

## DEAN'S UPDATE

March has been a month of celebration as we honoured the achievements of our students at two graduation ceremonies. 282 students received their degrees and we look forward to hearing of their future success in the pharmacy profession. Staff have also been recognised for their

commitment to education via the University of Sydney Long Service Awards. The Faculty took part in the University's Degree in a Day programme of events, providing workshops for prospective students to provide an insight into studying pharmacy at the Faculty. Another welcome visitor

to the Faculty this month has been Professor Ho-Leung Fung, a long-standing colleague and world-renowned researcher in pharmacy who delivered the Occasional Address at our two Graduation Ceremonies.

**Iqbal Ramzan**  
Dean and Professor of Pharmacy

## GRADUATION SUCCESS



The Faculty was proud to graduate 284 students on Friday 14th March in two graduation ceremonies attended by Faculty staff including Dean of Faculty, Professor Iqbal Ramzan.

In total 224 students graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree including 8 with a Rural specialisation. Claudia Husin and Candice Levy were also awarded a University Medal for achieving a Weighted Average Mark of 85% or more.

The Postgraduate ceremony showcased the range of postgraduate qualifications offered by the Faculty: 1 Graduate Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences, 1 Graduate Certificate

in Herbal Medicines, 46 Master of Pharmacy, 8 Master of Herbal Medicines, and 4 Doctor of Philosophy students were graduated. Students from the Master of Pharmacy degree program organised and produced a Year Book as a keepsake to remember their time at the Faculty.

The Faculty held a Graduation Luncheon in the Faculty Common Room to celebrate the achievements of the graduates. Doctoral graduates Betty Char, Pei Hong Cui, Vicky Kritikos, and John Ray were introduced by their PhD supervisors who gave a speech of commendation. Vicky Kritikos, seen here with the Dean of Faculty, and Professor Basil



Roufogalis, Pro Dean and Head of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, graduated with a doctorate. Vicky has taken a part time position lecturing in Pharmacy Practice in the Faculty.

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## GRANT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Dr Parisa Aslani who leads a research team (Prof Theo Raynor, Dr Peter Knapp, Mr Larry Gingold, Dr Alison Moore, Dr Jeff Hughes, Dr Lisa Nissen) and an advisory team (NPS, CHF, QARG and Healthlinks.net) who

were successful in the tender "CMI Effectiveness" and received \$1.1 million in funding.

The program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of

the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement Grants Program managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

## LONG SERVICE AWARDS



Several members of the Faculty received recognition for long service at the University during the 2008 Long Service Awards ceremony held in the Great Hall on 25th March. The Long Service Awards have been presented to staff since 1979 and 201 members of staff received awards this year.

Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Dean of Faculty, pictured right, received a Bronze medal and certificate of recognition for 25 years service.

Professor Hak-Kim Chan and Ms Sylvia Tropiano received certificates of recognition for 20 years and 15 years service respectively.

## A DAY OF HARMONY

Members of the Faculty celebrated Harmony Day in March with a Morning Tea in the Faculty common room. Staff brought along food from their home countries to reflect and celebrate the diversity of culture present in the Faculty. The Dean

of Faculty opened the event with a short speech explaining the importance of diversity. It was a good opportunity to try different foods and flavours and discover new friendships.

The Respiratory Devices Group also held a Morning Tea in the Faculty on 28th March to introduce their academic members to wider Faculty staff in a successful networking event. Other groups are planning Morning Teas in the future.

## FRIENDS FROM OVERSEAS



The Faculty was pleased to welcome Professor Ho-Leung Fung who presented a seminar entitled "examination of a unifying mechanism for the 130-year mystery of nitroglycerin tolerance" as part of the Faculty's seminar series.

Professor Fung is Professor and Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Buffalo in the USA. He is internationally known for his contributions in advancing our understanding of the pharmacology of nitrovasodilators, especially regarding the role of metabolic processes in their mechanism of action and tolerance.

Professor Fung's visit was particularly poignant as Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at The University of Sydney, began

his post-doctoral career at the University of Buffalo. Professor Ramzan held research positions at the University of Buffalo from 1981 to 1985. Initially a Research Fellow in Pharmaceutics from 1981 to 1984 Professor Ramzan became a Research Assistant to the Professor of Pharmaceutics from 1984 to 1985.

Professor Fung gave the Occasional Address at both Faculty graduation ceremonies and spoke about the qualities of integrity, knowledge and compassion, needed to be a pharmacist.

## DEGREE IN A DAY

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On 27th and 28th March the University held its 'Degree in a Day' event which saw local final year school students visit faculties across the campus to experience a taster of University life and learning.

In the Faculty Dr Jane Hanrahan gave an introduction and careers presentation to 70 visiting students. The visitors were then split into three smaller groups and took part in short practical laboratory experiments which explored

different aspects of pharmacy. Thanks to Romano Fois, Tim Chen, Padmaja Dhanvate, Jiamin You and Maung Maung Soe for running the practical sessions.

A session on Pharmaceutical Chemistry involved the analysis of Paracetamol Syrup. The second session gave students an insight into the dangers of conflicting medicines as they worked on a case scenario of a patient taking two different medicines and the outcome of their interaction.

In the last session students got to experience preparing and dispensing a paracetamol elixir.

The visitors were accompanied by volunteers from the Sydney University Pharmacy Association; Anmol Pas, Anna Thai, Jimmy Van, Mindy Wang, Ramesh Walpola and Grace Ha Young Yoo. The SUPA volunteers also answered questions about life at the University and about being a pharmacy student in the Faculty.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**17th April:** Seminar "Metabolic and cardiovascular consequences of obesity" by Prof Margaret Morris

**18th April:** Morning Tea: Faculty Professors

**22nd April:** Summer vacation Industry Event

**24th April:** Seminar "Using animal behavioural models to understand the development of schizophrenia and mechanism of action of antipsychotic drugs" by Assoc Prof Maarten van den Buuse

**29th April:** Faculty Awards Night

**1st May:** Seminar "Target based drug design of selective GABA(C) receptor ligands" by Ms Heba Abdel Halim

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

## WELCOME

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Associate Professor Ines Krass and Dr Bernadette Mitchell are welcoming Ms Connie Van who is commencing a PhD in "Inter-professional collaboration between community pharmacists and general practitioners through cognitive pharmacy services".

Please welcome Rebecca Liu who has taken the position of Research Services Officer in the Faculty office. Rebecca has previously worked in the Research Office on a nine month secondment and has now returned with a wealth of knowledge about research students and scholarships, ready to take on this new role.

Vinnie Xue has joined the Faculty as the Clinical Placements Administrative Assistant in February, filling this role while Desmond Lee is acting in the Postgraduate Coursework Officer role. Vinnie has previous administration experience elsewhere in the University.

Vicky Kritikos has taken on a part time appointment as a Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice until the middle of the year. Vicky is well known to many in the Faculty, having undertaken a Practitioner Teacher role for a number of years, and also having recently completed her PhD from which she graduated

this month.

The Faculty welcomes Andrea Thompson as the new Manager of the Pharmacy Practice Foundation. Andrea has several years' experience as the Manager for the UWS Legal Office, in addition to other university experience.

Congratulations to Rebekah Moles and Rob Ericsson on the arrival of their son Noah James Ericsson born 21st March. Noah is a bonny boy of 54cm and 3.495kg and baby brother to Poppy.