient and Day Rehabilitation admissions followed. The retention of staff enabled by the Viability Guarantee ensured a seamless resumption of services.

MoveWell community exercise classes also recommenced at that time with reduced class sizes. Sydney, and Wolper, was returning to normal albeit with COVID-safe precautions in place including use of the Service NSW app upon entry, temperature checks and a 'COVID-19 Marshal' in attendance. However, in late June 2021 an outbreak of the more contagious Delta variant in Sydney grew rapidly, requiring a major lockdown of Greater Sydney from July through October. All MoveWell classes were again suspended, visitors were allowed only by exception and mask wearing on-site was compulsory. It became very apparent that this cycle would continue until a critical mass of Australia's population was vaccinated.

In late August all elective surgery was again cancelled and within weeks the 35 rooms of the Rehabilitation Ward were closed. Wolper again entered into a Viability Agreement with NSW Health and under-utilised Wolper staff were made available to assist NSW Health with vaccinations and contact-tracing.

Elective surgery recommenced in late October (up to 75% of pre-lockdown levels). Il staff travelling in from the virus 'hotspots' underwent Rapid Antigen Testing twice a week at Wolper to minimise the chance of infection entering the Hospital. As at October, Wolper was arguably the first hospital in Australia to have 100% of staff fully vaccinated.

"Our management, staff and medical practitioners acquitted themselves with distinction. They rose to this unprecedented challenge without exception, implementing the required protocols to protect our patients whilst continuing to provide outstanding care."

Richard Glass, President, 2019

Staff welfare

Staff welfare was a priority at all times to protect Wolper's employees and enable them to safely provide care to their patients who—on average—were 75+ years old.

Staff using public transport were provided with specially designed washable fabric masks and hand sanitiser, and were temperature checked upon arrival. Staff wore scrubs to reduce the risk of contamination. Staff with the vaguest of symptoms were told to stay home and be tested for COVID-19.

During the lockdown periods only essential workers were allowed on site—volunteer and clergy visits ceased other than for palliative care patients.











PATIENTS ALLOWED ONE VISITOR PER DAY FOR 15 MINUTES

Please do not proceed if

- You have travelled internationally in the last 21 days
- You feel unwell, or are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms
- If you have come into contact with someone with or suspected of having the coronavirus

Palliative care visitor numbers also restricted

Visitors must be 16 years or older

Top left: COVID-safe physiotherapy session Top right: Masks were mandatory throughout the Hospital

Centre left: Wolper pro-actively promoted community safety and awareness in the Australian Jewish News and the Hospital's general communications and social media Centre right: Hospital visitation was curtailed reflecting increased community risk Left: COVID Marshal ensuring compliance and patient safety



Given the stress and uncertainty, all staff were provided with access, free of charge, to an Employee Assistance Program where they could access counselling and other forms of support. Managers were encouraged to complete a Black Dog Institute 'Managing Team Wellbeing' course.

No stone left unturned

COVID-safety signage was posted throughout the Hospital, and regular updates were provided to the community through the Wolper website, direct emails to all Friends of Wolper and through Wolper's social media. The September 2020 Rosh Hashana edition of Wolper's *Pulse* newsletter provided valuable information dedicated to keeping readers and their families safe during the pandemic.

Communal Friday night Shabbat dinners in the lounge and bi-monthly Shabbat dinners with a Rabbi from Emanuel Synagogue were put on hold. Jewish patients were not permitted to go home with their families for their Passover Seders (ceremonial dinners) so Wolper, in a partnership with Jewish House, brought the Seder to them with a 'Seder in a box' containing all the ceremonial items and a Haggadah.

Patients were discouraged from gathering in communal areas and had to wear masks when not in their rooms. Performers were not allowed access to the Hospital so concerts for Jewish holidays were pre-recorded offsite and screened on-site. On high holydays the Emanuel Synagogue services were live-streamed to the Hospital in-room televisions.

Wolper took the lead in providing regular updates to the Jewish community, including a series of advertisements in the *Australian Jewish News* (AJN) over a six-month period as well as online in J-Wire. These emphasised the importance of COVID-safe precautions in a range of social contexts, and the need to avoid complacency. This was supported by an Op Ed from Wolper's President, Richard Glass, published in the AJN.

When MoveWell classes, home visits and onsite day rehabilitation classes were suspended, online video tutorials called 'MoveWell At Home' were created for patients to continue their exercise program at home. All Wellbeing seminars, previously held in person, were moved online, generating a significant increase in attendance and extending Wolper's reach beyond its traditional audience. A four-part 'Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in the Time of COVID-19' series was introduced to address the widely reported increase in anxiety across all age groups.

Panelists presenting a Wolper Wellbeing seminar online





A community united

From the early days of the pandemic, the Jewish community in NSW banded together to protect its most vulnerable people. The key parties to the Jewish Emergency Management Plan (JEMP) formed the 'Decision Makers Group', comprising the leadership of key Jewish organisations (the Community Security Group, Jewish Communal Appeal, Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies) working as a group to identify and support those in the community most at risk of physical, social, mental or financial distress due to the pandemic⁴⁶.

The Decision Makers Group meetings were attended by Wolper President Richard Glass as Chair of the Medical Sub-Committee of JEMP comprising a number of specialists, GPs and the Wolper Medical Advisory Committee. The initial focus was to protect the most vulnerable, given that hospitals in Europe were overrun with the elderly being triaged out of overrun hospitals and left to their own resources—usually with tragic outcomes. Considerable time was spent investigating the possibility of creating hospital-like accommodation in nearby hotels. This was in anticipation of having to care for elderly people not suffering from COVID-19 who might need to be removed from their place of residence (for example, an aged care home or home with young family members) where they might be at risk of exposure to the virus. Hotel owners, NSW Health and health funds were consulted, but, given the containment of the virus, these facilities were not required. The Medical Sub-Committee continued to provide general guidance to JEMP, and institutions such as synagogues and Jewish day schools, and assisted with the procurement of PPE.

To support older members of the community reluctant to visit their GP or whose GP was only offering telehealth during the pandemic, Wolper and the Australasian Jewish Medical Federation (NSW) provided two offsite flu vaccination clinics.

As residents of aged care homes were proving vulnerable with many lives lost, dialogue was opened with Montefiore. In September 2020 it was agreed that, should there be an outbreak on any of the four Montefiore campuses, Wolper would use its best endeavours to accommodate their non-COVID residents. Any such move would be subject to compliance with the Hospital's obligations to NSW Health under the COVID-19 Viability Agreement, and the fiduciary duties of the directors of the Hospital.

Jewish community leaders in online JEMP meeting





Sixty years and looking forward

Wolper Jewish Hospital has developed its services and reputation for excellence over its first 60 years. This has been achieved in a climate where most independent not-for-profit private hospitals have not survived and have been swept up in the consolidation of the private hospital sector.

These closures have been led by a handful of corporate operators and private equity funds, growth in public or private co-locations and a lack of clarity from various State and Federal Governments on the respective roles of public versus private hospitals. Wolper's strength has been achieved through strong Jewish and local community support. This has been complemented by timely and at times courageous responses to, or in anticipation of, market changes to ensure high value service delivery relevant to patients' needs.

Wolper enters its 61st year with an enviable reputation, fully refurbished, re-landscaped, with a new lounge with café and additional inpatient rooms. The Hospital continues to run at close to full occupancy across orthopaedic rehabilitation, rehabilitation for older people and palliative care; day rehabilitation is rebuilding steadily after a fall-off in demand during the pandemic. Demand for the popular MoveWell exercise classes, both in the gymnasium and hydrotherapy pool, exceeds current availability, and the Hospital is experiencing steady growth in private physiotherapy sessions. Members of the Jewish and general communities continue to offer positive feedback citing the 'outstanding' medical care provided by the Hospital. Wolper's annual patient surveys for 2019 and 2020 resulted in a patient satisfaction rate of 98%.

Financial performance continues to be sound, although there is mounting margin pressure as cost increases are not being matched by private health fund rate increases, and revenue is still being impacted by COVID-19 distancing guidelines and population lockdowns. There is also a significant increase in the need to utilise agency nurses. This is primarily due to demand for nurses to support COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, and restrictions on international travel bringing to a standstill the availability of nurses from overseas. Staff costs will remain elevated while COVID-19 restrictions remain in place and nurses are in short supply.

Wolper is aware of, but not daunted by, some nascent headwinds. Changes in medical practice for certain orthopaedic procedures is lessening the need for, and duration of, inpatient rehabilitation. There is also increasing pressure from health funds to minimise the inpatient rehabilitation time of patients undergoing surgery. There is increasing evidence of health funds forward integrating by acquiring an interest in both allied health service companies and hospitals. Patients are increasingly being encouraged









Top: Wolper Jewish Hospital Board of Directors and Life Governors, AGM 2019. Left to right: Back row: Dr Philip Redelman; Murray Landis, Honorary Life Governor; Professor David Sonnabend AM; Dr David Ende; Jessica Newman; Eric Lowenstein; Josephine Holland; Dr Lesley Andrews; Dr David Golovsky AM, Honorary Life Governor. Front row: Mark Hadassin, Daniel Goldberg, Richard Glass, Daniel Goulburn OAM, Andrew Cohen. Absent: Graham Einfeld OAM, Honorary Life Governor

Bottom left: Wolper Management: Andrew Driehuis, Medical/Deputy DCS; Cody Kane, Physiotherapy/Day Rehabilitation, and Marcelle Segal, Rehabilitation/Occupational Therapy, August 2021

Bottom Right: Tina Boger, Director of Clinical Services; John Tucker, CEO; Richard Glass, President, at Wolper AGM, November 2019



by them to undertake rehabilitation at home following knee and hip surgery, often utilising services owned by the health funds.⁴⁷ As a result, increasingly the patients that are being referred to Wolper are those requiring greater (and more costly) attention. Understanding that these trends could impact on both occupancy levels for orthopaedic rehabilitation and profit margins, the Hospital is actively exploring a number of strategic initiatives to buffer both its exposure to 'competing' health funds and associated impacts on occupancy. Such initiatives may include the generation of revenue beyond the Hospital's walls, leveraging Wolper's outstanding reputation.

The Hospital remains self-sufficient, not relying on any government funding or communal financial support. It is committed to continuing to invest in community engagement and this will be achieved by direct investment by the Hospital and through the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation's support of the health and well-being initiatives of both Jewish and non-Jewish organisations.

It is clear that Wolper's future sustainability will depend on the same characteristics that marked its first six decades: keeping a vigilant eye on the evolving health market and drivers of change; monitoring financial pressures on health insurers and governments; and responding with the delivery of efficient, safe, quality services. These services will, as before, accord with the needs and expectations of an ageing population, and be sensitive to the prevailing policy setting and the relentless pressure on limited health dollars.

Wolper Jewish Hospital faces the future with confidence. John Tucker, CEO, and Tina Boger, Director of Clinical Services, have brought outstanding leadership, experience and people management skills, building on the very solid foundations laid by previous CEO Harry Aizenberg. Wolper enjoys tremendous collaboration and passion shown—and shared—by all stakeholders: dedicated senior management and their committed staff, outstanding Visiting Medical Officers, a dynamic and energetic Board of Directors and an engaged community. While the Hospital is by no means complacent, this unique Wolper culture will ensure an unrelenting focus on continual improvement and the sustainable delivery of clinical excellence in a supportive, nurturing and empathetic environment.

"Our Board will continue to provide strategic overview and capital as required to support the Hospital's mission but the reality is that the Hospital is just a building. Ultimately it is our people who provide the magic that has been, and will continue to be, the catalyst for Wolper's success."

Richard Glass, President, October 2021





Back row: Murray Landis, Honorary Life Governor; Richard Glass, President; Graham Einfeld OAM, Honorary Life Governor Front row: Daniel Goulburn OAM, Honorary Life Governor; Dr David Golovsky AM, Honorary Life Governor



Celebrating 60 Years

"Thank you to Wolper Jewish Hospital for 60 incredible years of service to the community. Since its founding in August 1961, Wolper has fulfilled its vision of being a Jewish hospital that cares for all, providing loving care to so many within our community. With close family and friends all having spent time in Wolper, I know first-hand the level of love, care and attention provided."

Dave Sharma MP. Member for Wentworth

"Congratulations on this milestone achievement of 60 years of providing compassionate care to your patients. Wolper Jewish Hospital has a well-deserved reputation as one of Sydney's leading private hospitals with staff dedicated to the highest standard of care. I wish Wolper continuing success."

Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP, Member for Vaucluse

"On behalf of the Woollahra community, I congratulate Wolper Jewish Hospital's Board, management and staff on its 60th anniversary. We are so fortunate to have a hospital in our local area with such a wonderful commitment to high quality care, touching the lives of your patients and their families. Thank you also for providing wellbeing support to the community throughout the pandemic. We hope you know how much we appreciate everything you do!"

Cr. Susan Wynne, Mayor of Woollahra

"A big mazel tov to Wolper Jewish Hospital on your 60th anniversary—what an incredible milestone for what is one of our cornerstone community assets. Wolper provides an outstanding service to the Jewish community and to the extended community in Sydney. The care you have given to your patients over the years has been exemplary and your reputation as one of the best rehabilitation hospitals in Sydney is well known. It is a place with real heart—patients know that they will be cared for and nurtured meticulously. Congratulations on 60 years of excellence."

Ian Sandler, President, JCA















Wolper leadership

Current Hospital leadership

Richard Glass, President 2019-



Richard Glass joined the Board in 2002. In 2007 he led a review of the Hospital's marketing and communication strategies, culminating in the new corporate identity, branding and repositioning of the Hospital as well as fostering the growth of Friends of Wolper. He served as Honorary Secretary from 2011 until 2015 and was appointed Vice-President in 2015, serving on all Hospital Board committees, until 2019. Elected President in 2019, he presided over the Hospital's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and was Chair of the Medical Sub-Committee of the Jewish Emergency Management Plan activated throughout the pandemic to provide guidance to, and support of, members and organisations of the Jewish community in NSW. Richard was President of the Hospital during the renovation completed in 2021. Richard is a Board member of Gift of Life Australia, and has been a Trustee Director of the Foundation since 2016.

John Tucker, CEO 2014-



John Tucker joined Wolper as CEO directly from managing a 'for profit' surgical/obstetrics private hospital and with prior roles strongly focused on health, safety, quality and standards compliance across the public, not-for-profit and private sectors.

John has shown outstanding leadership, strong people skills, change management expertise and strong governance. He has, with Tina Boger, built a talented management team and a collaborative culture that has enabled Wolper to consolidate its reputation for excellence. This has been achieved through a combination of organisation restructuring, operational efficiencies and people selection. John serves on all Hospital committees and executes the functions of company secretary for both the Hospital and the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation. John led the Hospital through the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic with compassion and a strong guiding hand, garnering the praise of the community, patients, visitors and staff alike. This was achieved in parallel with, and in spite of, a major renovation of the Hospital.

Tina Boger, Director of Clinical Services 2015-



Tina joined Wolper as Director of Clinical Services in 2015, with over 20 years of experience in management in the private hospital sector. She has assembled a team of outstanding nursing, allied health and associated clinical and operational personnel and is actively involved in all Hospital committees. Building upon Wolper's reputation for high quality care of patients, Tina has ensured outstanding audit results have been achieved by the Hospital despite the increasingly complex and demanding standards of private hospital accreditation. The COVID-19 pandemic was particularly a concern for Wolper given the age profile of most patients; however, with Tina's methodical, disciplined and caring approach and the support of her managers and staff, the Hospital was able to ensure the safety of staff, patients and visitors alike.



Former Hospital leadership

Sam Karpin OAM, President 1961–1986



Wolper was a passion of Sam's for nearly 50 years. He served as President from its conception and led the Board through three decades of change and growth, culminating in the rebuilding of the Hospital in 1982. He saw the Hospital become financially independent, and was an original Trustee of the Jewish Communal Appeal when it formed in 1967. Sam was appointed Wolper's first Honorary Life Governor in 2002, in acknowledgement of his vision and dedication that laid the foundations for the Hospital as it is today.

Lynne Davies AM, President 1986–1999



Lynne Davies was President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NSW) at the time of the transfer to Wolper Jewish Hospital of the title to the land. As Wolper's President she served with professionalism, strength and dignity overseeing significant change. She was a leading community figure, with a career in the welfare sector and a high level of involvement in community activities. In 1999 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the Jewish community, particularly through the National Council of Jewish Women and Wolper Jewish Hospital.

Murray Landis, President 1999-2004



Murray Landis served on the Hospital Board for 31 years, from 1979 to 2010. On his election as President, Murray instituted a process to determine the nature of the Hospital's role in the community. He presided over a two-year period of strategic meetings with the Board and with community representatives and doctors. As a result, Murray was able to lead the Board through the difficult decision of closing the operating theatres in 2002, thereby changing the direction of the Hospital and positioning it for strong and profitable growth in ensuing years. He was Vice-President for 10 years, President for 5 years and Immediate Past President for 5 years. In 2009 he was appointed an Honorary Life Governor of Wolper in honour of his dedication and commitment to the Hospital.

Graham Einfeld OAM, President 2004-2009



Graham Einfeld was inspired to join the Hospital Board in 1993 by the example of his uncle, Sam Karpin. He served the Hospital as Honorary Treasurer from 1994 for 11 years and in 1998 he oversaw the transfer to Wolper of the services of the recently closed Scottish Hospital. Graham was President during the planning of the 2008–2010 building program and served on the Building Committee during construction. He was instrumental in the development of Wolper's community outreach. In 2011 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) to honour his services to the Jewish community, especially Moriah College and Wolper Jewish Hospital. In 2014 Graham was appointed an Honorary Life Governor of Wolper in honour of his dedication and commitment to the Hospital and served as a Trustee Director of the Foundation from 2014 to 2020.



Dr David Golovsky AM, President 2009–2014



David Golovsky was appointed to the Medical Board of the Hospital in 1985 and served as its Chairman from December 1994 to December 2005. He was elected to the Board of Management in 1994, and in 1997 was elected Vice-President. On the closure of the Scottish Hospital, he presided over the transfer of its Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Unit and senior surgeons to Wolper, where an ENT centre of excellence existed until 2002. In 2009 David was elected President, launching Wolper's refurbished Hospital in August 2010. He initiated the re-establishment of Friends of Wolper to extend Wolper's engagement with the broader community and presided over the establishment of the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation in 2014. David was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2015 in recognition of his service to the Jewish and medical community. In 2016 he was appointed an Honorary Life Governor of Wolper, in honour of his dedication and commitment to the Hospital and is currently a Trustee Director of the Foundation.

Daniel Goulburn OAM, President 2014-2019



Daniel Goulburn joined the Board in 2008 and served as Honorary Treasurer from 2009–2014, providing strong stewardship of the Hospital's finances. He assumed the role of President of the Hospital in 2014, as well as being the inaugural and current Chair of the Trustee Board of the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation, launched in 2014. As President, Daniel established a revised governance structure with a clearer separation of management and Board, initiated a review of the Constitution, and oversaw the Hospital renovation and refurbishment program as Immediate Past President until its completion in 2021. In 2017, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of his service to the Jewish community, especially Maccabi, Moriah College and Wolper Jewish Hospital. Daniel was appointed an Honorary Life Governor of Wolper at the AGM in 2021 in recognition of his meritorious service.

Harry Aizenberg, CEO 1981–2014



Harry Aizenberg joined the Hospital in 1981 as CEO. As the only employee during the 1982 rebuilding while the Hospital was closed, he oversaw the building works as well as planning and implementing organisational and structural changes that were fundamental to the Hospital's success today. Harry was involved in all of the innovations and developments of the Hospital, including the successful Tay Sachs program that continues today. He was instrumental in managing the Hospital through the expansion and subsequent closure of surgical theatres, as well as the development of Wolper's rehabilitation and palliative care programs. He led the Hospital through a subsequent major refurbishment in 2008. He retired in 2014 having served with distinction as CEO for over 32 years. Harry was appointed a Life Member of Wolper at the AGM in 2021 in recognition of his 32 years of outstanding service.



Wolper Jewish Hospital Board Members 1961–2021⁴⁸

President

Mr Samuel Karpin OAM 1961–1986 Ms Lynne Davies AM 1986–1999 Mr Murray Landis 1999–2004 Mr Graham Einfeld OAM 2004–2009 Dr David Golovsky AM 2009–2014 Mr Daniel Goulburn OAM 2014–2019 Mr Richard Glass 2019–

Vice President

Mr Ludi Adler 1965–1967 Mr Maurice Allen 1961–1975 Mr Joseph Barrington 1990–1997 Dr Victor Bear AM 1999–2002 Ms Lynne Davies AM 1984–1986 Mr David Don 1979 Mr Hyman Don 1967–1981 Mrs Anne Finfeld 1965

Mrs Anne Einfeld 1965 Mr David Freeman AM 1983–1990 Mr Richard Glass 2014–2019 Mr Daniel Goldberg 2019– Dr David Golovsky AM 1997–2009

Mr Victor Greenberg 1965–1978 Mr Harry Landis 1979–1984 Mr Murray Landis 1986–1999 Dr Philip Redelman 2006–2010 Mr Peter Ryba 2004–2006 Mr Oscar Rychter 1961–1964

Dr Allan Shell 2002–2004, 2009–2014 Professor Graham De Vahl Davis AM 1965

Honorary Treasurer

Mr Maurice Allen 1964–1974
Mr William Berman 1979–1994
Mr Andrew Cohen 2019–
Mr Hyman Don 1974–1975
Mrs Anne Einfeld 1961–1964
Mr Graham Einfeld OAM 1994–2004
Mr Daniel Goulburn OAM 2009–2014
Mr Mark Hadassin 2014–2019
Mr Harry Landis 1976–1978
Mr Alf Landmann 1975–1978
Dr Allan Shell 2004–2009

Honorary Secretary

Mr David Adler 2004–2007 Dr Peter Arnold OAM 1990–1994 Mr Joseph Barrington 1986–1990 Dr Victor Bear AM 1994–1999
Mr Andrew Cohen 2017
Mr David Don 1975–1978
Mr Richard Glass 2010–2014
Mr Daniel Goldberg 2018–2019
Ms Josephine Holland 2019–
Mr Murray Landis 1979–1986
Dr Bruce Reading 1965–1975
Mr Peter Ryba 2001–2004
Dr Allan Shell 1999–2001, 2004–2017
Professor Graham De Vahl Davis AM 1961–1964
Mrs Cynthia Wrublewski 2007–2010

Chair, Medical Advisory Committee (formerly Medical Executive Committee)

Dr Victor Bear AM 1985–1994 Dr David Golovsky AM 1994–2005 Dr Philip Redelman 2005–

Honorary Life Governors

Mr Graham Einfeld OAM from 2014 Dr David Golovsky AM from 2016 Mr Daniel Goulburn OAM from 2021 Mr Sam Karpin OAM from 2002 Mr Murray Landis from 2009

Life Members

Mr Harry Aizenberg 2021 Dr Allan Shell 2017

Wolper Jewish Hospital Directors

Mrs Leila Abrams 1963-1964 Mr David Adler 2003-2006 Mr Ludi Adler 1965-1966, 1979-1981 Dr Stella Alexander* 2007-2008 Mr Maurice Allen 1961–1975 Dr Lesley Andrews 2017-Dr Peter Arnold OAM 1987-1995 Mr Joseph Barrington 1985-1996 Dr Victor Bear AM 1983-2001 Mrs Lilli Bergman* 1961–1996 Mr William Berman 1977-2003 Dr Yoke Berry* 2014-2015 Mrs Pauline Burns 1974 Mr Norman Chosid 1992-1993 Mr Andrew Cohen 2015-Dr John Crooks 1965

Mrs Dinah Danon OAM* 1998-2003



Mrs Lynne Davies AM 1983–2003 Mrs Bettina Davis* 2005–2006 Dr Ivan Davis OAM 1961–1964, 1969 The Hon. Margaret Davis* 1997–2001 Dr Robert Diamond 1975–1976 Mr David Don 1974–1979 Mr Hyman Don 1962–1985

Mrs Denise Edelstein* 1996–1998 Mrs Anne Einfeld* 1961–1981

Mr Graham Einfeld OAM 1992–2013

Mr W Einstein 1965 Dr David Ende 2016–

Mrs Shula Endry-Walder OAM 1996–2008

Mrs Zelda Feigen OAM* 1984–1986 Mr Michael Finger 2001–2004 Mr David Freeman AM 1978–1993 Mrs Anne Gilrey* 1961–1962 Mr Richard Glass 2002–

Mr Neil Glasser 1969–1971 Mrs Phyllis Glasser* 1974–1984 Mrs Estelle Gold OAM* 1979–1989 Mrs Anna Goldberg 1961–1967 Mr Daniel Goldberg 2009– Mr Maurice Goldberg 1988

Dr Louis Goldman 1966–1972 Dr David Golovsky AM 1994–2015

Mr Daniel Goulburn OAM 2008–2021 Mr Michael Green 1988–1995

Dr Lennie Greenberg 1972–1975 Mr Victor Greenberg 1965–1978 Dr Barbara Grunseit 1980 Mr Mark Hadassin 2012–

Ms Josephine Holland* 2009–2018 Ms Josephine Holland 2018– Dr Andrew Hollo 2002, 2004–2011

Mr Ian Hyman 1984–1986 Mr Norman Israel 1965 Dr Ian Jacobi 2007-2011

Mr Samuel Karpin OAM 1961–2001 Mr David Landa OAM 1966–1967 Mr Harry Landis 1975–1983 Mr Murray Landis 1977–2011 Mr Alf Landmann 1965–1977 Dr Paul Lendvay 1983–2001

Mrs Robyn Lenn OAM* 1990–1994 Mrs Judith Lewis* 1997–2001 Mr Eric Lowenstein 2014– Dr Barry Milroy 1971–1972 Mrs Julia Myers* 2002–2006

Ms Victoria Nadel OAM* 2011–2013 Mr Brian Nebenzahl OAM 1961–1962

Mr Arnold Newhouse 1961 Ms Jessica Newman* 2015–2018 Ms Jessica Newman 2018– Dr Bruce Reading 1964–1981 Dr Fanny Reading MBE 1965–1973

Mrs Debbie Redelman 1997-2000, 2009-2015

Dr Philip Redelman 1990–1992, 2006– Mr Charlie Rosenberg 1972–1981

Mr Peter Ryba 1998–2010 Mrs Ena Rychter* 1961–1981 Mrs Janice Shedlezki* 1995–1996

Dr Allan Shell 1997–2017

Mrs Dalia Sinclair OAM* 2007-2010

Mr Alan Sutzkin 1961

Mrs Barbara Shotland* 2002–2009

Mr David Snider 1964–1965 Mr Louis Solomon 1976–1984 Prof David Sonnabend AM 2012– Dr David Teplitzky 1961–1964 Dr Sylvia Terkasher 2002–2005

Professor Graham De Vahl Davis AM 1961-1964

Mrs Cynthia Wrublewski 2004–2009 Mrs Zara Young OAM* 1985–1995

Wolper Jewish Hospital Management

Chief Executive Officer

Mr Harry Aizenberg 1981–2014 Mr John Tucker 2014–

Clinical Leadership

Ms Vi Falson, Matron, 1961-1981

Ms Joan Birmingham, Director of Nursing, 1983–1985 Ms Terry Schopf, Director of Nursing, 1986–1994 Ms Jenny Coombs, Director of Nursing, 1994–2011 Ms Penny King, Director of Nursing, 2011–2013 Ms Mary Gibbs, Director of Nursing, 2013–2015 Ms Tina Boger, Director Clinical Services, 2015–

^{*}Nominee of National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW Division



Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation

Foundation Directors

Mr Andrew Cohen 2019– Mr Graham Einfeld OAM 2014–2020 Mr Richard Glass 2017– Dr David Golovsky AM 2014– Mr Daniel Goulburn OAM 2014– Mr Mark Hadassin 2015–2019 Dr Susan Hertzberg 2014– Ms Josephine Holland 2014– Dr Vivienne Milch 2021– Mr Ian Sandler 2014–2020 Mr Nathan Schlesinger 2021– Mr Ronald Solomon 2014–2020

Grant recipients

The following organisations have been beneficiaries of the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation between 2014 and May 2021

Australian Jewish Fertility Network
Bell Shakespeare
Burger Centre
Camp Sababa
Caretakers Cottage
COA (Centre on Ageing)
CSG (Community Security Group)
Friends of Refugees of Eastern Europe (F.R.E.E.)
Gift of Life Australia

Friends of Refugees of Eastern Europe (F.R.I Gift of Life Australia Hatzolah Sydney Hereditary Cancer Clinic Holdsworth Community Jewish Alliance Against Family Violence Jewish House Kids Giving Back
Maccabi NSW
Multiple Sclerosis Ltd
Mum for Mum NCJWA (NSW)
NSW Friendship Circle
NSW Stem Cell Network
Parkinson's NSW
Shalom Gamarada
Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation
The Kolling Institute, University of Sydney
Master of Genetics Program
Waverley Community Men's Shed

In accordance with the guidelines of the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, in the text of this book post-nominals only appear after a person's name if they held an honour or award at the relevant time. The listing of Directors includes all post-nominals as of November 2021.



Endnotes

- 1 S. Karpin President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 1961–2, p. 3.
- ² 'Take Heart Again: The Story of a Fellowship of Jewish Doctors', Suzanne D. Rutland, November 1983, p. 56; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 July 1950, p. 5.
- 3 The National Council of Jewish Women of Australia was first known as the National Council of Jewish Women on its establishment in 1929. There have been some changes to the name over the years, on occasion to reflect the creation of regional bodies. Accordingly, references to the National Council of Jewish Women in this book use the name applicable at the time.
- 4 Sydney Jewish News, 25 May 1951, p. 3.
- 5 S. Karpin President's Report in NSW Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 1953–4.
- 6 NSW Jewish Hospital, Minutes of Board Meeting, 15 February 1954.
- 7 NSW Jewish Hospital, Minutes of Board Meeting, 21 June 1954.
- 8 Gertie Stone, Last Will & Testament, 13 April 1949, clauses 19, 21.
- 9 The Wolper Convalescent Home, Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting, 13 April 1953.
- 10 Trustees of NCJW Hospital and Social Services Committee, Minutes of Meeting, 27 November 1956.
- 11 NSW Jewish Hospital, Minutes of Board Meeting, 9 November 1953.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 National Council of Jewish Women minutes, June 1959.
- 14 S. Cornelius. The Council Bulletin. Vol 55. No 1, March 1981
- 15 S. Karpin President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 1962.
- 16 S. Karpin President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual report, 1962–3, p. 2.
- 17 Deed between the Trustees and Wolper Jewish Hospital on transfer of the land, 14 May 1982.
- 18 Wolper Annual Report, 1984–5.
- 19 L. Davies in Australian Jewish News, 18 May 1990, p. 3.
- 20 'Community Notebook', Australian Jewish News, 12 June 1998.
- 21 Ibid
- 22 L. Davies President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 1995-6.
- 23 L. Davies President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 1996–7.
- 24 Ibid
- 25 L. Davies President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 1997–8
- 26 M. Landis President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 1999–2000, p. i.
- 27 H. Aizenberg, Discussion paper on the future of Wolper Jewish Hospital, Woollahra, March 2000.
- 28 KPMG Consulting, Review of Future Direction of the Wolper Jewish Hospital, Sydney, January 2001.
- 29 M. Landis, President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 2001–2, p. 4.
- 30 M. Landis in Australian Jewish News, 20 September 2002.
- 31 KPMG Consulting, Review of Future Direction of the Wolper Jewish Hospital, Sydney, January 2001.
- 32 M. Landis, President, Interview, September 2011.
- 33 M. Landis, President's Report in Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 2001–2, p. 3.
- 34 Australian Jewish Times, 23 September 1988, p. 3.
- 35 Journal of Medical Genetics, Volume 40, 4 April 2003.
- 36 S. Karpin in Australian Jewish Times, 29 August 1968.
- 37 Australian Jewish Times, 25 October 1979.
- 38 H. Aizenberg, Interview, 2002.
- 39 R. Glass, Wolper Report, December 2010, p. 1.
- 40 D. Golovsky, Wolper Report, December 2010, p. 1.
- 41 Wolper Jewish Hospital, *Reflections—The First Fifty Years*, November 2011. https://wolper.com.au/videos/ Video QR code opposite p. 71.
- 42 M. Kirby, Article 2596, https://www.michaelkirby.com.au/content/2012
- 43 Zhang W, Low LF, Gwynn JD, Clemson L. Interventions to Improve Gait in Older Adults with Cognitive Impairment: A Systematic Review. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2019 Feb;67(2):381-391. doi: 10.1111/jgs.15660. Epub 2018 Dec 2. PMID: 30506754.
- 44 Publications include: Basger, B.J., Moles, R.J. & Chen, T.F. *Impact of an enhanced pharmacy discharge service on prescribing appropriateness criteria: a randomised controlled trial.* Int J Clin Pharm 37, 1194–1205 (2015). Basger, B.J.,



Chen, T.F. & Moles, R.J. Inappropriate Medication Use and Prescribing Indicators in Elderly Australians. Drugs Aging 25, 777–793 (2008). Basger, B.J., Chen, T.F. & Moles, R.J. Validation of prescribing appropriateness criteria for older Australians using the RAND/UCLA appropriateness method, BMJ Open 2012;2:e 001431. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2012-001431. Basger, B.J., Moles, R.J. & Chen, T.F. Application of drug-related problem (DRP) classification systems: a review of the literature. Eur J Clin Pharmacol 70, 799–815 (2014). Basger, B.J., Moles, R.J. & Chen, T.F. Development of an aggregated system for classifying causes of drug-related problems. Ann Pharmacother. 2015 Apr; 49(4): 405-18. doi: 10.1177/1060028014568008. Epub 2015 Jan 22. PMID: 25614526.

- 45 R. Glass President's Report, Wolper Jewish Hospital Annual Report, 2019–20.
- 46 S. Rutland: 'The Impact of COVID-19: A Comparative Study of the Melbourne and Sydney Jewish Communities', *Comparative Jewry*, 41 (1) pp. 247-272
- 47 Medibank Newsroom, 'Medibank announces investment in East Sydney Private Hospital' https://www.medibank.com. au/livebetter/newsroom/post/medibank-announces-investment-in-east-sydney-private-hospital
- 48 All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of information on past Wolper office-bearers. Wolper Jewish Hospital apologises for any inaccuracies that may have arisen. In this event, please contact Wolper's Chief Executive Officer, and records will be amended where required.





Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dr David Golovsky AM, Life Governor and former President; Richard Glass, President and Harry Aizenberg, former CEO: this history is based in part on their text 'The First 50 Years', produced in 2011.

Thanks to Murray Landis, Life Governor and former President. This history is based in part on his text, 'The Origins of Wolper Jewish Hospital', produced in April 2000.

The authors thank both the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) and the Australian Archives Judaica (AAJ) for their assistance in providing research and access to the Archives during this project.



