



Faculty of Health Sciences Executive Dean's News

Dear all

I wish everyone a great Christmas and New Year and thankyou all for your outstanding work this year.

There are a number of initiatives that I would like to mention in this last newsletter for 2008.

We have 4 Centre and 2 Institute bids currently being considered for formal University status and funding by the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor Research. In Teaching and Learning, the Faculty, under the direction of the Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), Associate Professor Maree O'Keefe has continued to develop a number of important projects which will now continue into 2009.

These projects include the Colleague Development Program and the Clinical Titleholders project. The latter project will continue into 2009 with the aim of developing a local Faculty model of engagement with this crucial group in partnership with Human Resources. A Faculty Students At Risk Register has been established and work in underway to complete an online Honours toolkit to standardise the processes for Honours enrolment.

There continues to be active discussions with members of the Faculty, the State Health Department and other interested parties regarding the new Health and Medical Research Institute. The site has been chosen for the new Institute and this is planned to be situated alongside the new Marjorie Jackson Nelson Hospital. Capital development planning is now well underway for refurbishments at the Lyell McEwin Hospital and Norwich House (opposite the Women's and Children's Hospital) that will house part of the proposed Robinson Institute. This new Institute will be launched in March and will coalesce three Faculty research Centres under the Directorship of Professor Rob Norman.

Some of the challenges we will face next year include being involved in a wide ranging review of Academic Program Structures, continuing to actively explore space options for all Schools and improving our falling Course Experience Questionnaire results. There will be an increased streamlining of our postgraduate programs. It is likely to be a tight financial year in 2009. Schools have been asked to look closely at their annual and long service leave plans for all staff. After discussion with the Associate Dean Research, Professor Andrew Somogyi I have decided to suspend for 2009 the research development awards, undergraduate vacation scholarships and early career fellowships. I understand some of the Faculty staff will be disappointed but in developing the new University Centres and Institutes, the Faculty has been asked to manage with a smaller resource base.

Professor Justin Beilby
Executive Dean



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Staff Awards



Congratulations to the following staff who have recently been acknowledged for their work during 2008.

Young Tall Poppy Award 2008

Two researchers of the Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology were awarded the prestigious Young Tall Poppy Award 2008:

- Dr Catherine Gibson's was awarded for her research about identifying possible causes for cerebral palsy, the most common major physical disability in childhood.
- Dr Megan Mitchell was awarded for her research on how nutrition and the increasing age of first-time mothers affect development of the female eggs, and embryos.

Health Award

Professor Dick Ruffin AM—Professor of Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been awarded the SA Great Award in the field of Health.

Professor Ruffin has worked extensively in the area of respiratory medicine, with a particular focus on asthma and chronic disease, he has also contributed to improvements to the training of junior doctors in South Australia through his chairmanship of the Post Graduate Medical Council of SA.



Helen Bearpark Memorial Scholarship for 2009

At the recent Australasian Sleep Association meeting held in Adelaide, Mark Kohler from the children's sleep research group was awarded the Association's Helen Bearpark Memorial Scholarship for 2009. This is an international travel award for early career researchers.

Lions Medical Research Foundation Scholarship

In a ceremony at Government House on August 19th 2008, the Governor, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce presented Nhan Truong, PhD student in the Discipline of Medicine, the Lions' Medical Research Foundation Scholarship (\$25,000 pa) for 2008.



Admissions

The December round of Oral Assessments for our MBBS, BDS, BOH and BNurs programs are now complete. I would like to pass my thanks on to all staff who contributed to this important process.



Student volunteers who helped with Oral Assessment across all programs

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Bachelor of Nursing 2008

Experience... Innovation...Excellence...

These words certainly describe the first graduating cohort from the Bachelor of Nursing program. The cohort of 35 started as the pioneers of the new program in 2006 and have undertaken approximately 2000 hours of clinical practice to date. The graduates celebrated on Monday 15th December with a dinner at Ayres House which was attended by Nursing dignitaries, University management, industry partners, staff, family and friends. The dinner included the presentation of the inaugural Margaret Grace McNair AM Award for Nursing excellence in academic and clinical practice. The award winner, Olivia Watson, was humbled and grateful for the prize. Olivia was the stand out winner for this award based on not only her academic achievement which was outstanding but also her excellence in clinical practice which included her natural leadership and her teamwork skills.

The BNURS graduands graduated at the ceremony on Thursday 18th December in the afternoon. The mace bearer for this ceremony was Rosemary Clatworthy, another BNURS student who excelled in clinical practice, academic achievement, leadership, mentorship and always displayed a professional, friendly and motivating attitude towards her studies.



Course Co-ordinators
David Foley, Frank Donnelly and Sue Sharrad



Olivia Watson being presented the inaugural Margaret Grace McNair AM Award by Joyce Ball from the Nurses Memorial Foundation



Bachelor of Nursing Graduands-2008

Faculty of Health Sciences

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Research

We have had another successful year with NHMRC funding for 2009. The Faculty of Health Sciences was awarded in total an amount of over \$20 million with staff from all Schools being involved. Some of the highlights included the fact that the School of Dentistry has been successful in securing 5 out of the 7 NHMRC grants awarded to dental schools in Australia. Researchers from the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence won \$3.7 million in NHMRC and ARC grants.

NHMRC awarded the University of Adelaide with a total amount of \$287,401 for equipment.

Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation

Researchers from the Faculty were awarded \$200,000 by the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation.

ARC Linkage & Discovery

The Faculty of Health Sciences was awarded in total \$1,408,000. Some of the awardees include:-

- A/Prof SA Robertson; Dr RB Gilchrist
Molecular mechanisms for seminal fluid signalling in reproduction
- Dr SC Barry; Prof H Zola; A/Prof RJ D'Andrea; Mr I Lewis Differentiation of Cord Blood Stem cells into Thymus (T) cells with regulatory phenotype and function
- Dr P Bi; A/Prof DL Pisaniello; Prof KA Parton; Prof P Weinstein; A/Prof G Han; Dr M Nitschke; Dr A Saniotis Heatwaves, population health, and emergency management in Australia a qualitative study
- A/Prof PH Delfabbro; Dr EO Fernandez; Dr LJ Kettler A national comparative analysis of child, family and service factors contributing to successful and unsuccessful reunification outcomes in out-of-home care



Learning and Teaching

Two members of the Faculty Staff have recently been acknowledge for the excellence in Teaching and Learning. Associate Professor Anne Tonkin, from the School of Population Health and Clinical Practice has received both the Stephen Cole the Elder Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Vice Chancellor's Award. Associate Professor Amanda Le Couteur, from the School of Psychology has received a High Commendation for the Stephen Cole the Elder Award for Excellence.

The School of Medicine Teaching and Learning Committee has established a website whereby students could nominate, with substantial justification, their clinical teachers for special recognition. Based on this, the School selected 4 clinical titleholders to be presented with a certificate recognising their excellence in clinical teaching as nominated by the students.

The awardees were:-

- Dr Elaine Pretorius (Medicine–Lyell McEwin Hospital)
- Dr Peak Mann Mah (Medicine–Lyell McEwin Hospital)
- Dr Edward Foo, (Psychiatry–Modbury Hospital), and
- Dr Chen Au Peh (Renal Medicine–The Royal Adelaide Hospital)

When the School reviewed the nominations there was one absolutely standout teacher. A special award in recognition of an outstanding contribution to clinical teaching was established by the School. This award is named the Derek Frewin Award and the inaugural award was presented by Professor Frewin to:-

- Professor Anthony Pohl (Orthopaedics-The Royal Adelaide Hospital)

