

DEAN'S UPDATE

This month I have been involved in many strategic engagements and also celebrated the academic achievements of our students and staff. I was proud to host the Faculty Awards Ceremony and Summer Vacation and Industry Placements Evening which were held this month.

A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) from China visited the University. I was one of three key University representatives who gave presentations at a lunch hosted

by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International).

I attended the Vice-Chancellor's yearly Advisory Committee Forum held over two days in Coogee, Sydney. The Forum was attended by all Deans of Faculty and discussed key issues on University governance.

I made a fleeting visit to Dubbo to take part in an Alumni reception. This was a chance for prominent University of Sydney Alumni members to say farewell to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown. I enjoyed networking

with six of our Pharmacy Alumni, spanning a range of age and experience, at the Alumni Reception dinner.

The University is one of the partners that supports and guides Sports Knowledge Australia (SKA). As such I was involved in the International Workshop on Sport Knowledge which discussed the future direction of SKA as my role as the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy but also as a Fellow of Senate of the University.

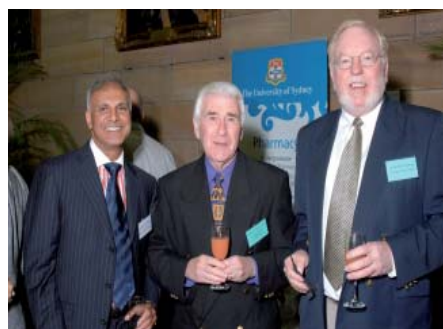
Iqbal Ramzan
Dean and Professor of Pharmacy

LEARNING AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY

The Faculty celebrated the achievements of staff and students in the Annual Faculty of Pharmacy Awards Ceremony held at the University's Great hall on 29th April. Students who had achieved the top marks in their year were recognised with awards and scholarships from the Faculty, University and external sponsors. The evening ceremony was presided over by the Dean of Faculty, Professor Iqbal Ramzan who gave an introductory speech about the Faculty and announced the prize winners. The Dean is pictured below with Emeritus Professor of Anaesthesia Laurie



Mather from the University and Geoffrey Pritchard from the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales. Representatives from Amgen Australia, Blackmores, Guild Insurance, McGraw-Hill, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia attended and presented their respective prizes to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Man Kong Adrian Sung won the Dean's Award for Excellence and was presented with the Guild Insurance Prize by Aiden Walsh, Regional Manager, pictured above.



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LEARNING AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY

The Faculty is very proud of its links with the pharmaceutical industry and acknowledges the continued support from these key sponsors.



Staff were also recognised for their achievements with the

Faculty of Pharmacy Staff Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. Associate Professor Mary Collins received the award for Research Higher Degree Supervision, presented by Professor Andrew Coats, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community), pictured here.

Professor Coats gave the Welcoming Address on behalf of the University and congratulated the Faculty on its achievements over the past year saying "the Faculty of Pharmacy is



a model Faculty for this University setting an example of excellence in Learning and Teaching, Research and Innovation, and in its links with the wider community and industrial partners".

NEW COLLABORATIVE MEDICINE CENTRE ESTABLISHED

A National Institute of Collaborative Medicine (NICM) Collaborative Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine will be established at the Faculty of Pharmacy as part of \$7 million pledged by the Australian Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Jan McLucas, announced the funding, which will boost research into the fast-growing area of complementary and alternative medicine., at the third International Congress on Complementary

Medicine Research at Darling Harbour in Sydney. "Complementary medicine usage represents a substantial proportion of activity in the Australian health care sector," Senator McLucas said.

"Until now there has been a gap between those who believe in and use complementary medicine and the strength of evidence to support that use. Today's announcement is intended to help bridge the gap."

Professor Basil Roufogalis at the Faculty is the CIA on the NICM

application funded at \$734,000 over two years on behalf of the University of Sydney. Through a consortium of eight universities this centre will establish a national approach to evaluating Traditional Chinese Medicine, including acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.

The focus will include diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases and cancer. Others involved in the application from the Faculty are George Li, Daniel Sze, Srinivas Nammi.

PAN-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

Drs Daniela Traini and Paul Young and Professor Kim Chan attended fourth Pan-Pacific International Partnership Conference on Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences, held in Nagoya, Japan. The annual event was organised by six universities from Japan with the University of Southern California and University of Sydney. The conference focus is to strengthen research in the pharmaceutical and

life sciences through international cooperation and collaboration.

This year the conference was hosted by Nagoya City University. Professor Chan delivered an opening address on Inhalation Drug Delivery. Dr Young also presented at the conference detailing his work on dry powder drug delivery followed by a presentation by Dr Traini, pictured here, on pressurised

metered dose inhalers.



AWARD-WINNING POSTGRADUATE POSTERS AT ICCMR

Members of the Faculty of Pharmacy were instrumental in the organisation of the third International Congress on Complementary Medicine Research. The Congress attracted 600 delegates from 30 countries, and the feedback was extremely positive.

The Dean of Faculty, Professor iqbal Ramzan provided institutional sponsorships to assist the registration of 11 staff members and postgraduate students, whilst the Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Masud Behnia made available

four poster prizes. University of Sydney Vice Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown, participated in the opening of the conference and many postgraduate students volunteered to assist the program and delegates.

Two best postgraduate poster prizes were awarded to students from the Faculty: Moon - Sun Kim for 'Natural Medicinal Products in Diabetes Research-Salacia Oblonga', and E Omar for 'Effects of heat clearing herbs on the expression of adhesion molecules in activated human brain endothelial cells'.

"The conference provided me with an invaluable opportunity for international collaboration" says Moon-Sun Kim. "Fostering of relationships will have a positive influence on the University and my research. I was able to enrich my knowledge on the many different traditional medical practices that are utilized in the maintenance of health and treatment of diseases. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to present my research, to establish new collaborations and being awarded the best poster prize."

WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES OPEN AT THE FACULTY

The final parts of Phase 2 of the Building Project were handed over to the Faculty at the end of April. Commenced in 2007 this major building project has provided new, functionally designed office spaces for research staff and ergonomic work hubs.



New state-of-the-art wet laboratories will ensure that the Faculty continues to provide first-class teaching to the next generation of pharmacy graduates. Minor works remain to be completed but most staff have moved into new office accommodation and research laboratories.



Crystal X-ray Diffractometer with funding from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science,

Dr Dai Hibbs and Dr Bret Church have recently purchased a Single

School of Chemistry, and the University of Sydney. The diffractometer is used for determining the three dimensional structure of drug molecules and their target biological macromolecules such as enzymes and receptors. A crystal grown from a sample of a purified drug or protein is bombarded by X-rays. The structure of the molecule is determined from the electron density which is reconstructed from the X-ray diffraction pattern. The diffractometer has a state-of-the-art Cobra cooling device manufactured by Oxford Cryosystems. This equipment will help in the research of structure-based drug design.

GRANT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Colin Duke, Van Tran and Rujee Duke in Pharmacology for their successful NHMRC Complementary and Alternative Medicine Grant. These

grants are highly competitive with only 9 per cent success rate.

The team has been awarded \$285,000 for their research on

'Complementary medicines based on propolis produced by honeybees from Australian flora'

SUMMER VACATION AND INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS EVENING

On 22nd April industry representatives and Faculty researchers attended the Summer Vacation and Industry Placements evening. Students presented posters which summarised the learning outcomes from the projects undertaken on their placements.



Summer Vacation Scholarships are awarded to high performing students who work as an integral member of a research group in the Faculty during the summer break, gaining practical experience of new methodologies and techniques.

The Industry Placements project was set up in 2006 to maintain ongoing collaborative relationships between local companies and the Faculty. Students experience a greater awareness of the scope and complexity of the pharmaceutical industry.

The Faculty would like to take this opportunity to thank all the research teams and Industry partners who have supported these schemes.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1st May: Seminar 'Target based drug design of selective GABA(C) receptor ligands'.

Ms Heba Abdel Halim, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sydney

8th May: Seminar 'Effects of respiratory syncytial virus infection in human airway smooth muscle cells'.

Dr Maria Sukkar, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sydney

15th May: Seminar 'Electronic medication management systems

in hospitals: Are they effective in reducing prescribing and administration errors?'

Professor Johanna Westbrook
Director, Health Informatics Research and Evaluation Unit,
Faculty of Health Sciences,
University of Sydney

22nd May: Seminar 'New vascular wall directed therapies for the prevention of atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease'.

Associate Professor Peter Little,
NHMRC Senior Research Fellow

Head, Cell Biology of Diabetes Laboratory, Baker Heart Research Institute, Melbourne
President of Diabetes Australia

29th May: Seminar 'Metabolism and hepatotoxicity study of kavalactones'.

Ms Shuang Fu, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sydney

For more information about these events, please call 02-9351-2311

WELCOME

Sinthia Bosnic-Anticevich and Lorraine Smith are welcoming new research students Biljana Cvetkovski and Ludmila Ovchinokova. Biljana is a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) graduate, having been in the first 4 year undergraduate cohort. She is an experienced community pharmacist, recently completing a Master of Philosophy. She has also worked as an HMR facilitator and in rural NSW.

Ludmila completed her Bachelor of Pharmacy with 1st class honours in 2004. She completed her honours project with Lorraine and Sinthia, investigating patient self-management of asthma. She has worked in hospital and community pharmacy since graduation, and was awarded a Faculty of Pharmacy Scholarship to return to undertake a PhD. Ludmila's broad area of research study will focus on asthma device

use.

The Faculty Office welcomes Mr Karol Foyle to the role of Administration Assistant (Pharmacy Practice). Karol has had previous experience in the University both as a Bachelor of Arts student and as a staff member. Karol has spent the last 12 months travelling overseas in Europe.