



## DEAN'S UPDATE



Over 100 Pharmacy alumni visited the Faculty this month. The University's Spring Back to Sydney Alumni event saw graduates from the decades ending in 8 (1968, 1978, 1988 and 1998) visit the campus. It was good to see so many faces and to meet people who remain passionate about practicing in pharmacy. People traveled from as far as Melbourne to meet with former colleagues and revisit the Faculty. Particularly pleasing for me was to see so many alumni from the class of 1978, especially Rosemary Sparks who organised my alumni that I taught while I was a Tutor in 1978.

I would like to express my gratitude to Ross Brown, President of the Pharmacy Alumni Association, and Sue Brown and Laurice Jones for organising a successful *Materia Medica* reunion. Over 70 graduates from the class of 1958 revisited the Faculty. The Vice-Chancellor addressed the group at the luncheon and thanked them for their continued support.

During the month I attended the Faculties of Health Biennial

Conference, which was a wonderful opportunity for research staff and students from the University's health faculties to meet and share their knowledge. Congratulations also go to Kristy Hatherly and Debbie Bassett-Clarke for their outstanding prize winning poster presentations.

Parliament House, Canberra was used to host the Pharmacy Guild's annual dinner. Those present had the opportunity to meet members of the National Council of the Guild, Health Minister Nicola Roxon and Guild National President, Kos Sclavos. I was pleased to be invited so that the Faculty was represented at this important annual event. Congratulations to Andrew Gullotta who received the 2008 Pharmacy Guild National President's award.

The University's Great Hall housed the Pharmacy Practice Foundation (PPF) governor's Dinner. Warwick Plunkett, Chairman and Foundation President, presented three Pharmacy Practice Medals of Excellence and the Honorable Dr Craig Emerson MP was the keynote speaker for the evening. The Merck Sharp and Dohme (Australia) Medal of Excellence in Pharmacy Practice was awarded to Frank Payne. Albert Regoli was presented with the Sanofi-aventis Medal of Excellence in Pharmacy Practice. The Pharmacy Practice Foundation Industry Medal of Excellence was awarded to Will Delaat.

I attended a dinner held by Medicines Australia in Canberra this month. Ms Jane Halton, PSM and Secretary of the Department

of Health and Ageing, was the key speaker for the evening, delivering a very interesting talk about the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, celebrating its 60th year of existence.

Finally, I would like to congratulate PhD student Aaron Tan. Aaron was presented with a 2008 Australian Agricultural Industries Young Innovators and Scientists Award. He will be involved with research which investigates how molecular compounds found in Australian fruits can prevent, suppress or reverse cancer growth.

**Professor Iqbal Ramzan**  
Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy

## Faculty of Pharmacy

### Newsletter November 2008

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## NHMRC RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS

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Congratulations to all research academics in the Faculty who were successful in the latest NHMRC grant rounds.

### Grants with Faculty researchers as the first-named investigator

Dr Alaina J Ammit  
Dr David E Hibbs  
MKP-1 as a novel anti-inflammatory strategy in asthma  
\$442,250

Professor Andrew J McLachlan  
Dr Vasi Naganathan  
Prof David G Le Couteur  
Dr Sarah N Hilmer  
Associate Professor Stephen J Gibson  
Pain control in older people  
\$393,750

Professor Michael Murray  
Fatty acid metabolites that protect or kill cells  
\$476,250

### Grants with collaborators

\*Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sydney

Associate Professor Katrina L Schmid  
Associate Professor Mary Collins\* (Chebib)  
Dr Jane R Hanrahan\*  
GABAergic mechanisms in eye growth  
\$305,850

Associate Professor Jane Latimer  
Professor Christopher G Maher  
Professor Andrew J McLachlan\*  
Dr Chris W Cooper  
Mr Mark J Hancock

The first placebo-controlled trial of paracetamol for back pain.  
\$602,625

Professor Susan M Sawyer  
Professor Timothy P Usherwood  
Associate Professor Helen K Reddel  
Dr Lorraine D Smith\*  
Optimising medication adherence in general practice  
\$443,433

Dr Alaina Ammit, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation says "we all know how much effort it is to put in a grant to these highly competitive schemes, so your hard work is really appreciated. The success rate for our Faculty was above the national average of ~ 25%, so this is good news for the growth of the Faculty".

## BRIDGING-SUPPORT GRANTS

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Congratulations to the recipients of the University of Sydney Bridging Support Grants 2009.

Dr Mary Bebawy  
Microparticle Mediated Transfer of P-glycoprotein in Conferring Multidrug Resistance in Cancer  
\$50,000.00

Associate Professor Mary Collins  
Structure and dynamics of the

GABA-C ligand-binding domain  
\$15,000.00

Dr Daniela Traini  
Direct Measurements of Interparticulate Forces and Colloidal Stability in Pressurised Systems  
\$20,000.00

Dr Paul Young  
Micro-particle agglomerate

formation, fluidisation, break-up and dispersion in aerosol systems  
\$50,000.00

Bridging support grants are provided by the University to applicants who are first named on an ARC Discovery or NHMRC project grant application submitted by the University of Sydney.

## FROM CELL TO SOCIETY IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

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The Biennial Faculties of Health Research Conference, *From Cell to Society*, was held in the Blue Mountains 11-12 November. It is the premier biennial gathering for researchers from Health Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing and their postgraduate research students at the University of Sydney.

Over 300 Masters and Doctoral students from the Faculties of Health attended and

presented their recent research findings. The conference also provided opportunities to showcase the top medical research from across the University. Dr Alaina Ammit, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation from the Faculty of Pharmacy was one of the co-chairs of the conference.

Congratulations to Kristy Hatherly, PhD student, who was awarded best poster prize in her section. Her poster was

titled: 'Impact of service delivery on young people with type 1 diabetes'.

Congratulations also go to Debbie Bassett-Clarke for her prize winning poster presentation "Exploring Ethnic Differences in Medicine Taking: A Cross-cultural Study in New Zealand".

Alaina says It was great to see so many Faculty of Pharmacy academics and students presenting their research".

## ALUMNI REUNITED AFTER 50 YEARS

The Faculty of Pharmacy welcomed over 100 alumni back to the Faculty for two alumni reunion events during November. Spring Back To Sydney, an event for all students who graduated in a year ending in 8, saw over 600 alumni visit the University and meet up with old friends and former colleagues in their faculties. Pharmacy alumni were treated to tours of the heritage buildings of the Faculty of Pharmacy given by students who are part of the Faculty's student group Sydney University Pharmacy Association.

Visitors were also shown the new refurbished areas and laboratories showcasing new world-class research equipment. Alumni were invited to attend the Dean's Afternoon Tea in the Pharmacy Common Room and some traveled from as far as Melbourne to join the festivities. Dean of Faculty, Professor Iqbal Ramzan, commented "particularly pleasing for me was to see so many alumni from the class of 1978, especially Rosemary Sparks who organised my alumni that I taught while I was a Tutor in 1978".

Within the same week the reunion for the Materia Medica Class of 1958 was also held. Over 70 guests and members of the Pharmacy Alumni Association met, some for the first time in 50 years, in the Faculty for a morning tea and Faculty tours before going on to celebrate over a luncheon in the University's Holme Building. Ross Brown, President of the Pharmacy Alumni Association, and Sue Brown and Laurice Jones spent many hours tracking down alumni friends and organising the event. Many commented how much the pharmacy buildings have changed and how much they



enjoyed the day. Above is Laurice Jones with a picture of the alumni in 1958, below are all the alumni with the Dean outside the Faculty.



## MEDAL-WINNING ADVANCED STUDENTS

The Advanced Students from the final year of the BPharm gave their final presentations over a two-day event. Students presented their research results from projects undertaken with Faculty academic research staff as part of the Honours component of their degree. First class honours have been awarded to 28 of the group. Congratulations to Suzanne Olding, Karen Cecilia Chan, Shiquin Peng and Mona Abdelnour who were all awarded University Medals. Dr Margaret Hughes, coordinator of the Advanced Students program says "this is the largest year group to date. the range of research projects is more diverse than ever before, a

reflection for the interests of the new academics who participate in this program. They have looked after the students so well. The students did very well and seemed to get a lot out of their Advanced experience".

In October an Information Evening for prospective Research Degree students was held for the Advanced Students to showcase the research projects on offer at Master and doctor of Philosophy level.



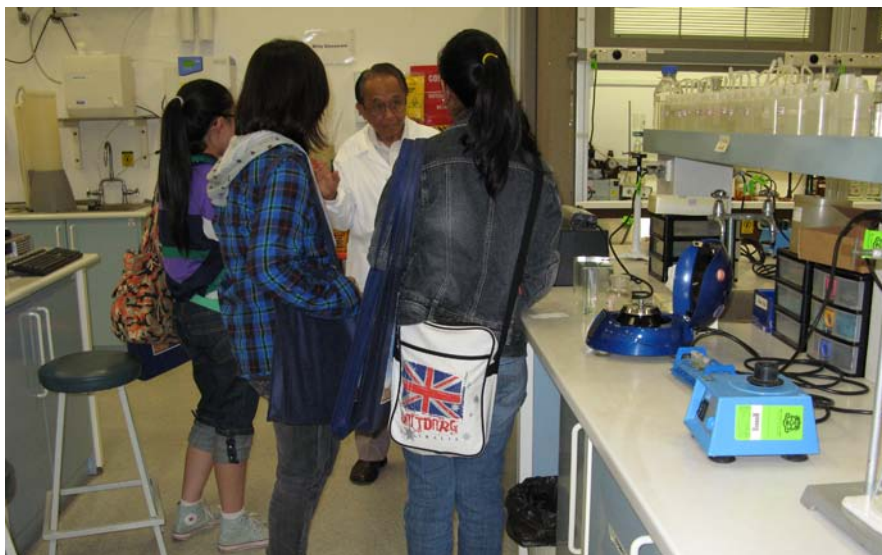
Jane Carland, a past PhD student of the Faculty and current research student Claire O'Reilly were guest speakers and spoke to the group about their experiences of studying a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy.

Claire says "I decided to do my PhD to broaden my career options as a pharmacist, develop good research and analytical skills and for the challenge that it gives you. It was great to be able to talk to those

that had done Advanced and to be able to provide them with insight into what it is really like to do a PhD, and what it can offer pharmacists in their career options".

## SCHOOL STUDENTS STUDY FOR A DEGREE IN A DAY

The Faculty hosted school student visitors from years 10 and 11 during the University's "Degree in a Day" event. The visitors were treated to three pharmacy workshops where they learnt about patient history and drug scenarios, analysis of paracetamol, and about quality control in drug manufacturing. Dr Jane Hanrahan and Professor Joanne Brien gave introductory talks to explain the courses on offer at the Faculty. Thanks to Romano Fois, Fred Wong, Jiamin You, Andrew Wood and Maung Maung Soe who facilitated the workshops.



## EXCELLENCE AWARDED AT PHARMACY FOUNDATION DINNER

In its 30th Anniversary year, the Pharmacy Practice Foundation within The University of Sydney held its annual Governors' Dinner on Tuesday, 18 November 2008 in the historic and elegant setting of the Great Hall at The University of Sydney. The keynote speaker was the Honourable Dr Craig Emerson, MP Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy, Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation.

Mr Warwick Plunkett, President of the Pharmacy Practice Foundation and President, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia thanked the Foundation's supporters including API who is the major sponsor of the Foundation. Mr Plunkett also thanked industry and individuals who have donated funds, contributed their time, knowledge, energy and resources and for their continued support of the Pharmacy Practice Foundation.

One of the purposes of the evening was the announcement and presentation of the Medals of Excellence in Pharmacy Practice. These medals reward those who have had a significant role to play in advancing pharmacy practice in Australia

Medals of Excellence in Pharmacy Practice were presented to the 2008 winners by Mr Warwick Plunkett and the Hon. Dr Craig Emerson. The Merck Sharp and

Dohme (Australia) Medal of Excellence in Pharmacy Practice was awarded to Frank Payne. Albert Regoli was presented with the Sanofi-aventis Medal of Excellence in Pharmacy Practice. The Pharmacy Practice Foundation Industry Medal of Excellence was awarded to Will Delaat. The medal winners and presenters are pictured here; from left to right are Mr Warwick Plunkett, Hon. Dr Craig Emerson, MP, Frank Payne, Will Delaat and Albert Regoli.



## EVENTS

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### **3rd December: Pharmacy Education Symposium**

9:30am-1pm, Badham 3 Tutorial Room

### **4th-5th December: Pharmacy Practice Discipline Retreat**

Novotel, Darling Harbour

### **9th December: Australia-China Centre for Research in Chinese Medicines (ACCRCM) Symposium 2008**

2-6pm, Pharmacy Lecture Theatre

The Symposium will present research achievements on herbal medicines and exchange new academic initiatives between researchers and scientists from the University of Sydney and Sun Yat-sen University, China.

### **12th December: Faculty Christmas Party**

From 2pm, Pharmacy Common Room and roof-top garden

### **15th December: Special Seminar**

12pm, Badham 3 Tutorial Room  
Speaker: Professor Michel Eichelbaum, Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch-Institut für Klinische Pharmakologie, Stuttgart, Germany

### **16th December: Faculty Forum**

12pm, Pharmacy Common Room

Best wishes to everyone for the end of year break.

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## A HAIR-RAISING MORNING TEA RAISES MAUVE MONEY

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The Faculty hosted a Mauve Morning Tea in aid of raising money and awareness for Prostate Cancer as part of the Movember campaign. The administration team coordinated by acting Faculty Operations Manager, Ria Renfrey, decorated the Pharmacy Common Room with mauve-

themed decorations and tasty snacks. Moustaches were on sale to those who dared to wear them. Pictured here are Narelle Da Costa and Cristine Janz from the administration team, proudly sporting their fake moustaches. The Faculty raised \$244 in just one hour.



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## STAFF NEWS

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The Faculty welcomes several new members of staff this month. Ms Jennifer Paquet, appointed in the new role of Alumni and Development Officer, has recently moved to Sydney from Montreal, Canada where she was working in fundraising for the Montreal Neurological Institute of McGill University.

Ms Wendy Poyser has recently been appointed as Associate Lecturer in Pharmacy Management and will be working with Professor Lesley White.

The Faculty is delighted to welcome Mrs Karen Groth who

has taken up the role of Executive Assistant to the Dean.

Ms Chehani Alles will be working with Professor Carol Armour as the Project Manager for the Asthma Pilot Program.

Ms Christine Song has been newly appointed as the Research Project Officer for the Diabetes Pilot Project. Christine will be working in conjunction with Dr Bernadette Mitchell and Associate Professor Ines Krass on the project.

Dr Meryem Köse has been appointed to the position of Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Medicinal and Bimolecular

Chemistry and will be working in conjunction with Dr Thomas Grewal.

Lindsay Walker has joined the Pharmacy Education Unit. Previously Lindsay has worked in a range of educational settings, both as a teacher and as a librarian.

Julie has joined the Discipline of Pharmacy Practice to develop procedures to increase funding and manuscript submissions. Julie joins the Faculty from the Research Office where she was involved with ARC grant submissions and post-award administration.



**The University of Sydney**

#### For more information

Faculty of Pharmacy  
Bank Building A15  
Sydney NSW 2006 Australia  
Phone: +61 2 9351 2320  
Fax: +61 2 9351 4391  
Email: [enquiries@pharm.usyd.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@pharm.usyd.edu.au)  
Website: [www.pharm.usyd.edu.au](http://www.pharm.usyd.edu.au)

Produced by the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Sydney, November 2008. The University reserves the right to make alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice.

CRICOS Provider No. 00026A