



DEAN'S UPDATE



October has been a highly successful month for the Faculty with research staff achieving great results in the latest research funding rounds. New funding includes Australian Research Council's (ARC) Discovery and Linkage Projects totalling over \$1Million over 3 years, \$50,000 for Alzheimers research, and three

new equipment grants totalling \$90,000. This new funding is a boost to the Faculty's research output and testimony to the quality and relevance of our researchers. I am delighted to congratulate Faculty student Natalie Tasker on winning the prestigious Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Student of the Year prize. It is a brilliant achievement and very well deserved, with Faculty staff giving Natalie a lot of support and encouragement during the competition stages. I would like to congratulate Ms Lee Ausburn who has been named an Independent Director of Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API). Earlier in her career Lee worked as a lecturer and tutor in Pharmacy at this University and has worked for many years with

Merck and Co. Inc.. It is inspiring to our current students to see graduates and staff achieving top-level positions within such successful companies. I attended the book launch of one of our most active Alumni, Andrew Gullotta OAM (Materia Medica '62). From the Marranzano to the Didgeridoo is a collection of Andrew's memoirs of his emigration to Australia from Italy and his new life down under. Andrew is a member of the Council and Executive committee of the Faculty's Pharmacy Practice Foundation.

Professor Iqbal Ramzan
Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy

NATALIE NAMED STUDENT OF THE YEAR



The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia named Natalie Tasker as the Pharmacy Student of the Year after winning the final competition at the National Counselling Event during the annual Pharmacy Australia Congress in Perth. Natalie was also awarded the Pharmacists' Choice award, newly instituted this year, which is voted for by the audience. PSA President Warwick Plunkett said, "I was so impressed with the quality of all the students in this year's National Counselling event and for Natalie to stand out in a field of this quality is a real testament to her skills." Natalie is pictured here with her awards and Warwick Plunkett, PSA President, and Ben Henry from Alphapharm.

Faculty of Pharmacy

Newsletter October 2008

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SUCCESSFUL GRANTS BOOST FACULTY RESEARCH

The Faculty has received an excellent level of funding support in the latest grant awards.

ARC Discovery Projects and Linkage Projects (Round 1)

Professor Kim Chan received \$360,000 for 'Development of a novel process for the formation of particles with controlled surface'.

Dr Ramin Rohanzadeh and collaborators Professors Mason and LeGeros are investigating 'Drug delivery coating for a new generation of orthopaedic implants' with an award of \$325,000.

Professor Basil Roufogalis, Drs Colin Duke and Van Tran were awarded \$250,000 for 'Ginger based agents for delaying the onset of metabolic syndrome: type 2 diabetes and dyslipidemia'. Buderim Ginger Pty Limited is a collaborating partner in this project.

Associate Professor Mary Collins is Chief Investigator 2 on the project 'Elucidating the mode of action of nicotinic receptor ligands' with her colleague Dr MD McLeod from The Australian National University. They were awarded \$420,000.

Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, Dr Alaina Ammit commented "This is an extremely competitive system - Discovery Projects only have a 20.4% success rate; Linkage Projects have a 49.4% success rate. But it is great to see that the Faculty's success rate tracks well with the national average".

Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation Equipment Grants

Despite the change in the application rule this year which limited the Faculty to applying for just one equipment grant per research discipline, all three applications were successful. Each equipment grant was awarded \$30,000. Dr. Alaina Ammitt says "Congratulations to all. I know it was a massive effort and it is great to have 100% success rate in this scheme".

Team leader: *Dr Daniela Traini*
Equipment: *PSIA Thermal Atomic Force Microscope (AFM), XE-70 SPM system plus Scanning Thermal Microscope*

Team leader: *Dr Dai Hibbs*
Equipment: *Bruker APEXII X-ray*

diffractometer detector

Team leader: *Maria Sukkar*
Equipment: *Leica Fluorescence Microscope*

Funding for Alzheimer's Research

Congratulations to Dr Lenka Munoz and her collaborators who have secured two sources of funding. Both grant applications are entitled "Integrating Chemistry and Biology in the Search for New Therapeutics for Alzheimer's disease" and aim to develop p38 inhibitors as therapeutics to treat neurodegenerative disorders.

Alzheimer's Australia Research has awarded \$20,000: Principal Investigator: L. Munoz, Senior Investigators: A.J. Ammit, G. Guillemin.

The JO and JR Wicking Trust managed by ANZ Trustees Philanthropy Partners granted \$30,000: Chief Investigator A: L. Munoz, Chief Investigator B: C. Peifer.

FACULTY TURNS PINK FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WEEK



The Faculty administration team hosted a pink-themed Morning Tea to raise money for breast cancer research during Breast Cancer Awareness week. Staff and students were treated to tasty snacks and pink-themed treats. Acting Faculty Operations Manager, Ria Renfrey was pleased with the result saying "I'd like to thank you all for attending our pink morning tea and thank you so, so much for your generosity. We raised \$183.50 towards breast cancer research."



DAAD-Go8 VISITING FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

A new researcher exchange scheme between the Group of Eight (Go8) and the German Academic Service (DAAD) has been announced. The scheme "supports the exchange of skills, knowledge and research outcomes of mutual benefit to both Australia and Germany". Australian researchers are able to spend time at partner institutions in Germany and collaborating German researchers can spend time at Go8 universities. The Go8 and the DAAD have each agreed to provide up to \$200,000 per year for the period 2008-2010 inclusive to support the scheme. Each Go8 university will contribute \$25,000 per year to support its researchers travelling to Germany.

Dr Lenka Munoz, Associate Lecturer in the Pharmaceutical Chemistry Discipline was invited to give a plenary lecture attended the 16th Mainzer Forum Medicinal Chemistry in Mainz, Germany. The Forum's theme for 2008 was 'Treatment strategies for dementia – a challenge of the 21st century'. Whilst in Germany, Lenka went on to visit the University of Bonn

to give a seminar in a Program called Analysis of cell functions through combinatorial chemistry and biochemistry, which is an interdisciplinary Research Training Group Programme for PhD candidates, funded by the German Research Council. Lenka is pictured with the Australian Ambassador in Germany, His Excellency Mr Ian Kemish AM, in the German Embassy in Berlin.

Lenka's research project, titled '*Targeting inactive p38α MAP kinase as a novel strategy to treat neurodegenerative disorders*' is in collaboration with the University of Tübingen in Germany. The project details are described below:

"the p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) is an important player in the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients. Unregulated, excessive activity of this MAPK results in processes that contribute to the manifestation of Alzheimer's disease. Therefore, we believe that inhibiting the p38 kinase can be beneficial for the treatment of Alzheimer's and slow the progress of the disease. The

unique feature of our collaboration is that the German partner brings expertise in the field of organic chemistry while the Australian partner provides an excellent integrative chemistry–biology platform for the development of brain active drugs. The ability to exchange expertise in various fields of drug discovery allows us to work more efficiently when compared to a one-sided project of similar size and aims".



PHARMACY EDUCATION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jim Woulfe from the Pharmacy Education Unit reports on DrupalCamp:

On Saturday 18 October, the Pharmacy Education Unit hosted a one-day Drupal user conference, attended by participants from all over Australia and New Zealand. DrupalCamp, a conference on the Drupal content management system was hosted by the Faculty of Pharmacy. Drupal <http://drupal.org/> is an Open Source content management system (CMS). It is available for free, supported by many thousands of users world-wide. The Pharmacy Experiential Learning Database (Hygeia September 2008), an ALTC-funded joint venture project

involving schools of Pharmacy at the Universities of Sydney, South Australia and Queensland, has been built by the Pharmacy Education Unit using the Drupal CMS. The event was co-sponsored by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC), Cochlear, plus web developers Taniwha Solutions, Agileware, Marmaladesoul, emspace.com.au and Caign Webs

Pharmacy Education Symposium 2008

Calling all Faculty of Pharmacy staff and students – the next Pharmacy Education Symposium is scheduled for 9.30am to 1pm, Wednesday 3rd December followed by lunch.

Details are available on the Symposium website: http://www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/peu/pharmacy_education_symposium Please register using the online form provided on the site, by 24th November. Abstracts submitted by 6th November will be published in the December issue of Australian Pharmacist. There will be three plenary speakers: Dr Cynthia Nelson, from the Institute for Teaching and Learning: *The Development Program for Research Supervision*; Associate Professor Rob Ellis, Director of eLearning, Sydney eLearning: *Pharmacy eLearning initiatives in the wider University context*; and Dr Adam Bridgeman from the School of Chemistry.

Pharmacy Education Symposium

Formulating the future 2008

3rd December, 2008

ARE YOU A RESOURCEFUL TEACHER?

Yes? Come along and SHOW us how!

No? Come along and LEARN how!

THIS PHARMACY EDUCATION SHOWCASE
IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR:

- teaching inspiration
- networking, sharing and planning education research
- disseminating ideas and showcasing work done

Deadline for submission of abstracts is 6/11/08. All abstracts peer reviewed and published in Aust Pharm. Abstract submission guidelines and registration forms available online at:
http://www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/peu/pharmacy_education_symposium.shtml

PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE 24/11/08

To assist full catering!

Put 3rd December 9:30am-1:00pm
in your diary now!