

DEAN'S UPDATE

Following the University's formal recruitment process during 2007, I have accepted the position of Dean of the Faculty for a period of 5 years. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the coming years to strengthen our premier position and reputation in training pharmacists and in research and innovation. I am also pleased to be appointed Chair of the Committee of Deans at this University for 2008. This will allow me to highlight a number of strategic issues within the University on behalf of my fellow Deans.

We have had Faculty welcome and

orientation programs for our 2008 incoming BPharm and MPharm students and it is great to see so many enthusiastic students enter our professional degree programs. Academic staff have also been frantically working on their grant submissions; this reflects their commitment to enhancing their own and the Faculty's research profile. It is very heartening for me to see the dedication of all our staff.

Stage 2 refurbishments in the Faculty are currently nearing completion. Renovations on Levels 3 and 4 of the Badham Building

have been completed and include 10 academic staff offices and a postgraduate common room. The postgraduate common room will improve the facilities for our research students who are so vital to our research productivity. This has allowed academic staff to move back to the Faculty from the vacating space in Ross Street. Plans for the additional research laboratory on Level 2 of the Pharmacy Building have been finalised and this is due for completion in April.

Iqbal Ramzan
Dean and Professor of Pharmacy

GRANT SUCCESSES

Already this year the Faculty has secured some very important research funding:

Ms Lenka Munoz has successfully received a Cure for Life Foundation™ Brain Tumour Research 2007 Ad Hoc Grant, with **Dr Alaina Ammit** as an Associate Investigator. Cure for This grant is valued at \$10,000 and will be used for work on the project "Will selective p38 MAPK inhibitor prevent brain tumour progression and metastasis?"

The Faculty of Pharmacy received \$20 in funding from the Small TIES scheme, and the Faculty has contributed an additional \$5,500. The following grants will be funded under this scheme:

- A protein-ligand complex resource and flexible group work laboratories for the study of the inhibition of putative therapeutic targets, **Dr Bret Church**

- Improving Pharmacy Assessment in Coursework Degrees, **Ms Kathryn Aufflick**

- Consumer participation in mental health pharmacy education, **Dr Tim Chen**

- Development of a cross Faculty Interprofessional Learning Orientation Package, **Dr Jane Hanrahan**

- Enhancing student collaboration through the use of a Wiki, **Associate Professor Greg Ryan**

- Pharmacists' and pharmacy students' perceptions of management studies in the University of Sydney Bachelor of Pharmacy program, **Professor Lesley White**

Recipients of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia Investigator Initiated Grants included the following Faculty staff:

Building organisational flexibility to promote the implementation

of primary care services in community pharmacy. **Benrimoj S.** 2008-2009: \$179,313

CONTENTS

- Dean's Update
- Grant Successes
- University-wide events
- Student Profile: Hatem Alkhouri
- Fabrizio D'Esposito, a Vincent Fairfax Fellow
- Faculty retreat
- 5S Training for Technical Services
- Upcoming events
- PPF new website
- Women for Pharmacy events
- Congratulations
- Welcome

GRANT SUCCESSES

continued

Role of pharmacists in sleep health –a screening, awareness and monitoring program. **Saini B, Wong K, Grunstein R, Krass I.** 2008-2009: \$194,104

Allergic rhinitis self-management program in community pharmacy **Smith L, Seeto C, Saini B.** 2008-2009: \$163,458

Increasing patient demand for home medicines review: a marketing plan. **White L, Simpson M, Clark C.** 2008-2009: \$199,935

Dr Bandana Saini was Associate Investigator on another PGA grant with the Australian Lung Foundation:

A collaborative screening, referral and management process to improve health outcomes in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) – \$200,000

The NHMRC Equipment grants have been announced and the Faculty secured a total of \$175,000!

Recipients are:

Paul Young, Kim Chan, Daniela

Traini, Wenrong Yang, Filip Braet received \$75,000 to purchase Nanoscale Thermal Imaging equipment

Michael Murray, Jane Hanrahan, Dai Hibbs, Basil Roufogalis, Mary Collins, Colin Duke, Bret Church, Ivan Kennedy, Graham Johnston, Des Richardson, Nick Manolios, Rachael Codd, Rob Allan, Michael Kassiou, Marina Ali and **Bruce Tattam** received \$100,000 towards purchase of a 400 MHz NMR.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE EVENTS

New students to our Faculty received a warm welcome on Wednesday, 27 February, as part of the Sydney Welcome, Orientation and Transition (SWOT) Program.

About 260 pharmacy students met their Associate Dean (Undergraduate) and first year coordinator. They also learned about library resources, Faculty staff who can provide help, services provided by the Student Services Unit, the University of Sydney Union and the Student Representative Council for

student support. The Sydney University Pharmacy Association's (SUPA) presentation ended with a barbecue and tours of the Faculty for our new students, providing an opportunity to begin to make new friends.

The University also hosted an event for Careers Advisers and Teachers from schools throughout NSW. This entailed a series of faculty seminars followed by a networking opportunity over lunch in the Great Hall.

STUDENT PROFILE: NHMRC Scholarship for Hatem Alkhouri



Hatem Alkhouri in his office

Hatem Alkhouri was awarded the NHMRC Biomedical Postgraduate Scholarship for 2.5 years. His project is entitled *Airway Smooth Muscle and Mast cells in Asthma*, and will be supervised by Dr Margaret Hughes and cosupervised by Professor Carol Armour and Dr Lyn Moir.

Upon receiving the award, Hatem noted, "I am honored to be offered this prestigious award, which will enable me to pursue my studies as a full time PhD candidate in the Faculty of Pharmacy, at The University of Sydney."

"For the last three years I have been a member of the Respiratory Research Group (RRG), which has been an amazing experience. The RRG has developed comprehensive expertise in the field of isolating and culturing human airway smooth

muscle cells, and is lead by Professors Carol Armour and Judith Black. I have been employed to work on two NHMRC grants for the last three years with Dr. Margaret Hughes, performing research that has broadened my horizon and enriched my experience and knowledge of asthma and its pathology.

"During my PhD candidature I aim to determine the contribution of mast cells to the altered function of airway smooth muscle cells, whilst also attempting to identify how non-asthmatic airway smooth muscle inhibits mast cell localisation. These findings will provide new targets for asthma therapies, and a pathway for prevention strategies, which up until now have been unsuccessful.

"I would like to thank my family, friends and research supervisors and colleagues, who have provided me with an enormous amount of support during my time here within the RRG so far, especially during my part time PhD candidature."

Congratulations, Hatem!

FABRIZIO D'ESPOSITO, A VINCENT FAIRFAX FELLOW

It all started from a chance encounter with a promotional postcard advertising the Vincent Fairfax Fellowship Ethics in Leadership Program. Following a lengthy application process, Fabrizio D'Esposito - a PhD student at the Faculty of Pharmacy - received a phone call advising him he had been successful. Just a short time later he was in Darwin, getting to know the other 14 successful applicants and learning about psychology, ethics and dilemma busting.

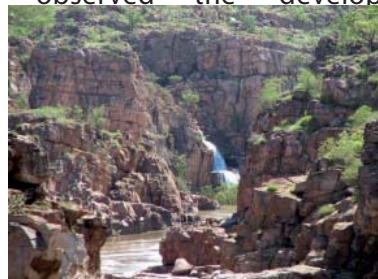


Mining company

The Vincent Fairfax Fellowship Ethics in Leadership program is one of the activities of the St James Ethics Centre, which is made possible through the generosity of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation. The program aims to support and further the development of Australians who factor ethical dimensions into their leadership practice. Participants also acquire a better understanding of domestic Australian issues and the ethical questions involved in them.

After a week of workshops in Darwin, the group was taken to Nitmiluk National Park where they hiked and camped for 5 days. This was an exhaustive physical challenge that included 20kg backpacks, 46 degrees temperature and 80% humidity. Fabrizio claimed this part of the program really made him appreciate the feeling of returning to basic priorities in life, such as being happy simply because you have food and shelter.

In the third week they experienced remote Australia, visiting areas where mining companies and aboriginal communities coexist, and observed the relationship between these two important but diverse groups. Becoming more aware of cultural aspects, they witnessed the reality of living in very remote areas and the intrinsic connection between



Nitmiluk National Park

aboriginal people and the land. The participants also had the opportunity to travel to Canberra and meet with people in high-level positions in politics, the judicial system and the Defence Forces. One-on-one, off the record interviews allowed the participants to have highly insightful conversations with these officials about how they deal with ethical dilemmas at work.

Now back in Sydney, Fabrizio looks back at the last month, amazed at how such a varied group of people could become so close, so quickly. They will meet again in Sydney this year and then in South East Asia in 2009, to present about their individual projects. Each participant will develop and run a one-month project related to ethics and leadership. Fabrizio is planning a project in Botswana which aims to improve compliance of patients affected by HIV.

For more information about the Vincent Fairfax Fellowship visit the St James Ethics Centre at www.ethics.org.au

FACULTY RETREAT

The Faculty of Pharmacy Retreat was held on 11 February at the Darlington Centre. The purpose of this retreat was to benchmark and establish the Faculty's current position, as well as determine our future direction. It aimed at providing a facilitated open forum environment in which staff could discuss Faculty issues. Speakers at the retreat were asked to address the following topics: What are your expectations and

perceptions of the Faculty of Pharmacy? What should the Faculty be doing, thinking and researching in 2008 and beyond? What would make an ideal Faculty of Pharmacy? Barbara Anderson, from Shire Coaching and Training, facilitated the retreat which included Faculty presenters as well as other guest speakers including Professor Derrick Armstrong,

the Acting Deputy Provost (Learning & Teaching) and Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor Merlin Crossley, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). There were also presentations by industry, community and hospital pharmacy representatives. These included Greg Pearce, from Alphapharm; Tim Sidgreaves from the Blooms Pharmacy Group; and Terry Melocco from St Vincents Hospital, respectively.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTS 5S

On the 25th of February the staff of the Technical Services Department participated in a three-day training course in the 5S quality system.

The 5S's stands for Sort, Set in order, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain. The methodology was developed in Japan after World War 2 and was perfected by the Toyota Automotive company in the 1960's. It has since been adapted by companies in diverse areas such as manufacturing, office environments, education, IT, and laboratories to assist in becoming world class organizations. There is a proven range of benefits to an organization that implements 5S such as improved productivity, staff morale, quality, safety, and customer satisfaction.

As part of the training, the first 3 S's (Sort, Set in Order and Shine) were

carried out in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Laboratory. This provided staff with an opportunity to get hands-on experience with the new system.

After the Sorting process, the remaining inventory was placed in optimal locations and the lab was extensively cleaned.

As a result, a large amount of obsolete and broken equipment and labware was able to be disposed of, which surprised all participants. The challenge ahead for the Technical Services department is the last two S's (Standardise and Sustain). Over the next 12 weeks, an action plan will be put in practice to ensure that improvements are sustained and it will include all Faculty's teaching labs.

The Technical Services team worked extremely hard over the

three days of the 5S training, and learnt a great deal about continuous improvement and striving to become world class.

I would like to thank everyone on the team for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm and I am looking forward to the future implementation and improvement within our other teaching labs.

Paul Jones
Technical Services Manager



Pharmaceutical Sciences laboratory after the 5S training session.

UPCOMING EVENTS

6 March: Seminar "Pulmonary lymphangiomyomatosis - Is there a role for TSC2 in cellular attachment?" by Dr Lyn Moir

7 March: Sydney University Pharmacy Association (SUPA) charity BBQ and soccer match

13 March: Seminar "Examination

of a Unifying Mechanism for the 130-Year Mystery of Nitroglycerin Tolerance" by Prof HL (Leung) Fung

14 March: Graduation

20 March: Seminar "Simulating self-organisation in biological systems" by Prof Alan E. Mark

27, 28 March: Degree in a Day

3 April: Seminar "Human mineralised tissues and calcium phosphate-based biomaterials" by Dr Ramin Rohanizadeh

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

PPF GETS WEB WISE ON ITS BIRTHDAY

In 2008 the Pharmacy Practice Foundation celebrates 30 years of service to pharmacy practice with a brand new website:

www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/ppf

Since its inception, the Pharmacy Practice Foundation, within the Faculty of Pharmacy, has been forging lasting links with community, industry and the area of pharmacy practice at the

University of Sydney. Now the Foundation has one more way to build on such bonds with a website designed to allow pharmacists, managers, students, academics and alumni to share the latest in developments with the click of a mouse.

Not only can you discover more about the Foundation itself in this website, but you can also

find out about its programs and activities, such as the Business Undergraduate Mentoring System (BUMP) and the Business Skills programs, academic Chairs established by the Foundation, profiles of Practitioner Teachers, the calendar of events, including the annual Governors' Dinner and regular Industry Lunches, and also access information about the Retail Seminar Series.

WOMEN FOR PHARMACY EVENTS

The Women for Pharmacy Executive Committee has started the year with an exciting program for Women within the profession of pharmacy. This year, the program was launched with the North



Dr Lorraine Smith

Shore Women for Pharmacy Network dinner. The guest speaker at this dinner was our own Dr Lorraine Smith, who engaged the audience

in a lively yet practical discussion about how to talk to patient with chronic illnesses. The attendees

thoroughly enjoyed Lorraine's talk and had more questions than time would allow.

The Women for Pharmacy Network dinners will be held in a variety of locations over the coming year, including Inner West, Liverpool and North Shore. Speakers lined up for dinners in the future include Prof Andrew McLachlan (Medicines in Sport), Dr Rebekah Moles (Medicines and Children) and Susie Burrell, a Psychologist and Nutritionist (Eating for healthy Body and Mind). The next Women for Pharmacy networking function will be on 12 March in Sutherland.

The Women for Pharmacy annual get together will be held on April 20 and will be a lunch event at Northbridge Golf Club. The guest speaker will be the renowned chef Charmaine Solomon, who will be talking about "Fast dinners for Busy Families".

For further information and for a comprehensive list of future events, contact the Pharmacy Practice Foundation or visit the Pharmacy Practice Foundation website:

www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/ppf

CONGRATULATIONS

The recipient of the 2007 Faculty Teaching Awards for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision is Dr Mary Collins. Congratulations also to Dr Dai Hibbs, who was highly commended for the award. Certificates for the Faculty Teaching Awards will be delivered at the Awards Night on 29 April.

Tracey Hardgraves obtained an NHMRC postgraduate scholarship.

Eleonora Feletto obtained a University Postgraduate Award.

Ludmila Ovchinokova obtained an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Fabrizio D'Esposito was highly commended for his oral presentation at the last Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) in Adelaide. It was a strong competition and he was the only Sydney person amongst a large number of Victorian contestants.

WELCOME

Please welcome Mr Vidya Perara who is commencing a PhD with Professor Andrew McLachlan and Associate Professor Annette Gross. His project will investigate ethnic differences in drug response. Vidya will be based at Concord Hospital in Professor McLachlan's lab

Dr Sinthia Bosnic-Anticevich and Dr Lorraine Smith are welcoming a new PhD student in March. Ms Ludmila Ovchinokova completed her BPharm with 1st class honours in 2004. She completed her honours project with the above mentioned

academics, 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. Dr Bosnic-Anticevich and Dr Smith are delighted to have her back.

Please welcome Ms Cherie Tsingos, who has been a Practitioner Teacher at the Faculty but has now taken on

a Pharmacy Practice lecturer position to replace Rebekah Moles while she is on maternity leave until the end of the year.

Dr Thomas Grewal is welcoming a new Research Assistant, Ms Peta Wood. She comes from the Centre for Immunology at Saint Vincents Hospital.

Please welcome Dr Fanfan Zhou, who has made the journey across the Pacific to join us as a lecturer in the Pharmaceutics discipline. We wish her and her family all the best in settling in Australia.