

February 2008

Faculty of Health Sciences

Executive Dean's News

Excellence and Innovation in Teaching, Research and Community Service in Health

Dear all

Welcome back. I hope you had a good Christmas, New Year and a break over the summer. I have no doubt that we are all in for a busy year. I thought it was important to bring everyone up to date on some of the Faculty activities that were finalised over the Christmas period and outline some of the priorities for 2008.

Professor Justin Beilby
Executive Dean

Promotions

I would like to congratulate all Faculty staff who were successful with their promotion applications last year. They were:

To Level B (Lecturer)

Dr Kathryn Gatford
Dr Nimit Singhal - Title holder

To Level C (Senior Lecturer)

Dr Lisa Butler
Dr Cameron Van Den Heuvel
Dr Julia Pitcher
Dr Darryl Russell
Dr Abdallah Salem
Dr Aspa Sarris
Dr Peter Strelan
Dr Anne Wilson
Dr Steven Unger - Title holder

To Level D (Associate Professor)

Dr John Beltrame
Dr Nicholas Burns
Dr Michael Davies
Dr Christine Feinle-Bisset
Dr Rodney Irvine
Dr Hubertus Jersmann
Dr Karen Jones
Dr Declan Kennedy
Dr Christopher Rayner
Dr Renuka Visvanathan
Dr Michael Brown - Title holder
Dr John Crompton - Title holder
Dr Paul Goldwater - Title holder
Dr Stan Gronthos - Title holder
Dr Henry Newland - Title holder
Dr Andrew Zannettino - Title holder

To Level E (Professor)

Associate Professor Vivian Burgess
Associate Professor Raymond Rodgers
Associate Professor Laurence Blackshaw - Title holder

Awards



Congratulations to Professor Michael Sawyer who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the Australia Day Awards 2008, for service to Medicine in the field of child and adolescent mental health as a researcher and educator, particularly through contributions to the design of new programs of intervention and through the promotion of community awareness.

Priorities for 2008

Faculty and Schools are beginning to plan their priorities for 2008. You will receive more information as the projects evolve but I believe it useful to inform all Faculty staff of some of the plans.

Learning and Teaching

Under the guidance of the Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) Associate Professor Maree O'Keefe, there will be work undertaken to develop models to:-

- improve feedback to all teaching staff
- provide continuing support for Title Holders and improve how both the Faculty and the University interacts with this important group
- increase student input and feedback

Health Sciences

Development work has begun to refine the vocational focus of the Bachelor of Health Sciences program with a view to an increased emphasis on marketing this degree throughout 2008. This will involve working with three Schools – Medical Sciences, Population Health and Clinical Practice and Psychology and the Health Sciences Coordinating Committee, under the direction of Professor Bob Vink.

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Priorities for 2008 cont.

Bio Skills Lab

In 2007 the Faculty was successful in receiving a Commonwealth Government Capital Development Plan Grant of \$2M to develop a Bio Skills Laboratory. We were able to supplement this with significant funds from the University's Capital Works budget. This project includes the purchase of latest technology robotic mannequins ("human patient simulators") and will enable the consolidation of a number of training facilities into one site including a Dissection Area, Bio Skills Laboratory and a Surgical Skills Laboratory. The project is due for completion in February 2008.

Research

Faculty Research Strengths

The Faculty, through the Associate Dean (Research) Professor Andrew Somogyi and the Research Secretariat, are currently completing business and development plans for a number of new research strengths that include:

- National Institute for Healthy Reproduction and Early Development (NIHRED)
- Neurosciences
- Oral Health
- Cardiovascular

It is planned to expand this development work to include other Faculty research groups in the second half of 2008.

State Research Priorities

I and other Faculty academic staff are currently involved in a series of working groups examining proposed research developments at the new Marjorie Jackson Nelson Hospital and the Women's and Children's Hospital. The Faculty has also nominated staff to be included in the working groups guiding the creation of a single State-wide pathology provider. These initiatives will have important repercussions for Faculty teaching, learning and research.

PhD Students

New models of recruiting overseas PhD students are being examined with a focus on New Zealand and South East Asia. The Associate Deans International (Professor Viv Burgess) and Research are working in partnership on this initiative.

Staff

Staff personal development

The Faculty's leadership programs aimed at 20-25 staff are currently being finalised for 2008. All School Heads have been asked to nominate staff who would benefit from this training.



Alumni

The Faculty, in partnership with the University Alumni Office has just appointed a new project officer who will work directly with the Faculty alumni. The aim is to develop an integrated model that both involves our current students across all programs and re-engages all former students, both local and international.

Capital

This is major priority for the Faculty in 2008 and planning is underway in all six Schools.

Capital works in the Medical School South Building, the establishment of a National Institute for Healthy Reproduction and Early Development (NIHRED) and activities on other distant sites (for example Lyell McEwin Hospital) are all under development.