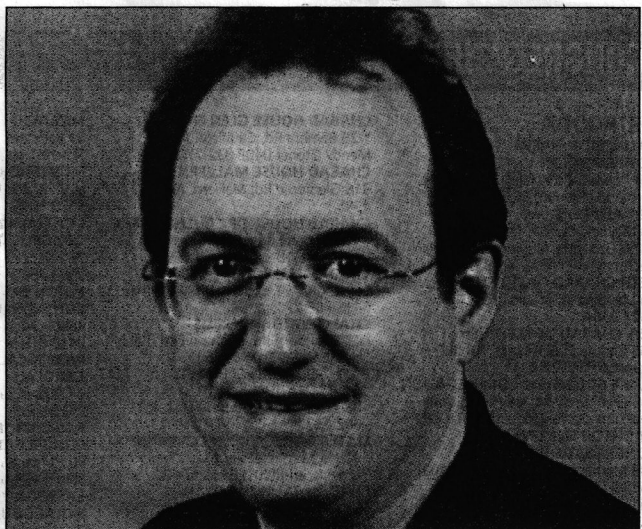


## FRIDAY PROFILE

DR. PETER WEIN



Peter Wein: dedicated to the health of mothers and babies.

## Helping mother and child

**ANGIE FOX** meets a doctor with a special interest in how diabetes affects mothers and babies.

DR Peter Wein was destined to work at The Royal Women's Hospital.

As a child, he lived across the road from the Carlton-based public facility while his father, Reuben, who was born there in 1933, trained as an obstetrician and gynaecologist.

Now a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist himself, Dr Wein, 42, shares rooms with his 70-year-old father at The Royal Women's Hospital and is manager of its diabetes clinic. One of the midwives who used to babysit him, including nappy changing, still works there.

"It's a place that I have always been hanging around," Dr Wein says.

But his affinity with The Royal Women's Hospital, Australia's largest specialist hospital dedicated to women's health, runs far deeper than that.

Dr Wein is encouraging the community to aid the 5000 babies born at the hospital annually, as well as their mothers, by supporting the hospital's Mother's Day appeal, which concludes on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11.

"There's a lot of work happening in the hospital," Dr Wein says, including genetic research into high blood pressure and research into gynaecological cancer.

Proceeds of the appeal will go towards research into health issues that effect mother and child.

For Dr Wein that includes vital

funds for research into the cause of gestational diabetes – a temporary form of diabetes that occurs during pregnancy.

There are more than 250,000 births in Australia annually. Dr Wein says around five per cent of all pregnant women develop gestational diabetes, a condition that increases certain risks for babies, such as the potential to develop diabetes and heart disease in later life. Gestational diabetes also increases the risk of complications to the baby, such as birth defects, stillbirth and prematurity.

Last year, the diabetes clinic treated more than 270 women with gestational diabetes or pre-existing diabetes.

Along with research, Dr Wein says additional funds will aid educational initiatives. With exercise being a key treatment for the condition, Dr Wein also hopes to one day build a gymnasium on the premises.

A Melbourne University graduate, Dr Wein undertook his obstetrics and gynaecology training at the Royal Women's Hospital. He began specialising in diabetes in 1992 at the Mercy Hospital. He is currently a senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Melbourne and the gynaecologist for Jewish Care's Montefiore Homes.

He says growing up hearing his father talk about work undoubtedly influenced his career path. But his mother Ruth, the receptionist for both doctors Wein, shares that role.

"She is obviously a big influence because she is involved in the practice."

Donations: (03) 9344 2006 or visit [www.mothersday.org.au](http://www.mothersday.org.au).