

DEAN'S UPDATE

The Faculty continues to participate in international conferencing.

Earlier this month I attended the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress held just outside Beijing, China. This was an excellent opportunity to continue to promote the Faculty. As you will read in this newsletter, one of our senior colleagues, Professor Charlie Benrimoj, was recognised for his contribution to the profession, at this conference. On behalf of the Faculty, I congratulate Charlie on receiving this prestigious honour.

Over the coming months the Faculty will be prominently on display at a number of national and international conferences. I have approved provision of sponsorship at the Third International Congress of Complementary Medicines Research, the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association and the NSW Rural Allied Health Conference. I would encourage staff who are interested, to participate in these conferences.

Professor Iqbal Ramzan,
Dean

ARC & NHMRC SUCCESS

Faculty staff receive ARC and NHMRC grants in the 2007 round.

Dr Sinthia Bosnic-Anticevich and Professor Carol Armour have recently been awarded an ARC Linkage Project grant, of more than \$400,000 over 3 years. This grant, which was awarded in collaboration with the National Prescribing Service, will investigate innovative models for inter-professional practice in improving asthma device use. Through its focus on interdisciplinary health professional relationships to improve the use of asthma medication devices, it is envisaged that this project will result in the development of a model of collaboration which has the potential to be implemented in a broader scale in the community.

Dr Paul Young and Dr Dany Traini were awarded an ARC Discovery grant of \$300,000 over three year

for engineering of co-crystal drug molecules for pharmaceutical aerosols. This project, relating to the treatment of respiratory diseases, will significantly help position Australia as a world leader in this field.

NHMRC Project grants have also been awarded to two staff members. Professor Andrew McLachlan has been awarded a grant in collaboration with Faculty of Medicine staff for over \$330,000. New staff member, Dr Thomas Grewal, who joins the Faculty in coming weeks, has received two NHMRC Project grants, with a combined total of more than \$600,000 over three years.

This grant success represents a continuation of the strong research outcomes the Faculty has experience in recent years. We congratulate these staff on their recent success!

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Upcoming Seminars

The Faculty's Seminar Program for October includes:

4 October

Ms Naghmeh Jabarizadeh

A comparison of the effect of omeprazole and rabeprazole on clozapine serum concentrations

11 October

Dr Sue Taylor

Rural Pharmacy - The USyd Story

18 October

Professor Michael Roth

University Hospital, Basel

The effects of steroids and long acting beta2-agonists on lung remodelling in asthma and COPD

25 October

Ms Shuang Fu

Metabolism and hepatotoxicity study of kavalones

FACULTY STUDENT PROFILE

Melissa Smith

Year 2 Bachelor of Pharmacy

Elite sportswoman Melissa Smith looks forward to a career in Pharmacy.

Combining a full-time study load with a professional basketball career adds a level of complexity to Bachelor of Pharmacy student Melissa Smith's life. "I am the first to put up my hand and say that there are some huge sacrifices," this second year student says. "I've learnt to be extremely efficient with my time management!"

Melissa's basketball career began when she was at school in Bathurst. Initially playing in the Western Junior League, she rapidly progressed to represent the NSW State Juniors. "I am tall so I was selected for a lot of representative sides, which helped me improve my game." Her skills on the basketball court were soon spotted by national coaches, which led to her selection for the Australian Institute of Sports team. Playing in the national team has taken Melissa to many parts of the world, such as Tunisia where she played with the Australia Gems at the World Championships, and to Bangkok with the gold-winning World Unit Games Australian Team.

Melissa says that the extensive travel is one of the bonuses of playing sport at this level. "I think I have travelled to every continent," she says. The travel, keeping her fitness level and building social networks keep this busy student committed to both her sport and study.

In 2006 Melissa moved to Sydney to commence her study in pharmacy and to play for the Sydney Uni Flames in the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL). She chose the Bachelor of Pharmacy as she has always been more drawn to the sciences than humanities. "I also like that I will have a definite career path at the completion of my degree, with an opportunity to move into a diverse range of jobs. The idea of a pharmacist as a health care professional as well as a small business owner excites me."

Before commencing pharmacy, Melissa was considering a career within the pharmaceutical industry, but is now reviewing her options and leaning towards community pharmacy. "At the moment I am thinking I would like to work in a pharmacy and eventually own a few of my own. This way I could create new community networks and establish strong patient / pharmacist relationships which would lead to the successful running of a business.

"Pharmacy also gives me a solid career future that I can explore whilst playing basketball and fully embrace when I retire from the sport. A lot of elite athletes finish their sporting careers as successful sports people but have little to fall back on," Melissa says. "University study is so flexible and The University of Sydney, in particular, is very accommodating and has a great sporting history and support team. Sydney Uni Sport helps me out enormously."

Living on campus, Melissa has also participated competitively



Faculty of Pharmacy dynamo Melissa Smith in action with the Sydney Uni Flames women's basketball team.

in the first female Drows rowing team, which won The University of Sydney's Intercol Rowing in 2006 and placed second in 2007. It seems there is no stopping this dynamic young woman!

COMPETITION

How well do you know your Faculty?

Can you identify the photo below? Email answers, (both object and location) to cjanz@pharm.usyd.edu.au by 12 October, to be in the running to win a \$10 treat from the Courtyard Cafe. All correct answers will be entered into a draw. The winner will be announced on 17 October.



FIP AWARD FOR FACULTY MEMBER

Fellowship for Professor Charlie Benrimoj

During the Opening Ceremony of the 67th International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress in Beijing, China, the Federation honoured some of the world's leading pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists with the 2007 FIP Awards. Among the small, prestigious group to receive a FIP Fellowship, was the Faculty's own Professor Charlie Benrimoj, who was presented with a Fellows certificate by Kamal Midha, President of the Federation.

The FIP Fellowship is awarded in recognition of a Federation member's strong international leadership and distinguished contribution to the advancement of pharmaceutical sciences and/or the practice of pharmacy.



Professor Charlie Benrimoj, FFIP (far right) with the four other recipients of the International Pharmacy Federation Fellowship for 2007

"These recipients have consistently proven to uphold the qualities and professional characteristics deemed by FIP to deserve this special recognition," said a spokesperson for the Federation.

The Faculty of Pharmacy congratulates Professor Benrimoj on this well-deserved international recognition.

PHARMACY EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Promotion of quality education with the discipline of pharmacy.

The Faculty's Pharmacy Education Unit will be hosting the inaugural Pharmacy Education Symposium on 29 November 2007. This one day event will promote the Faculty's ongoing commitment to the highest quality education

and showcase our achievements to date. These achievements include developments in online PBL, communications skills and workshops in diverse areas such as disease state management and ethics.

This symposium is open to all our teaching staff, including

postgraduate students, casual, part-time and full-time teaching academics. All staff who are interested in learning more about the PEU and developing their own teaching skills are encouraged to attend. For more information, watch the PEU website for further updates - http://www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/peu/upcoming_events.shtml

EVENTS

10 October 2007

Health Postgraduate Evening

As part of the University's Postgraduate Week, the Faculty will participate in a health sciences faculties postgraduate information evening from 4.30 – 7.00pm

15-16 November 2007

4th Faculties of Health EdHealth Conference 2007

The University's health faculties' annual conference focusing on

learning and teaching in health sciences. For more informations go to www.foh.usyd.edu.au/conf07

27 & 29 November 2007

Degree in a Day

The Faculty will again host a select group of Year 11 high school students to allow them to experience uni life as a pharmacy student. This single day event will be run on two separate days.

29 November 2007

Pharmacy Education Symposium

The Pharmacy Education Unit will host the inaugural Pharmacy Education Symposium, showcasing innovative advancements in education of our students. See article above for information.

13 December 2007

Faculty Christmas Function

Further details in coming months.

FACULTY STAFF PROFILE

The face of the Faculty Office moves positions

Cristine Janz joined the Faculty as a Unistaff member in June, as the Enquiries Assistant. Cristine so impressed the staff and students that she was soon appointed to this role on contract until March 2008. Since then she has implemented new systems into the Faculty Office and her skills as an organised team player have continued to impress her colleagues. Cristine successfully applied for the role of Assistant to the Faculty Manager, a role



Cristine Janz at her new desk.

which she will be taking up in early October.

Born in Brazil, Cristine lived in the US for some years, where she worked for an international trade organisation. Returning home to Brazil, Cristine taught English for

a number of years. Following her marriage, Cristine and her husband were on the move again. After travelling for most of last year, Cristine and her husband spent some time working their way around New Zealand, on route to Australia. As permanent residents, they have settled into life in Sydney.

In her free time, Cristine enjoys the northern beach lifestyle, attending local community events and going to the gym. An accredited translator with NAATI, she also works as a Portuguese/English translator.

STUDENT INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT UPDATE

The Faculty and local industry have combined to enhance the student experience.

Following selection through the Talented Students Program, two second year students, Vicki Leung and Mary Wang, participated in a two-week Student Industrial Placement at the local pharmaceutical company LIPA, during the mid-year break in July. This placement, under the supervision of Jonathon Polis, LIPA QC Laboratory Supervisor, provided them with experience of laboratory work and regulatory affairs in action.

Both students returned to the Faculty full of praise for the experience. "We got a glimpse into the world of industrial pharmacy, learning about the laboratory techniques used for quality control testing and the work done in regulatory affairs," reported Vicki.

Some of the highlights of the placement were the plant tour where they saw the manufacturing process of pharmaceutical

products, testing samples using an IR spectrometer and doing titrations on vitamin C products.

Mary Wang commented that the experience was heavily based on medicinal chemistry. "I would recommend it to students who have a great zeal for analytical chemistry, as we were introduced to procedures and equipment that we haven't yet come across in the University. We were also introduced to the production areas and that helped to consolidate our knowledge regarding laboratory issues such as clean rooms and standard operating procedures".

LIPA is one of a group of companies that are participating in the Student Industrial Placement project, initiated by the Pharmaceuticals group and now in its second year. At the end of 2007 students will be undertaking placements during the summer vacation period at AstraZeneca, Schering Plough, GSK and LIPA. There are plans to extend this program to other pharmaceutical companies in the



Above and below: Vicki and Mary at work at LIPA



near future. Companies interested in becoming involved with the Student Industrial Placement project may contact Daniela Traini on 9351-2356.