

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 7 August 2009**

**Present:** Professor A Somogyi (Chair), Professor M Bartold, Assoc Professor A Braunack-Mayer, Professor M Horowitz, Assoc Professor R Irvine, Professor H Morris, Dr J Pitcher, Professor R Richards, Assoc Professor S Robertson, Professor R Rodgers, Professor N Stocks

**Apologies:** Assoc Professor V Clifton, Professor C Crowther, Professor J Owens

**In attendance:** Mr S Brennan (Director, Research Branch) and Mr G Harrison (Manager, CRSP) *for items 3 and 4, respectively, on the agenda*  
Dr Christiane Niess and Stella Richards (FHS Research Secretariat)

Professor Somogyi welcomed Assoc Professor Annette Braunack-Mayer to her first Research Committee meeting as the Chair of the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee.

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2009.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

2.1 **Actions** from the June meeting not listed in the agenda items

- Research Prizes to be included on the agenda for discussion at the next Research Committee Executive

**Action:** Dr Niess

- Professor Somogyi discussed with the Executive Dean the relocation of the Discipline of Physiology into the Faculty from January 2010, specifically from the perspective of any financial implications for the Research Committee. The Executive Dean indicated that no additional research funds would be required.
- Professor Somogyi will arrange a meeting with the Chair, RFAC to discuss strategies to improve the CDA success rate and the retention of ECRs displaying potential

**Action:** Professor Somogyi

- The proposed profiling of NHMRC/Faculty funded equipment at the EXPO on 1 September has been cancelled on account of the resignation of a staff member in the Secretariat.

**3. VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR, RESEARCH BRANCH**

Mr Simon Brennan attended the first part of the meeting to update the Committee on developments in Research Branch.

The Committee was reminded that Research Branch is predominantly a service unit with a focus on providing support to the University's researchers in the areas of:

- Research Grant administration (per- & post- award)
- Research Ethics Committee administration (human, animal, OGTR & quarantine)
- HERDC Publications Collection
- Research Systems Administration Support for ResearchMaster & ORBIT.

Research Branch is separate from, but works closely with, the Adelaide Graduate Centre (AGC), ARI Pty Ltd, the Corporate Research Systems Team, Research Accounting in Financial Services and the ERA Team.

The Committee was advised that resulting from the recent Federal Budget there will be an injection of funds to supplement the Research Infrastructure Block Grants scheme with Sustainable Research Excellence funding in universities to substantially raise the level of financial support for the indirect costs of research and to assist in future growth. The Joint Research Engagement is a companion reform involving the revision of the IGS funding formula, and potentially removing competitive research grant income from the calculations in 2010 and rewarding universities which diversify their sources of research income. It is anticipated that ERA

data will be used as a major financial lever, impacting on universities for the Sustainable Research Excellence scheme.

The Executive Dean requested that the following observations from the most recent NHMRC round, which were first raised at a URC meeting earlier in the year, be brought to the Committee's attention:-

- The Faculty seems to be continuing to submit a significant number of proposals for large projects involving large multi-disciplinary teams seeking high funding levels. This has been a trend in recent years and appears to have contributed to the University's NHMRC income growth.
- Some of the proposals, particularly from researchers within the Robinson Institute, contain easy to digest track record and publication summaries which make the most of available bibliometric data. These could form very useful templates going forward.
- There were large numbers of applications submitted to the Branch well after the internal deadline and very close to the NHMRC submission date.
- If NHMRC were to adopt a stronger emphasis on compliance (like the ARC) researchers will need to be mindful of minimising the risk of applications being ruled ineligible on technical grounds. Starting applications earlier, getting internal School/Institute/Centre based reviews completed earlier and achieving greater compliance with internal submission deadlines are options for minimising these risks.

Mr Brennan spoke briefly on some new initiatives within Research Branch, including the following support for the DVC & VP(R):

- HERDC Research Income Project (with Financial Services)
- Research Prizes

In addition the Branch has also:

- Taken responsibility for Helpdesk Support and System Administration of ORBIT (ITS has also appointed staff specifically to provide technical support to the ORBIT system)
- Ethics
  - Animal Ethics Web Form Amendments
  - New Bio-compliance (OGTR & Quarantine) System
- Publications
  - Single Point of Entry Project (with ERA, Library & CRS Teams)
  - Improved author matching on downloaded bibliographic data
  - Increased 'trawling' of other bibliographic databases.

In closing the Committee was advised that Stacey Williams continues in her role as Acting Senior Research Grants Officer for Health Sciences grants until Vada Osborn returns in late December. Tracy Kearslake has recently been appointed as Acting Research Grants Officer and will assist Stacey in disseminating the outcomes of the 2009 NHMRC grant round for funding in 2010.

#### 4. **ORBIT PRESENTATION**

Glen Harrison, Manager of the Corporate Research Systems Project (CRSP), updated the Committee on the Operational Research Business Information Tool (ORBIT) project and on potential future developments.

Two main objectives of ORBIT are:

- i) to enable the efficient and effective compliance with external reporting obligations (ERA) and
  - ii) to facilitate the operational management of research activities using quality integrated data.
- Currently live are the Student Profiles, Project Reporting and Researcher Profiles components with proposed developments to include Group Project Reporting, HDR application/scholarship and Bio Compliance.

The presentation can be accessed on the Faculty research website at:

[http://health.adelaide.edu.au/research/publications/ORBIT\\_Aug2009.pdf](http://health.adelaide.edu.au/research/publications/ORBIT_Aug2009.pdf)

The URL (available from anywhere with an internet connection) is: <https://orbit.adelaide.edu.au>

Assistance with ORBIT is available at: [orbit@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:orbit@adelaide.edu.au) or telephone: 8303 0391.

The Help Desk will act as a conduit back to the source to arrange any required revisions to data.

For specific enquiries (e.g. the capacity of the system to track the funding sources for students who are not funded by scholarships; or the possibility of identifying research-only staff employed on other people's grants) the Committee was encouraged to contact Graham Feltham (Business Analyst) directly.

The Committee was advised that the ORBIT team is willing to run demonstrations or to present to groups.

## 5. REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN (RESEARCH)

### 5.1 University Research Committee (URC)

#### 5.1.1 URC Meeting—Update

- Comment has been invited on the Outside Research Grants, Contracts and Consultancies Policy displayed on the website at: [www.adelaide.edu.au/rb/resources/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/rb/resources/). The streamlining of the Policy will be discussed further at upcoming University Research Committee meetings
- Whilst 2008 HERDC publication numbers increased there was actually a 1% decrease in the weighted points. The use of ERA journal categories will enable the Faculty to track quality as well as quantity of publications.
- Research income 2007-2008 increased by 25% to \$145m; the largest increase of any Go8 university with the exception of the ANU.

#### 5.1.2 Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA)—Update

Current information from the ARC indicates that the final ERA Submission guidelines for 2010 will not be released until reporting for the two (2) trial cluster submissions is completed in November 2009. Critical factors, such as eligibility of academics and final journal rankings will not therefore be available until the end of 2009.

The ARC is currently accepting new journals to be added to the ERA Journal list. Whilst there is no clear definition for a 'new journal,' Professor Somogyi suggests within the last two (2) years. The completed ERA New Journal Form should be sent directly to: [era@arc.gov.au](mailto:era@arc.gov.au). The University will have a two week window in which to respond in September once the ERA Journal list is released for feedback.

Professor Somogyi reported that the ARC is currently accepting self-nominations from academics interested in participating in the expert review process. To be eligible, an academic must be a leader in his/her discipline and be in a position to provide a confidential, expert review of relevant journal list. To participate, interested academics should email Lauren Johnston ([lauren.johnston@arc.gov.au](mailto:lauren.johnston@arc.gov.au)) and indicate the FoR(s) they are able to review.

#### 5.1.3 Faculty Research Forum

A date has been scheduled for the Faculty Research Forum on Tuesday 29 September (venue to be confirmed). The planning day, to be facilitated by an external person from Melbourne, will be attended by around 30 people (comprising FHS Heads/Dean of Schools or a nominee plus a selection of Research Committee members and Clinical & Affiliate Titleholders.)

**Action:** Research Executive

### 5.2 NHMRC/ARC

#### 5.2.1 CCRE Outcome

Professor Somogyi congratulated Professor Mark Bartold who was awarded a grant of \$2.4m over five years by the NHMRC to establish the CCRE for Oral Health.

The Centres of Research Excellence (CRE) scheme replaces the Centres for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) scheme. Applications have been invited from teams of researchers to pursue innovative, high quality collaborative research activities in the following priority areas: **Clinical Research; Research into Asbestos Related Diseases; Population Health Research; Electromagnetic Energy Research and Health Services Research.**

Professor Somogyi would appreciate advice on any proposed CRE applications involving Faculty researchers. The internal closing date for applications is 18 September 2009.

For full details refer: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/cre/index.htm>

**Action:** Research Committee

#### 5.2.2 2010 ARC Future Fellowships

Notifications of Intent for ARC Future Fellowships are due in Research Branch by 14 September 2009.

### 5.3 Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research

A link to the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research is located on the Faculty research website at: <http://health.adelaide.edu.au/research/committee/plan/>. The Dean, Graduate Studies will focus on The Code at the October Research Committee meeting, which will also be attended by the DVC & VP(R).

### 5.4 Northern Communities Health Foundation—Update Visiting Professorship 2009-2010

The NCHF 2009 Visiting Professor, Stephan Roessner (Professor in Health Related Behavioural Science, Karolinska Institute, Sweden) will deliver a Public Lecture during his visit to Adelaide, 1 to 10 November 2009. The dates of the 2010 Visiting Professor, Ian Gilmore (President of the Royal College of Physicians) are yet to be determined but will be aligned to the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Medical School.

## 6. REPORT FROM THE HIGHER DEGREES COMMITTEE (HDC)

### 6.1 HDR Recruitment

The RTS Loads and Targets Reports as at 3 August 2009 were pre-circulated for consideration.

#### 6.1.1 Postgraduate Information Night

Approximately 550 students university-wide pre-registered their attendance at the Postgraduate Information Night held in the Union Building on 31 July 2009. The Chair, HDC reported that the mix of enquirers (Honours, Research degrees and Coursework) presented an opportunity for the Committee to consider how best to target prospective student interests in future.

**Action:** HDC

The Information Night presentation by the Chair, HDC can be accessed on the FHS research website at: [http://health.adelaide.edu.au/research/publications/PG\\_info\\_night\\_2009.pdf](http://health.adelaide.edu.au/research/publications/PG_info_night_2009.pdf)

Evaluation forms completed at the event by students interested in studying in the Health Sciences (>40) will be forwarded to School PGCs for follow-up.

**Action:** Research Secretariat

#### 6.1.2 Meetings with Faculty PGCs

The Committee was advised that the Chair, HDC and the Manager, Research Secretariat have almost completed a series of meetings with School and Discipline Postgraduate Coordinators faculty-wide on a range of issues relating to:

- i) the recruitment and support of HDR students and
- ii) ways to attract international students.

A Report will be made available at the conclusion of the PGC meetings.

### 6.2 HDR Completions

The Faculty 2009 Completions Report as at 3 August 2009 was pre-circulated to the Committee for information. A breakdown by School of potential and actual 2009 completions and submissions as a percentage of the total predicted 2009 completions was tabled for the Committee's information. Clearly the Faculty will not perform as well as predicted; in part due to an overestimate based in some cases on expected submission rather than completion dates.

Associate Professor Braunack-Mayer undertook to discuss with the Executive Dean the impact of HDRs currently enrolled in the Discipline of Physiology moving across to the Health Sciences from January 2010.

**Action:** Assoc Professor Braunack-Mayer

## 7. REPORT FROM THE GRANTS & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (GPC)

### 7.1 New Appointment Funding—Outcomes

Eight applications were submitted for review in the recent round of Faculty New Appointment Funding. Following are the decisions for the award of New Appointment Funding as endorsed by the Committee:-

<b>Name</b>	<b>School/Discipline/Institute/Centre</b>	<b>Funding awarded</b>
Dr Felicity Ng	MEDICINE/ Psychiatry Health, Disability & Lifespan Development Research Unit & Healthy Ageing Research Cluster	<b>\$10,000</b>
Dr Lor Wai Tan	MEDICINE/ ENT Surgery, TQEH Basil Hetzel Research Institute	<b>\$15,000</b>
Professor Campbell Thompson	MEDICINE New clinical efficacy and health services research centre	<b>\$11,000</b>
Assoc Professor Bob Solomon	MEDICINE/ Orthopaedics & Trauma	<b>\$10,000</b>
Assoc Professor Tony Pohl	MEDICINE/ Orthopaedics & Trauma	<b>\$10,000</b>
Dr Michael Stark	PAEDIATRICS & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH/ Robinson Institute- Centre for Early Origins of Adult Health	<b>\$15,000</b>
Dr Nicolette Hodyl	PAEDIATRICS & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH/ Obstetrics & Gynaecology Robinson Institute	<b>\$15,000</b>
Dr Annette Osei- Kumah	PAEDIATRICS & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH/ Obstetrics & Gynaecology Robinson Institute/ RCRH	<b>\$14,000</b>

TOTAL **\$100,000**

### 7.2 Faculty International Travel Award (FICA)

Applications are now invited for the first round of the new, more competitive Faculty International Conference Awards (FICAs) which on 27 July 2009 replaced the Overseas Conference Scheme. FICA applications are due in the FHS Research Secretariat by **31 March** and **30 September** in any given year and will be reviewed by the Committee during April and October, respectively. The new FICA guidelines (and application form) are available on the Faculty research website at: <http://health.adelaide.edu.au/research/special/>.

**Action:** Research Secretariat

### 7.3 Honours Scholarship—Outcome Jemima Lendrum Scholarship

Five (5) applications were submitted for the Jemima Lendrum Honours Scholarship for cancer research. The recommendation for endorsement by the Committee is that the scholarship of **\$750** be offered to Miss Kathleen Pishas, Breast Cancer Genetics Group, School of Medicine.

### 7.4 Postgraduate Travelling Fellowship, Round 2 2009

Applications have been invited in the second round of 2009 Faculty Postgraduate Travelling Fellowships. The closing date for applications from senior Faculty HDR students is **1 September 2009** (for travel 1 October 2009 to 28 February 2010). Students need to be presenting at an international conference and visiting an academic institution for the purposes indicated in the guidelines at: <http://health.adelaide.edu.au/research/grants/>.

For the first time since the PGTF scheme was introduced in 1999, higher degree students engaged in health science research in the Faculty of Sciences will be ineligible to apply for a FHS Postgraduate Travelling Fellowship (PGTF), with the exception of eligible HDRs enrolled in the Discipline of Physiology. Due to the economic downturn there is no Endowment Fund Income available to financially support the postgraduate travelling fellowship scheme in round 2, 2009. Funding for this scheme will be sourced from Faculty-specific DVC & VP(R) Institutional Grants Scheme (IGS) funds.

**Action:** Research Secretariat

### 7.5 Commercial Development Grants—Update

Eight (8) applications were received in the recent round of Commercial Development Grants to assist the development of new contract research and industry collaborations. Following are the decisions as endorsed by the Committee for the award of Commercial Development Grants:-

Name	Discipline	Project	Amount awarded
Dr Mark Hutchinson	Pharmacology	Glial cell preclinical drug development model	<b>\$48,000</b>
Assoc Prof Dino Pisaniello	Public Health	GC-mass spectrometer for OEHLaboratory	<b>\$50,000</b>
Professor Paul Rolan	Pharmacology	Capability building of the ARI business unit Pain & Anaesthesia Research Clinic (PARC) - Purchase of a 'NeuroCrat2' machine to enhance its capabilities in the area of neuro-psychopharmacology	<b>\$35,000</b>
Assoc Prof Jeremy Thompson & Dr Rob Gilchrist,	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	The Mouse embryo assay	<b>\$44,000</b>
Professor Jason White	Pharmacology	Drug Development Laboratory	<b>\$50,000</b>

TOTAL: **\$227,000**

**Action:** Research Secretariat

## 8. REPORT FROM THE RESEARCH FELLOW ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RFAC)

### 8.1 Faculty Fellows Survey—Update

Dr Pitcher confirmed that the Faculty Fellows Survey re: research fellow contribution to teaching/HDR supervision/administration in the FHS & SMBS is ready for circulation.

**Action:** Dr Pitcher

Arrangements for the analysis of data collected in the survey have yet to be determined.

**Action:** Professor Somogyi

Dr Pitcher reported that she will be shortly meeting with Associate Professor Christine Feinle-Bisset and Dr Mark Hutchinson who both attended the NHMRC Information Day in Canberra. She will report at the next meeting on their visit; and specifically on changes to the Research Fellowship scheme.

**Action:** Dr Pitcher

### 8.2 ASMR Professional Development Day

Up to 20 free registrations are on offer to early to mid career researchers faculty-wide interested in attending the ASMR Professional Development Day on 19 August at Melbourne Rydges Hotel. Contact: [christiane.niess@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:christiane.niess@adelaide.edu.au) by CoB on 11 August with details (e.g. name/ position/ School or Discipline/ASMR member or not/email address). Three expressions of interest have been submitted to date with another five in train.

Dr Pitcher recommended that for future years the Faculty may consider budgeting for up to 5 early to mid career researchers to attend the ASMR Professional Development Day with all costs paid.

**Action:** Research Executive

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further items of business were raised.

## 10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for **2 October 2009** from 8.00 am to 9.00 am in the Felix Bochner Meeting Room (Rm 519, Level 5, Medical School North). The DVC & VP(R) and the Dean, Graduate Studies are both attending for the first part of the meeting.

The following meeting dates have been scheduled for the remainder of 2009:-

2 October

4 December

-----  
**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY: NO DISCUSSION REQUIRED UNLESS REQUESTED**

**11. OTHER MEETINGS attended by the Assoc Dean (Research):-**

<p>June</p> <p>9: Exec Dean</p> <p>10: ADsR meeting</p> <p>15: URC; BHI Research Strategy</p> <p>17: RAH/IMVS Research Committee</p> <p>22: Simon Brennan</p> <p>29: ADsR meeting</p>	<p>July</p> <p>2: BHI Policy Committee</p> <p>3: Faculty Executive</p> <p>13: URC</p> <p>17: Faculty Executive</p> <p>27: Research Australia; NCRIS</p> <p>28: Research Executive</p>
---	---

**12. REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR NOTING**

**12.1 School Research Committee Reports**

School of Dentistry (18 June) and School of Psychology (11 May)

PROFESSOR A SOMOGYI  
 Chair, Faculty Research Committee

<b>Actions: Research Committee Meeting 7 August 2009</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To discuss with Research Exec 2008 Research Prizes for award in 2009;</li> <li>• To discuss with the Chair, RFAC strategies to improve the CDA success rate &amp; retention of ECRs displaying potential;</li> <li>• To discuss arrangements for the analysis of the RFAC survey.</li> </ul>	<b>Andrew Somogyi</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To plan the Research Forum scheduled for 29 September;</li> <li>• To discuss the possibility of budgeting in 2010 for 5 fully-paid ECR to mid career researchers to attend ASMR Professional Development Day.</li> </ul>	<b>Research Executive</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advise Prof Somogyi of any proposed CRE applications.</li> </ul>	<b>Research Committee</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To discuss ways to target prospective student interests at future Information sessions (Honours/HDR/Coursework).</li> </ul>	<b>HDC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To discuss with the Executive Dean the impact of currently enrolled Physiology HDRs moving into the Faculty in 2010.</li> </ul>	<b>Assoc Prof Braunack-Mayer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To circulate the RFAC survey re: research fellow contribution to teaching/HDR supervision/admin in FHS &amp; SMBS;</li> <li>• To discuss the CDA success rate/retention of ECRs displaying potential with Prof Somogyi;</li> <li>• To meet with Dr Hutchinson &amp; Assoc Prof Feinle-Bisset on the NHMRC Information Day (specifically changes to the Research Fellowship scheme)</li> </ul>	<b>Dr Pitcher</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To include Research Prizes on the agenda for the next Research Exec meeting;</li> <li>• To forward Information Night Evaluation forms to SPGCs;</li> <li>• To advise applicants of the outcomes of the round of Commercial Development Grants;</li> <li>• To arrange the review and recommendation for the FICA and PGTF (Round 2) schemes;</li> <li>• To confirm the DVC &amp; VP(R) &amp; the Dean, Graduate Studies attendances at the October RC meeting;</li> <li>• To evaluate the Small Grant &amp; Research Fellowship schemes.</li> </ul>	<b>Research Secretariat</b>