

DEAN'S UPDATE

The Faculty of Pharmacy joined with other faculties of the university to recruit its 2008 cohort.

Staff and students of the Faculty participated in the annual *Sydney Uni LIVE!* the University's major annual recruitment fair, on Saturday 25 August.

Activities on the day included a prominent stand at the entrance to the Great Hall, tours of the Pharmacy Building, including some of our labs, and mini lectures given by Professor Jo-Anne Brien and Dr Lorraine Smith. I also had the opportunity to attend a lunch hosted by the Vice-Chancellor for Secondary School Principals

from Victoria, Queensland and selected local schools. The Faculty's events ran very smoothly under the coordination of our dedicated organiser Bronwyn Evans, and prospective students left with a good understanding of the courses and research undertaken in our Faculty.

I would like to thank all staff and students who volunteered to give up part of their weekend to make this event a great success. We look forward to reaping the rewards in the 2008 undergraduate and post graduate enrolments.

In August, I also participated in the University's Triennium events in Malaysia and visited the University

of Malaya and the International Medical University. I took the opportunity to meet with the Pharmacy Board of Malaysia as the Faculty continues to attract international students from Malaysia.

**Professor Iqbal Ramzan,
Dean**

CONTENTS

- Dean's Update
- Up Coming Seminars
- Pharmacy Student Profile
- Events
- PPF Welcome
- APSA Conference 2007
- Pharmacy Staff Profile
- Developing Indigenous Profile

Up Coming Seminars

The Faculty's Seminar Program has continued its success in 2007. Seminars planned for September include:

6 September

Mr Noeris Salam
Applications of Computer-aided Drug Discovery

13 September

Dr Lorraine Smith
Issues of Patient Self-management of Chronic Illness

20 September

Mr Ganson Govender
Innovative Techniques to increase organ viability before in liver transplantation



Above: Tess Webster and Dr Daniela Traini discuss Pharmacy course options with prospective students; Below: The Pharmacy stand at Sydney Uni LIVE! attracted eager school leavers



FACULTY STUDENT PROFILE

Zainab Kaabi

Year 1 Bachelor of Pharmacy

Zainab Kaabi's path to the Faculty of Pharmacy was not as straightforward as that of most of our students. In early 2000, she arrived in Australia with her family, seeking asylum. After 6 months at the Woomera Detention Centre, she was granted a temporary protection visa, moved to Sydney and recommenced her schooling. This was not small feat for Zainab, who had only learned limited English grammar in school in Iran, but it was not a challenge that would defeat her. Following intensive English lessons and dedication to her other studies, Zainab placed equal third in Year 11 in all her subjects.

When she turned 18, Australian government funding ceased to be available to her according to the terms of her temporary visa, and Zainab faced the real possibility that she would have to leave school and find work to help support her family. However, with the support of her school principal, a trust fund,

The Friends of Zainab, was set up to help fund her ongoing education.

"It makes you realise that there is always hope and that you should never give up fighting for what you really desire," says Zainab. "I was the first student to receive help from the fund. I am forever grateful to my principal for her help and support. The fund has helped many more refugee students with their tertiary education and it is still currently supporting me with my pharmacy degree."

With the support of *Friends of Zainab*, she entered Macquarie University after school and completed a Bachelor of Medical Sciences in 2006. Zainab then successfully applied for the Bachelor of Pharmacy at The University of Sydney. "I enjoy studying the different sorts of medicine that currently exist and the future possible improvement of different types of medicine. Pharmacy is another way of helping those who are in need and I love the fact that my enjoyment of learning pharmaceutical related



Zainab Kaabi, looking forward to a career in Pharmacy

topics can benefit others as well."

Zainab has also had the support of her family to continue her studies and establish a career. "It is their dream as much as mine to see me happy and achieve good education. It is also my dream to make my parents happy by giving my full ability to any opportunities that are presented before me. This is one of the ways to pay back all their hard work."

Now an Australian citizen, Zainab is looking forward to her working life as a community pharmacist but says her ultimate goal is to become a hospital pharmacist. "I think Pharmacy can offer me a great future as it is my passion to learn new medical findings and help others who are in need."

faculties postgraduate information evening from 4.30pm – 7.00pm. Watch out for brochures to be distributed to our final year undergraduate students.

APSA Annual Conference 8-11 December 2007

Entitled Medicines from Design to Delivery, and held at Manly. For more information see page 3.

NAPSA Congress January 2008

For more information see the www.napsacongress.org.au

EVENTS

Faculty General Staff Retreat

24 September 2007

Technical and Administrative staff will attend a planning retreat on Monday 24 September. This is a full day event, so these staff will not be available in the Faculty that day.

Faculty Forum

25 September 2007

12.00 – 2.00pm

Presentation by Taksil Dias and Rebecca Murray, Professional Services Unit, Sydnovate.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how Sydnovate can facilitate

agreements for the provision of services outside the University.

Postgraduate Conference

26 September 2007

The next Faculty of Pharmacy Postgraduate Conference will be held from 9.30am – 4.00pm in the Pharmacy Lecture Theatre. All staff are welcome to attend.

Health Postgraduate Information Evening 10 October 2007

As part of the University's Postgraduate Week, the Faculty will participate in a health sciences

PPF WELCOME

Professor Lesley White was formally welcomed to the Johnson & Johnson – Pharmacy Practice Foundation Chair of Pharmacy Management on 13 August, with a cocktail reception hosted by Warwick Plunkett, President of the Pharmacy Practice Foundation.

The importance of the introduction of pharmacy management into the programs offered by the Faculty is clearly illustrated by considering that approximately 85% of graduates take up a career in retail pharmacy where additional business skills in areas such as accounting, marketing, management, human resources, change management and leadership are essential.

Retail pharmacy is an important component of Australia's essential healthcare infrastructure. It is

imperative that pharmacists are equipped with expertise to meet the challenges of today's increasingly competitive pharmacy business environment.

We are indeed fortunate to have Professor White's unique expertise in the areas of pharmacy, marketing, management and education, to ensure that the Faculty stays at the forefront of education in this

important area of pharmacy practice.

The Faculty thanks Professor Carol Armour for the pivotal role she played in the establishment of this Chair.

Professor Lesley White (third from right) is welcomed by (L to R) Max Johnston, Graham Perl, Sue Hogan, Warwick Plunkett, Professor Gavin Brown (VC) and Professor Iqbal Ramzan (Dean).



APSA CONFERENCE 2007

You are invited to attend the 2007 annual conference of the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA): Medicines from Design to Delivery - Manly, December 8-11, 2007.

The annual APSA conference brings together stakeholders in the broad areas of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. These include researchers, academics, pharmaceutical scientists and others from the private and public sector. The APSA conference will host 300 delegates from across Australia and New Zealand as well as high profile international speakers. It provides the perfect opportunity to interact with Australasian and International opinion leaders, and decision makers. Major plenary speakers this year are: Dr Dennis Smith, Pfizer UK; Prof Peter Byron, Virginia Commonwealth University

USA; Dr Kath Ryan, University of Bournemouth, UK and many more.

The 2007 conference will continue the successful pre-conference education forum and joint APSA-FIP workshop initiated in 2006. The Education Forum will be sponsored by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmacy Education Unit, and will be conducted in collaboration with the University of South Australia, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences. The Forum will focus on Pharmacy experiential placements within university programs, presenting the results of some national research and consultations that were conducted in 2007 with Carrick Institute funding. Workshop choices highlighting some effective strategies will be available. Future directions for this work will also be discussed, together with other ways in which to promote curriculum



collaboration across the Pharmacy schools.

High quality symposia covering the full breadth of Pharmacy science and practice will make this a highly rewarding experience.

More information can be found at: <http://www.apsaconference.info/>
Deadline for submission of abstract is 14th September.

Daniela Traini (co-convenor)
Jane Hanrahan (co-convenor)
Ross McKinnon (APSA President)

FACULTY STAFF PROFILE

Dr Lenka Munoz

MPharm, PharmD, PhD

Associate Lecturer, Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Dr Lenka Munoz joined the Faculty in May 2007, after relocating from Northwestern University in Chicago to take up a position as Associate Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. This is only the last in a number of international relocations for Lenka. Commencing her academic career with an undergraduate and master degrees in Slovakia, her country of birth, Lenka then spent 4 years in Germany where she completed her PhD. Then it was on to the United States before coming in Australia.

"The opportunity to teach at the leading Australian university and to establish my own research group

played a major part my decision to leave the challenging postdoctoral work I was involved with at the Northwestern University", says Lenka.

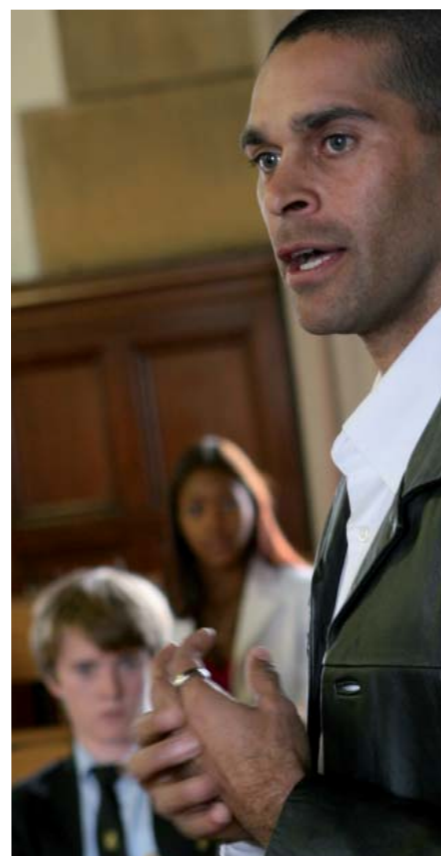
Much of Lenka's research is focused around the discovery of therapeutic agents for the treatment of neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's Disease. "I believe the development of novel treatments for such illnesses is of great importance at this time when such disorders plague our growing ageing population," she noted.

While at Northwestern, Lenka participated in the development and IND filing of Minozac, a new drug for treatment of neurodegenerative disorders, which is currently in the clinical development, entering Phase I clinical trials later this year.



It was not only to join the Faculty that Lenka relocated to Sydney. She says while she has lived in some very special places, the good quality of life that Australia offers, is hard to better. It is also her husband Alex's home and being here gives them an opportunity to live close to some of their family. Family is increasingly important to Lenka as she prepares for the birth of her first child in November.

David Peachy addresses student, parents and teachers as part of the Indigenous school students visit



DEVELOPING OUR INDIGENOUS PROFILE

The Faculty of Pharmacy has been working with the Office of the Acting Deputy Provost (Teaching and Learning), to attract Indigenous school leavers to consider a career in pharmacy.

The University recently hosted and sponsored a visit to the Camperdown Campus of about 30 Indigenous students, who are enrolled in 18 metropolitan schools. The Sydney Catholic Education Office has been working with tertiary and vocational education organisations to develop partnerships with the goal of improving the retention of indigenous school students beyond Year 10 and to assist them in setting career goals.

Dr Jane Hanrahan and Dr Heba Abdul Halim represented the Faculty at this event giving lectures

on pharmacy and our programs.

Souths footballer David Peachy also attended, providing an inspirational talk on setting and achieving goals.

According to Leona Oliver at Yoorang Gurang Discipline of Indigenous Health Studies, the day was very successful, with students in Years 10–12 participating. Parents and teachers also in attendance received a taste of campus life, and gained information on support and mentoring services available to indigenous students. They also had an opportunity to learn more about careers in health sciences. Leona reported that some students acknowledged a strong interest in pharmacy as a result of the day, when they had not previously considered this discipline for further study.