

FACULTY MANAGER'S UPDATE

In the Dean's absence this week, I am happy to report that Stage Two of the Faculty refurbishment is progressing well. The plans are currently out to tender and work is expected to begin in July.

This stage involves the creation of accommodation for academic staff and research students on levels 3 and 4 of the Badham building and facilities for research students, including a dedicated common room. In addition, there will be refurbishment of the research areas on level 2 of the Bank Building, including the development of shared research facilities.

Over the past few weeks we have launched a poster campaign to help ensure compliance with university OH&S regulations in all laboratories. All staff and students entering a laboratory must wear closed shoes, a buttoned-up lab coat, and safety glasses. Gloves and lab coats must be removed when leaving labs.

This campaign is aimed at ensuring the safety of all students and staff within the Faculty, so I ask for your commitment and support to help ensure full compliance. Many thanks!

Carroll Graham, Faculty Manager

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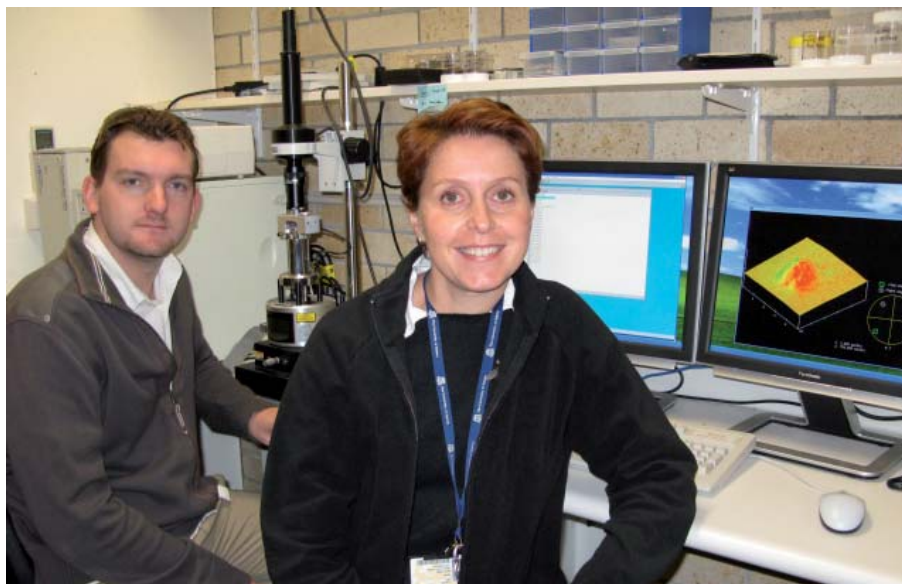
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ADVANCED DRUG DELIVERY TEAM GRANT SUCCESS

Members of the Advance Drug Delivery Group within the Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr Paul Young, Dr Hak-Kim Chan and Dr Daniela Traini have received \$333,000 as an ARC Linkage Project grant. In addition to this amount, their Partner Organisation, Pharmaxis, will contribute \$125,000 to their research project.

The Group will use these funds over the next three years to develop a high dose delivery device and a medication that has the potential to transform the treatment of two critical respiratory diseases: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cystic fibrosis (CF). The financial burdens of COPD and CF come to at least \$900 million a year in Australia alone.

Respirable mannitol powder has been shown to offer a potential breakthrough in therapy but, to use



Dr Paul Young and Dr Daniela Traini

it to treat patients, a reliable delivery of high quantities of the agent must be designed and engineered. This is the aim of the group, along with the development of a significantly improved form of mannitol powder, which has the potential to become a powerful therapeutic agent for the treatment of COPD and CF.

This project will position Australia to become one of the world leaders in the treatment of COPD, CF and other chronic respiratory diseases.

FACULTY RESEARCH PROFILE

Dr Yashwant Sinha "Medicines in children: clinical trials, ethics and access"

Research currently underway at the Faculty of Pharmacy by PhD student Dr Yashwant Sinha will help to provide guidelines for the topical issue of prescribing medication to children. The importance of such research has been illustrated by the recent media coverage of community concerns in relation to the prescription of stimulant drugs used to treat behavioural disorders in children.

80% of all drugs currently used in the treatment of children have **not** been tested for safety and efficacy specifically in the treatment of the young. Rather, the results of adult studies are used to extrapolate likely findings in relation to the paediatric population.

Dr Sinha's thesis, "Medicines in children: clinical trials, ethics and



access", will identify and analyse current issues in the availability of evidence based medicine for children. This thesis will include an analysis of the current processes by which drugs are tested in clinical trials and how these data are used in decision making regarding access for clinical use. The research will contribute to current knowledge

in this area, and be used to inform policy decisions regarding availability and funding of drug use in the treatment of children. This research is supported by a NHMRC post-graduate scholarship, under the supervision of Professor Joanne Brien (Pharmacy) and A/Prof Jonathan Craig (Public Health).

YOUNG TALL POPPIES VISIT DUBBO

The Faculty's own Young Tall Poppy, Dr Alaina Ammit, was out in the field recently to promote science to rural school students.

The Young Tall Poppy awards are presented by the Australian Institute of Policy and Science to Australia's most prominent young scientists.

To encourage school students to consider the 'possibilities of science' Dr Ammit and two other Young Tall Poppy scientists recently visited Dubbo College Senior Campus to present their research to the students and to demonstrate the diverse range of opportunities available to them within the scientific and research spheres of Australia.



Dr Alaina Ammit

Dr Ammit's research focuses on understanding how lungs get inflamed, at a cellular level. This has implications for the treatment of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Her fellow

scientists, Dr Douglas Aberdeen and Dr Geraldine O'Neill presented their work on Artificial Intelligence and understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying hard-to-treat cancers, respectively.

Dr Ammit comments "It's very rewarding to be involved in this initiative and to have the chance to talk to students about some of the opportunities available to them. Science interests me because I am constantly learning and discovering by performing research in an area that will ultimately help human health. I hope that by visiting Dubbo we were able to encourage some of the students to consider a career in science."

PSA'S PHARMACY STUDENT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

On the evening of 3 May, four final-year University of Sydney Pharmacy students competed in the annual counselling competition.

Two over-the-counter scenarios were provided by the Pharmaceutical Society, and each of the four finalists was asked to counsel two patients. One of the scenarios involved "the morning after pill" and the other involved the weight loss product Xenical®.

Many thanks go to post-graduate students Glenna Ellitt and Kristy Hatherly, who were superb patients.

The four finalists were: Lina Ung, Duncan Pickup, Kate O'Hara and Brady Haskell. All students showed excellent counselling skills but Duncan Pickup proved to be the best. Duncan will now compete against other NSW University finalists at the upcoming pharmacy Expo (15-17 June). The Faculty wishes him the very best of luck.

Dr Rebekah Moles,
Associate Lecturer,
Pharmacy Practice



(R) Duncan Pickup - University of Sydney representative in the PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year competition



NEWS IN BRIEF

For Women in Science - new Australian prize. L'Oreal Australia is now calling for applications for the inaugural "For Women in Science Fellowships." For further information please contact Megan Ryan at mryan@au.loreal.com.

Congratulations to Heba Abdel Halim, Navi Gavande and Azedeh Martin on being the recipients of top-up scholarships funded by the John A. Lamberton bequest.

The John A Lamberton Research Scholarships were established in 2004 by donations totalling \$1,000,000 from the widow

of John A. Lamberton. The Scholarships provide financial support for postgraduate scholars of exceptional ability who are working towards higher degrees at the University of Sydney in areas emanating from and inspired by the work of Dr John A. Lamberton or in the area of science aimed at chemical understanding of brain function and malfunction.

Kathryn Bartimote-Aufflick has been elected to the Executive of HERDSA (Higher Educational Research and Development Society of Australasia) for a term of 2 years.

SUPA UPDATE

SUPA has had a very busy month with a lot of activities. These included a harbour cruise, which was well attended, a Careers Night which was held in conjunction with the Young Pharmacists, PSA, with speakers from the spheres of community, hospital, rural and industrial pharmacy, and a trivia night which was held 30 May.

Coming up, the Annual General Meeting will be held on 5 June, at which time outgoing president Kim Tran will hand over the reins to Meredith Kennedy.

The Faculty extends very sincere thanks to Kim and the SUPA team for all their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication over the past year.

Dr George Li has been appointed in the position of Sesqui Lecturer in Herbal Medicines

Professor Jo-anne Brien will be presenting at a Careers Night at North Sydney Girls High School on entry into the Bachelor of Pharmacy course, and career opportunities within the pharmaceutical industry.

A Rural Health evening was held during May which was attended by students as well as industry representatives. **Dr Sue Taylor** represented the Faculty.



Outgoing SUPA President, Kim Tran

FACULTY STAFF PROFILE



Professor Lesley White

BPharm, MCom, MEd, PhD

Professor of Pharmacy Management

Dr Lesley White has recently joined the Faculty of Pharmacy as Professor of Pharmacy Management.

Previously, Lesley taught Marketing Management and Services Marketing as an Associate Professor at the MGSM. She has held a number of senior administrative academic roles over the past 10 years including Head of Department, Director of Academic Programs and Discipline Convenor.

Her research interests include Services Marketing, relationship management, professional services marketing and social marketing focusing on childhood obesity.

Prior to embarking on her academic career, Lesley had an extensive and varied career in marketing managerial roles.

Lesley has three children, including a son who has also recently joined The University of Sydney, as an undergraduate science student.

NEW RESEARCH STUDENTS - 2007

PhD students who have joined the Faculty since the beginning of 2007:

Santoso Adi, "Effect of design on the performance of a dry powder inhaler using computational and experimental analysis." (Prof. Hak-Kim Chan)

Sally Bath, "Quality use of analgesics in elderly patients." (Prof. Andrew McLachlan)

Navnath Gavande, "Design, synthesis, and pharmacology of novel GABAc receptor antagonists: inhibitors of myopia progression." (A/Prof. Mary Collins)

Liz Gill, "A proposed model for measuring service quality in public health sector" (Prof. Lesley White)

Susan Hoe, "Theoretical modelling of particulate interactions and aerosol performance in non-aqueous propellant systems." (Dr. Paul Young)

Hye Lim Kim, "GABAc antagonists in memory." (A/Prof. Mary Collins)

Azadeh Matin, "Role of the kynurenine pathway in aetiology of Alzheimer's disease." (Dr David Hibbs)

Naveed Nadvi, "Use of structural biology and bioinformatics for drug lead identification and lead optimization." (Dr Bret Church)

Michelle Ng, "Synthesis, characterisation and biological evaluation of oxylipins derived from polyunsaturated fatty acids." (Dr Colin Duke)

Prasad Nishtala, "Psychotropic drug use in Sydney nursing homes." (Dr. Tim Chen)

Catherine Rickwood, "Retirement: feast or famine?: Factors associated with retirement planning." (Prof. Lesley White)

Lan Chi Snell, "Marketing in professional services: a cross-sectional exploration into the application of internal marketing." (Prof. Lesley White)

Raymond Welling, "The relationship between market orientation and business performance as it applies to e-business initiatives." (Prof. Lesley White)

Venkata Yanamandram, "A model of retention of dissatisfied business services customers." (Prof. Lesley White)

M.Phil students who have joined the Faculty since the beginning of 2007:

Rosalind Dey, "Asthma triggered by reflux target teenagers." (Dr Sinthia Bosnic-Anticevich)

Sherry Dhaliwal, "Identification and characterisation of endothelial progenitor cells in peripheral blood of multiple myeloma patients." (Dr Daniel Sze)

Fadwa El Samman, "Medicine information needs of older Arabic-speaking Australians." (Dr Parisa Aslani)

Silvana Gittani, "The prospective study of medication management across the continuum of care in older people." (Prof. Andrew McLachlan)

Hanni Puspitasari, "Development, implementation and evaluation of a health promotion and screening service in community pharmacy." (A/Prof. Ines Krass)

Karunasri Vanapalli, "Airway smooth muscle induced mast cell migration in asthma." (Dr Margaret Hughes)

Zhe Yang Xu, "Regulation of renal lipid metabolism by pomegranate flower in animal model of type two diabetes." (Prof. Basil Roufogalis)