

RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

STELLAR PERFORMANCE 2010

The end of the year usually comes with a rush and a flurry of activity, with the announcement of numerous grants and fellowships. This has been another fantastic year for the Faculty of Medicine in terms of research success, innovation and productivity. There have been so many highlights, it is difficult to know where to start. The completion of the Lowy Cancer Research Centre represents a milestone for the Faculty and it is great to see that Professor Phil Hogg has been named as the inaugural Director of the Centre.



Professor Philip Hogg was awarded the prestigious 2009 Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Research. This is the second time a UNSW researcher has received this reward, with Professor Robyn Ward receiving this Award in 2007. Both researchers will be key members of the Faculty located in the new Lowy Cancer Research Centre.

Members of the Faculty have done remarkably well in the recent round of NHMRC, ARC and Cancer Institute grants. Altogether the Faculty has increased the amount of funding from NHMRC and it is pleasing to note that the amount received for individual grants has also increased significantly. As well as obtaining 25 project grants, the Faculty also obtained 5 ARC Discovery grants. Excellent results were also obtained from the NSW Cancer Institute grants in which \$3.8M from a total of \$10M funding available was received by researchers in UNSW. Professor Levon Khachigian was awarded an Australia Fellowship and 6 of our researchers were awarded continuing NHMRC Fellowships, 3 were awarded NHMRC CDA's, 4 NHMRC Partnerships and 26 Goldstar Awards (21 NHMRC projects plus 5 ARC projects). The first round of Future Fellows were announced and the Faculty received 3 new Future Fellowships.

2009 saw the opening of the Australian Institute of Health Innovation under the directorship of Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite. The new Institute incorporates the previous Centre for Health Informatics, the Centre for Clinical Governance Research and the Simpson Centre. Members of the Institute have been remarkably successful in obtaining numerous large grants over the past 12 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Faculty on its outstanding successes in 2009 and look forward to working with everyone to ensure our ongoing success. **Denis Wakefield**

From the Dean's Desk

It was my pleasure to present the 2009 Dean's Awards at a function held on 26 November 2009 in the new Lowy Building. This year the Dean's Award for outstanding achievements in research was made to Professor Levon Khachigian, and a special Dean's Award for outstanding contributions to the Faculty of Medicine was made to Gordon Rees.



Professor Peter Smith presented Gordon Rees with the Dean's Award for outstanding contributions to the Faculty of Medicine.

Other awards made were the Dean's Rising Star Awards and the Dean's List, as well as Faculty of Medicine Awards to Professor Carolyn Geczy (outstanding contributions to research), Associate Professor Antony O'Sullivan (outstanding contributions to teaching), Anne Bunde-Birouste (outstanding contributions to the community) and Angela Langdon (McConaghy Prize for Post-graduate Research in Psychiatry). The full list of awards and highlights is presented on the Faculty of Medicine website: <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/>



Professor Peter Smith presented Professor Levon Khachigian with the Dean's Award for outstanding achievements in research.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge" Albert Einstein

RESEARCH PROFILE

Professor Robyn Ward , Head, Prince of Wales Clinical School

Professor Robyn Ward is Clinical Associate Dean and Professor of Medicine at Prince of Wales Hospital, and Director of Area Cancer Services within the South East Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service. Her training and experience as a medical oncologist has strongly informed her research objectives, which focus on improving the management of cancer through research, be it in the laboratory, at the bedside, or in the realm of health services research.

Since completing her PhD in the Haematology Research Laboratories at St Vincents Hospital in 1994, Robyn has been active in research across the spectrum of cancer care and control, with a particular focus on colorectal cancer. Her key research achievements include the development of human antibodies to treat cancer and bringing them to the stage of clinical testing; the identification of the important role for precursor lesions in the development of subtypes of colorectal cancer; and the description of epimutations as a cause of colorectal cancer. In recent years she has broadened her interest to include aspects of Health Services research, with a particular interest in the use and cost-effectiveness of anti-cancer agents. As its Program Director, she has also championed the development and implementation of eviQ, a web-based clinical oncology information system of the Cancer Institute NSW. This site is used throughout Australia and internationally by oncologists, haematologists and other health care professionals.

Robyn has over 140 publications in international peer reviewed journals, including many in the highest ranking journals in the disciplines of medicine, gastroenterology, oncology, cancer genetics and pathology. Robyn's achievements in research have been recognised by the Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research (2004) and the NSW Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Research (2007). She has been an active member of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) since February 2001, and is Chair of the Commonwealth Medical Services Advisory Committee, as well as the NSW Cancer Clinical Trials Committee and Cancer Genetics Committees of the Cancer Institute NSW.



****2009 GOLDSTAR AWARDS****

Congratulations to the Faculty of Medicine Goldstar recipients—this year there were 5 ARC Goldstar Awards and 21 NHMRC Goldstar Awards, for the listings please see the following website:

http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/ApplyingForFunds/InternalSchemes/InternalSchemes_index.html

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAREN WALKER who has been chosen as the recipient of the 2009 UNSW Staff Excellence Award in Excellence in Innovation for project managing the development, implementation and assessment of the Professional Development and Talent Management Scheme within the Faculty of Medicine.



CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO THE WINNERS OF THE TOW PRIZE FOR 2009

Posters – Stuart Hamilton (SEALS, POWH) and Marcia Munoz (CCIA);

Case – Emily He (Inst. Neurological Sciences, POWH);

Clinical – Louis Wang (Surgery, POWH);

Open Junior – Renae McNamara (Physiotherapy, POWH);

Open Senior - Eddie Pasquier (CCIA).

ARC Report on publishing performance of ARC supported research

The Research Evaluation and Policy Project, Research School of Social Sciences at Australian National University has published a report on the impact of research funded by the Australian Research Council. The report focuses on volume and impact of publication outputs from projects funded by the ARC and compares them to both Australian and world averages. All citation counts and benchmarks are derived from Thomson Reuter's Web of Science databases and indicate that the ARC-funded projects surpass both Australian and world averages in most subject areas.

From the foreword by Senator Kim Carr:

The report analyses the number of publications attributable to ARC-funded research and how often they are cited in the international research literature – a standard indicator of research impact. It measures these results against Australian and world benchmarks.

The number of publications attributable to ARC-funded research increased by 41 per cent between 1996–2000 and 2001–2005 – more than double the international growth rate. Publications linked to ARC funding now account for a third or more of all Australian publications in the physical, chemical and mathematical sciences.

The impact of Australian research publications overall is above the world average, and the impact of publications attributable to ARC-funded research is higher still.

The report also shows that Australian researchers are increasingly likely to collaborate, especially with their counterparts overseas – 40 per cent of Australian research publications now have an international co-author.

“Medical and health sciences” analysis starts on pg 122

http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/pub_supported_research.pdf

At Your Service:

Office of Development and External Relations, Faculty of Medicine



Brooke Thornberry, Erica Ford, Maria Backlund and Matthew Miles

Matthew Miles, Director of Development and External Relations heads up a team with a broad portfolio of responsibilities. These include development and fundraising, marketing, communications, alumni relations, community engagement and media relations. The team's aims have been developed within the framework of the overall business and strategic objectives of the faculty, and in alignment with the UNSW B2B objectives.

Matthew has recruited a team with extensive experience. Maria Backlund is responsible for managing the faculty's critical marketing and communications activities with particular focus on increasing awareness of the faculty's distinction in medical education, research and community engagement. Erica Ford is responsible for facilitating the development of stronger relationships with the Faculty of Medicine's Alumni and managing the faculty's portfolio of events such as the Dean's Lecture. Brooke Thornberry manages the Office of Development and External Relations, ensuring the smooth running of the Unit, and assisting with the stewardship process of our numerous donors to the Faculty.

The team have had a number of successes in 2009 and these include raising fundraising income to \$6.6 million (an increase of 20% from 2008), staging the most successful Deans Lecture series ever, facilitating several key media opportunities, and introducing world-famous art historian and philanthropist, John Kaldor, to provide support and expertise for finding signature works of art for our recently opened Lowy Cancer Research Centre.

The team has also engaged successfully with the Dean to provide key assistance in reaching the overall goals of the Faculty, and working well with our Advisory Council, chaired by Daniel Gauchat. As Matthew's role has links to the UNSW Foundation, this provides significant access to the Chief Executive of the UNSW Foundation, Jenny Bott and the Chair of the UNSW Foundation Board, David Gonski, AC.

How Can I Help? Alan Kwek

Each month we will profile members of the Faculty's staff who can help you with various aspects of your research. This month's profile is of

Alan Kwek is the newly appointed Research Officer for the Biological Resources Imaging facility that houses some state-of-the-art imaging equipment such as the Olympus intra-vital microscope, VisualSonics Ultrasound, IVIS Optical Imager and Siemens Inveon microCT scanner. He acquired a PhD in Medicine working with Professors Michelle Haber and Murray Norris at the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia on childhood leukemia and has also held professional positions in customer service and diagnostic research. He will provide researchers with technical support, assistance with experimental design and development of innovative imaging applications tuned to researchers' specific needs. Alan hopes that with his assistance researchers will discover that animal imaging is not difficult or daunting, but instead an exciting process that will provide better insight to their research. Alan can be contacted via the Biological Resources office on 9385 8456 or via email a.kwek@unsw.edu.au.



****IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING AGAIN!****

NHMRC FUNDING INITIATIVES

Research Activity Section	Opening Date for Applications	Closing Date for Applications
NHMRC Project Grants	8 December 09	17 March 10
Building Capacity Section		
Centres of Research Excellence (CRE)	9 July 10	1 Oct 10
Development Grants	28 April 10	2 July 10
Australia Fellowship	EOI 9.12.09 Full application 28 May 10	EOI 4.3.10 Full application 9 July 2010
Research and Practitioner Fellowships	14 Dec 09	5 Feb 10
Career Development Awards (CDA'S)	13 Jan 10	30 March 10
Training Fellowships	3 March 10	30 April 10
Post-Grad Scholarships	5 May 10	30 July 10



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**Merry Christmas from
Denis, Wendy and Karen in
the Office of Medical
Research**



**This is the last
Newsletter for 2009.
Wishing you all a safe
and happy holiday!**



Publications of the Month

SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

“Stem Cell Activity in the Developing Human Cornea”,

Sarah B. Davies, Jeanie Chui, Michelle C. Madigan, Jan M. Provis, Denis Wakefield, Nick Di Girolamo, Stem Cells; 27 (11): 2781–2792.

CONTACT DETAILS

Office of Medical Research, Faculty of Medicine, contact: Wendy Wartho Tel: 02 9385 8210, Fax: 9385 1442 or Email: w.wartho@unsw.edu.au