

DEAN'S UPDATE

AASP 2007 Conference

In October I traveled to Manila to attend the 3rd Scientific Meeting of the Asian Association of Schools of Pharmacy (AASP).

The AASP 2007 conference theme was "Congruence of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Practice and Research." Prominent pharmacy experts and educators within the region and from other continents shared their knowledge, experiences and expertise to enhance information sharing, international networking and cross-culture learning among participants.

I would like to thank Professor Joanne Brien and Professor Kim Chan for participating in this event and representing the Faculty.

Joanne participated in the session titled "Vision 2020: Future of Pharmacy Practice Education in Asia", and Kim Chan did a presentation entitled "Dry Powder Inhalation Aerosol Delivery - from Particle Production to Lung Deposition".

I will now take up the position of President of the AASP in

January 2008, and on behalf of everyone that attended the conference, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of the conference for all of their hard work and effort.

Professor Tom Watson's 80th Birthday Celebration

Professor Tom Watson celebrated his 80th birthday this year, and I had the pleasure of hosting a function for him on Friday 19th October.

Professor Watson, his wife Anne and guests enjoyed the many warm presentations by former colleagues and students: Jack Thomas, H. T. Andrew Cheung, Associate Professor Alan Jones and Ern Lacey.

The presenters reminisced, speaking about Pharmacy as it was when Professor Watson was the Head of Department. Jack Thomas recalled the many developments that Tom brought about, such as leading the change in the undergraduate Pharmacy course, bringing it into

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Top: Professor Tom Watson

Left: Professor Watson and wife Anne



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GRANT SUCCESSES

Dr Daniela Traini received an establishment grant of \$28,000 from The Ramaciotti Grants.

Dr Daniel Sze, Prof Basil Roufogalis and Kristin Miller have received \$50,000 from the DEST Australia-China Special Fund for Scientific & Technological Cooperation for a collaborative Herbal Medicines Anti-cancer research project entitled "To bioprospect for endophyte-related Traditional Chinese Medicine anti-cancer herbs". This three-party project has the participation of UNSW, Kunming Medical College in Yunnan, China, and our Faculty of Pharmacy, with Dr Daniel Sze as the Project Manager.

Dr. Sinthia Bosnic Anticevich and Prof Carol Armour were awarded an ARC Linkage Grant with the National Prescribing Service for their work: "Improving asthma device use: Innovative models for inter professional practice". They will receive \$63,000 in 2008, \$165,000 in 2009, and \$195,000 in 2010.

Dr George Li and Prof Basil Roufogalis received \$50,000 from the DEST Australia-China Fund for Science&TechnologyCo-operation for their collaborative project with Prof. Yang (Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China) entitled "Quality standardisation, anti-inflammation and antidepressant activities of Hypericum species and Morinda officinalis".

Thomas Grewal received two NHMRC Project Grants both worth \$317,250 each over three years for his work on Regulation of EGF receptor signalling and Ras signalling and cholesterol efflux from late endosomes.

Dr Paul Young and Dr Daniela Traini were granted \$300,000 over three years on an ARC Discovery Grant for their work in engineering of co-crystal drug molecules for pharmaceutical aerosols receiving.

Dr Jane Hanrahan, Dr Dai Hibbs, Associate Professor Mary Collins and Professor Michael Murray were awarded \$30,000 by The Ramaciotti Grants towards the purchase of a 400 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectrometer.

PHARMACY PRACTICE FOUNDATION - PREPARING PHARMACISTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE FUTURE

The pursuit of Pharmacy by the big supermarket chains, the cut to generic drug margins, and the rapid growth of some truly influencing 'Low Cost – Low Price' dispensing and retail models are the business problems pharmacists are facing now or in the near future.

The seminar "Developing a Specialist Healthcare Business Focus" on 24 October was the Pharmacy Practice Foundation's answer to those problems. Carol Armour, Professor and Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), demonstrated the results of her recent national research which shows clearly the value that pharmacists can deliver in managing chronic disease states. This has been the missing link in pharmacy's search for a way to compete against the rapid growth of low cost-low

price pharmacy chains, and the absorption of pharmacies by supermarket chains. Albert Regoli, Diabetes Pharmacy Practice Specialist, described in detail how the pharmacists can develop themselves and their practices in a specialty healthcare niche – in his case, diabetes care. Specialisation in a healthcare niche is a key contemporary topic.

This seminar was the fourth of five seminars in this year's series. Thanks to the practical content of the presentations, they have been very successful. The series has raised a lot of interest from the pharmacy communities, which is the main target group for this series. These meetings keep local pharmacists in contact with the bigger picture, delivering information about what is happening in the industry and also providing them with practical

advice on ways to better run their businesses.

In order to reach pharmacists from many different regions, three seminars were hosted throughout the year in Melbourne and three in Brisbane. The seminars in Sydney were recorded and made into a DVD so that interested pharmacist who could not attend will be able to access the presentations.

The last seminar of the year will be in Sydney on 19 November. Bruce Annabel and Michael Von Moltke will present on the topic "Plan to get the most from the use of generic medicines in the face of the evolving changes", or "The Gold & the Garbage about the PBS Changes to Generics".



HEALTH POST GRADUATE INFORMATION NIGHT

The Faculties of Health combined to host a Post Graduate Information Evening in the Eastern Avenue Complex on Wednesday 10 October 2007. Many potential students attended to learn about Pharmacy as well as Medicine, Public Health, Dentistry, Health Sciences, Nursing & Midwifery, and Veterinary Science.



"The information evening this year was the most successful yet," said Sylvia Tropiano, Post Graduate Student Services Officer.

Associate Professor Mary Collins spoke to twenty prospective students in her scheduled talk about postgraduate study in Pharmacy. Dr Daniela Traini also presented on the graduate entry Master of Pharmacy.

There were many questions from students, who had a chance to have one-on-one discussions with staff about their future studies in Pharmacy.

This was the first year our own undergraduate Pharmacy students attended the event to enquire about postgraduate research degrees. This added interest is very welcome, as the Faculty would like to increase its number of postgraduate research students.

Left: *Participants at the Health Post Graduate Info Night*

FACULTY STAFF PROFILE

Welcome to Thomas Grewal, a recently appointed lecturer in Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

A German national, Thomas has travelled around in the course of his career. After completing his PhD on macrophage gene regulation in Germany, he did his first Post-doctorate at the Heart Research Institute, affiliated with the University of Sydney, to study macrophage lipoprotein receptors in atherosclerosis. He then completed a year in Canada, researching at the Université de Montreal. Returning to Hamburg, Germany, Thomas completed his "Habilitation", the highest German academic degree, which combines research and teaching, and takes seven years to complete.

"In order to achieve it you have to show independence in teaching and research, and [the degree] is still compulsory if you ever want

to become a professor in Germany", explained Thomas.

At that time, he developed an interest in receptor-mediated endocytosis, membrane transport and signal transduction. Thomas then came to Sydney in 2003 to start a research group at St



Lecturer Thomas Grewal

Vincent's Hospital. In the Centre for Immunology, he focussed on growth factor and lipoprotein receptor signalling in breast cancer and atherosclerosis.

"I got lucky this year", says Thomas about the two big grants from NHMRC for his research in these two subjects. "The grants will help me to get started here. Hopefully in the future I'll find new common interests to establish connections with other research groups in the faculty."

On the personal side, he is happily married and the father of two boys. Living in North Balgowlah, they go to the beach on the weekends as his older son joins in the Nippers activities of the Freshwater Surf Club. They love the sun in Australia, especially compared to grey and rainy Cologne. When they miss German bread, they go to a bakery in Manly to relieve some homesickness.

FUTURE EVENTS

National Scientific Conference

The Australia Society of Medical Research will be hosting its National Scientific Conference, from 11th to 13th November in the Blue Mountains, called Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets.

The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers working in diverse disease areas in which tissue remodelling is a key feature to share their perspectives on the molecular and cellular mechanisms that control tissue remodelling and to elucidate future therapeutic targets to combat these diseases. See <http://www.asmr-nsc.org.au/>

EdHealth Workshops

Do you want to get published? Would you like to get a grant? These areas are what the EdHealth Workshops on 15 and 16 November can help you with. For more details visit the website: www.foh.usyd.edu.au/conf07

Faculty Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party will be a delicious barbecue on 13 December, from 1:00 to 6:00pm, at the Manning Bar. RSVP will be called for shortly.

Advanced Talks

As the academic year draws to a close, it is time for the Advanced students

to present their research results. The Honours Students will present their research projects on 1st and 2nd November in the Pharmacy Lecture Theater. Good luck everyone!

Pharmacy Education Symposium

The Pharmacy Education Symposium will take place on 29 November at the University of Sydney. The program will be a mixture of contributed presentations, posters and workshops. Registrations close on 16 November. Go to http://www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/peu/pharmacy_education_symposium.shtml to find out more about it.

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the modern day, which included a dramatic change in the curriculum. Tom also introduced Mass Spectrometry to the then Department of Pharmacy. In 2006, Tom's contribution in this area was recognised by naming the Spectrometry laboratory in his honour.

Others talked about the importance of his research. Ern Lacey pointed out that if you type T R Watson into

Google the first results that come up are Professor Watson's papers, illustrating how relevant his work still is. Associate Professor Alan Jones amused the guests explaining Tom's idea for a "primitive version" of Google, his experience with cigars and his haka performances. H. T. Andrew Cheung stated that the prosperous state of the Faculty owes much to the pioneering work of Professor Tom Watson.

The common thread of all these presentations was how fondly the speakers remembered their days working with Professor Watson, and how deserving of homage and celebration he is.

The speeches were followed by a warm thank you by Tom Watson, and a social function in the Common Room.

Iqbal Ramzan
Dean

STUDENT PROFILE

Congratulations to Sarah Sinclair for winning the SUPA Presidential elections!

Sarah feels "very excited" about the opportunities in coming years. Currently completing the second year of her Bachelor Degree, she has always been involved in SUPA activities and events, attending all SUPA functions in these first two years. Sarah has made many wonderful friends and has had a lot of fun. That is why her goal as president is "to encourage the involvement of more people, especially the people who haven't

had a chance yet. I would also like to raise the standards in a lot of the functions".

Over all her plans are to organize great events in the next years, including the classic trivia night, themed pub crawls and, her personal favourite, the winter ball. "It's a fantastic night when you get to dress up and dance the night away!"

What about the future? "Maybe soon after I graduate I'll work for a drug company and do a little traveling, but my goal is to own a community pharmacy." Sarah has worked for a pharmacy on the weekends since she

started at university. "It's a fabulous work environment and I love the fact that you are helping people. That's how I've always envisaged I would end up".

