

DEAN'S UPDATE

This month I travelled to China to attend the University's Triennium events in Beijing and Guangzhou, as well as the 'Frontiers of Knowledge Symposium – Internationalising and Modernising Chinese Medicines' held in Guangzhou. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor John Hearn, and the Chancellor, Professor Marie Bashir, also travelled to China for these events.

During the Beijing events, meetings were held with the President of Peking University, and the Minister for Education in China. A press conference was held, which promoted the establishment of a joint

Traditional Chinese Medicines Centre between The University of Sydney and Sun Yat-sen University.

The 'Frontier of Knowledge Symposium' in Guangzhou, which I co-chaired, also promoted this centre, and was well attended by members of this and Sun Yat-sen University communities. Professor Basil Roufogalis and Dr George Li from the Faculty made presentations on their research and academics from Sun Yat-sen University also presented their research.

An announcement was made by the Premier of NSW, Mr M. Lemma about the establishment of the



Top: Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy,

Joint Centre during his visit to Guangzhou, and I was part of a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the establishment of this Centre.

Iqbal Ramazan
Dean

PHARMACY EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

The inaugural Pharmacy Education Symposium was well received by Pharmacy teachers and attracted 50 participants from within Pharmacy as well as colleagues in related disciplines.



The Dean of Pharmacy, Prof Iqbal Ramzan, opened the day and gave an overview of the work of learning and teaching in the Faculty to date and some indications of directions for the future.

The morning and afternoon contributed sessions generated significant interest and lively discussion. Participants learned about the wide range of teaching

projects and innovations going on in the Faculty. We were also able to showcase quality teaching in the Faculty via a 'teaching tips' session in which coordinators shared their approaches.

Two highlights of the day were the invited workshops. Justin Read (ACELL Project and School of Chemistry) and Erica Sainsbury (Pharmacy) gave excellent presentations on their research into student motivation and engaged in fruitful dialogue with participants about how these findings may be incorporated into the learning and teaching within Pharmacy. Prof Robyn Overall (Chair of the Research and Research Training Committee) brought us an update on changes and improvement in University policy and procedures regarding research student teaching. She also brought valuable insights into recent student evaluations of their research training

experience in Pharmacy and facilitated an excellent discussion of possible and planned local improvements.

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INDUSTRY LINKAGE EVENING AT THE MUSEUM

On Thursday, 1st of November 2007 the Faculty of Pharmacy held the first Faculty of Pharmacy Industry-Linkage Evening. The event took place in the edifying atmosphere of the Nicholson Museum, among Greek sculptures and pictures of the Parthenon.

The event, organized by the Research Committee and represented by Alaina Ammit, Daniela Traini and Sean Goodwin, focused on strengthening links between the Faculty of Pharmacy and relevant stakeholders with the aim to develop these links into future ARC-Linkage grant applications. The event was opened by the Dean, Professor Iqbal Ramzan, and followed by a welcome by the

University of Sydney by Professor Merlin Crossley, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Ms Merrilee Robb, Director of Research Development, and



Mr Warwick Dawson, Director of Research Office, gave a brief introduction on ARC Linkages, followed by a concise overview of the kind of research produced at the Faculty of Pharmacy presented

by Dr Alaina Ammit, Associate Dean (Research).

The Faculty showcased its research strengths and briefly presented recent successful ARC-Linkages awarded to the Faculty. Two ARC-Linkage case studies were presented: one by Professor Kim Chan (Faculty) and Dr John Crapper (Pharmaxis Ltd), and the other presented by Dr Sinthia Bosnic-Anticevich (Faculty) and Ms Margaret Williamson (National Prescribing Service Limited).

The event was very successful: representatives from eleven companies and twenty-three members of staff were able to network and sew the seeds for future ARC-linkage applications.

FACULTY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Construction has started on Stage 2 of the Faculty's refurbishment program. This will provide office space to cater for our growing number of academic staff, along with open-plan workstations for our research students. In addition, one wet lab will be refurbished, and a new wet lab will be created

on Level 2 of the Pharmacy Building. Refurbishment on Level 5 will provide accommodation for the new Pharmacy Management group. Other refurbishment work currently being undertaken includes an upgrade to the stairwells in the Faculty buildings, refurbishment of the Common

Room to provide greater amenity for staff and research students, and upgrading of the laboratory facilities on Level 4. This work will all be completed prior to the start of classes in 2008.

Carroll Graham
Faculty Manager

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

Pharmacy schools nationwide have been extremely successful in training graduates in the scientific and clinical accomplishments required for their future careers. Yet in the area of small business management skills – vital for the 85% of graduates who take up a career in retail pharmacy – there has been relatively little teaching or research.

The Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney is the first school in Australia, and one of

only a few in the world, to address this need by providing valuable managerial and academic input.

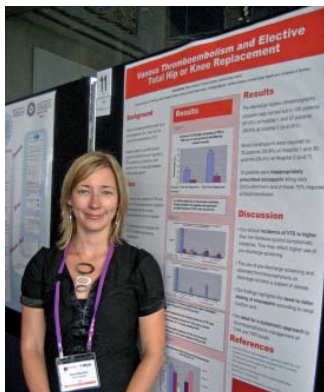
There are currently three scholarships on offer for suitable applicants commencing research studies in the field of Pharmacy Management in 2008. The Warwick Wilkinson Pharmacy Management Scholarship is for full-time Master's by research or PhD applicants. Two other Pharmacy Management Research Scholarships are open to applicants wishing to undertake

full-time PhD study in this field. All scholarships are valued at the current Australian Postgraduate Award rate (currently \$19,616 pa tax free) and will be indexed annually. Applications close on Friday 7 December 2007.

For information on the scholarships as well as details on how to lodge an application, please contact Mr Sean Goodwin on sgoodwin@pharm.usyd.edu.au or +61 2 9036 7243.

SHPA CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY

Pharmacy Practice research (Faculty of Pharmacy) was well represented at the recent Federal Conference of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) in Sydney. In total, 16 abstracts were accepted for presentation, covering a broad range of clinical practice topics including professional practice issues, drug utilisation evaluation, exploration of risks for medication misadventure, pharmacotherapy in special patient populations, clinical decision support tools, and extension of pharmacy services. The Faculty's conference achievement highlights its successful collaborations



Above: Dona Buchan, Master of Pharmacy (Clinical) student in Pharmacy Practice supervised by Beata Bajorek

with its hospital-based colleagues, in particular with its affiliated Academic Pharmacy Units within a number of area health services.

A number of Faculty staff were also very actively involved in other aspects of the conference. Dr Rebekah Moles and Sasha Bennett were on the organizing committee and several staff reviewed abstracts for the scientific contributed papers program. Conjoint academic pharmacists including Dr Beata Bajorek (Northern Sydney Central Coast Health), Professor Jo-anne Brien (St Vincent's Hospital) and Professor Andrew McLachlan (Concord Hospital) all took part in chairing, judging and presenting in a number of concurrent and plenary sessions. Overall, the conference was a huge success with representation from the Faculty of Pharmacy at an all time record level.

Ines Krass and Beata Bajorek

ADVANCED STUDENTS' TALKS

Congratulations to all Advanced Students, who presented their research projects on 1st and 2nd November in the Pharmacy Lecture Theatre. A wide range of very interesting research was presented. The standard of the presentations was very high: 28 students were awarded First Class Honours, of a total of 39 students. Well done everyone!



VISITING PROFESSOR



On 23 November the Faculty, represented by Bret Church, had the pleasure of hosting a talk by Professor Terry Lybrand from the Departments of Chemistry and Pharmacology, and Center for Structural Biology, from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, USA. The presentation was on "Molecular simulation of cyclooxygenase-inhibitor complexes: Insights into inhibitor binding and selectivity."

Professor Lybrand began his career with a Clinical Pharmacy degree from UCSF. He

now has over 100 publications in the area of computational and structural pharmacology. Terry was visiting our Faculty on his way to Melbourne's MM2007 (Molecular Modelling conference), run by the Association of Molecular Modellers of Australasia (AMMA), of which Bret Church is the treasurer.

Congratulations!

Betty Chaar successfully completed her PhD with her thesis on "Professional Ethics in Pharmacy", the first study of its kind in Australia.

Fabrizio D'Esposito was awarded The Vincent Fairfax Fellowship.

Kristin Miller was awarded the 2008 Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Research Fellowship.

Lenka and Alex Munoz saw the arrival of their first daughter Letizia, who was born on 11 November.

STAFF PROFILE: WELCOME BACK MARIA SUKKAR

If you were part of the Faculty until 2001, you may recognize the new Pharmacy Practice Lecturer who returned at the end of October. Maria Sukkar completed her Bachelor of Pharmacy here in 1994. After completing her pharmacist registration year at Concord Hospital, she then started her PhD with the Respiratory Research Group at The University of Sydney. Maria moved to London in 2001 to accept a post-doctoral position at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College, London. Her research interest is in the area of airway smooth muscle biology and function in

chronic inflammatory airway disease. After almost seven years away from Australia, she is back at home and her alma mater. "I had a great time in London but I am very pleased to be back to see my family and friends, to reconnect with people", says Maria. She is looking forward to many new things in 2008: teaching students, focusing on securing a grant to do some research, moving into the new house she bought last year and maybe even starting a new

pastime. "I am rubbish at hobbies. I need to work hard at finding a hobby that is cheap and cheerful", she says. Actually her hobby is travelling, and that's also one of her plans for next year. "There are so many places to visit in Australia," she says with a spark in her eyes. "Only after you have been to Europe and come back do you appreciate how young this country is." There are many possibilities ahead for Maria Sukkar back at The University of Sydney.



future events:

- 5 and 6 December - Dean Candidates Seminars. Iqbal Ramzan and Tony D'Emanuelle present their plans
 - 8 to 11 December - APSA Conference in Manly
 - 23 to 29 January 2008 - NAPSA Congress SUPA will host this annual event for pharmacy students
 - The next edition of Hygieia Newsletter will be in January 2008.
- Happy New Year!

TENDER SUCCESS

Congratulations to Associate Professor Ines Krass and her team on their successful Department of Health and Ageing tender for \$1,142,000 from 2007-2010: "The Diabetes Pilot Program – Stage 1 - Implementation" I Krass, C Armour, L White, L Smith (USyd), J. Hughes (Curtin), G Peterson (U Tas) and K Stewart (Monash)

STUDENT PROFILE: Ramesh Walpola

Ramesh is a busy student. He studies full time, has worked in a pharmacy until recently and now works for the Marketing and Recruitment Unit taking visitors on tours of the University. He is also an active SUPA member serving as treasurer this year. In the past few months he has been especially busy with organizing the NAPSA (National Australian



Pharmacy Students' Association) Congress, which will be held from 23 to 29 January 2008. When asked how he became involved in SUPA and the Congress, Ramesh explains that attending the NAPSA Congress in 2006 in Hobart changed his feelings towards pharmacy. At that time, Ramesh was having second thoughts about the course and the career path he would have later in life. However, the Congress explored different areas and other opportunities in pharmacy, which made him feel certain of his choice and motivated him to continue studying and to

engage more. That is why Ramesh is working so hard bringing the NAPSA Congress back to Sydney after 12 years: to inspire. "I want to encourage the students here to become more actively involved in the profession. There is a great variety of possibilities and pursuits within pharmacy," he explains. There are some other reasons, as to meet friends from interstate institutions who may become future business partners or even life partners, such as Professor Andrew McLachlan and his wife, who met in the 1986 Congress. The SUPA members would also love to show off the University they are so proud of.