

# Faculty of Health Sciences

## Executive Dean's News

*Excellence and Innovation in Teaching, Research and Community Service in Health*

### Faculty Success

It has been a month to celebrate the outstanding results of our Faculty staff. I was most impressed with the Faculty's first annual Research Expo on 23 October, where 72 posters by 63 postgraduate students across 15 of the Faculty's disciplines were displayed in Bonython Hall. The overall winner, for best poster and oral presentation, was Dr Alkis Psaltis from the School of Medicine, Discipline of Medicine (TQEH).

Professor Peter Wormald and Dr Theodore Athanasiadis were awarded for the ARI Most Exciting New Disclosure for their invention which improves healing, controls bleeding and prevents excess scar tissue after surgery. Professor Janet Hiller and Assoc Professor John Moss, Discipline of Public Health secured the award for the largest research contract on behalf of the Australian Health Technology Assessment.

I recently attended the Big Night Out celebration for the School of Dentistry where 250 people celebrated the achievements of the School. One outstanding highlight was the announcement that Colgate has agreed to provide further funding of a \$1 million over 5 years to the School's Colgate Centre led by Professor Mark Bartold.

### Article in 'The Advertiser'

The Faculty of Health Sciences is coordinating the regular publication of research articles in the weekly column 'Can you believe it?' in 'The Advertiser Review'.

On 13 October 2007, the article of Professor Gary Wittert, Head of School of Medicine, was published with the title: "Exercise v Energy"

and

on 8 December 2007, an article by Dr Cameron van den Heuvel from the School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health titled: "The need for sleep" was published.

### Awards

#### *Sir Keith Murdoch Fellowship*

Amanda Hutchinson, School of Psychology, has been awarded a Sir Keith Murdoch Fellowship. This Fellowship is one of the American Australian Association's awards, given only to leading Australian scholars for their advanced research at top US universities.

#### *Young Investigator Award*

The 2007 winner of the award is Cadence Minge, Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology for her study in 'Ovarian malfunction caused by a high-fat diet is reversed with short-term treatment with the anti-diabetic drug rosiglitazone'.

#### *Clinical Titleholders and Affiliates*

This group of staff are a very important part of our Faculty. I have been recently informed by Professor Jenny Couper of the Discipline of Paediatrics teaching awards for hospital registrars and consultants. The awards were:

#### *Registrar and Fellow MBBS Teaching awards in Paediatrics 2007*

##### Winner:

Ali Basset (General surgical Registrar)

##### Highly Commended:

Nitin Gupta (Gastroenterology Fellow )  
Mohan Murulaiah (General Surgical Registrar)  
Rami Abbu-Assi (Gastroenterology Fellow)  
Cheryl Kasel (Senior Paediatric Registrar)  
Sing-Jill Chow (Paediatric Registrar)

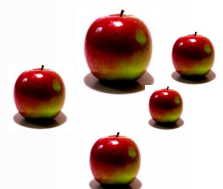
#### *Consultant MBBS awards in Paediatrics 2007*

##### Winner:

Neil Smith (ED Consultant)

##### Highly Commended:

Michael Smiley (LMHS General Paediatrician)



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### Research

All research groups are now heavily involved in developing the context statements for their RQF groups. With the recent change in Government, it is now unclear what the next steps as regards the RQF are. The new Labour Government has indicated that they would scrap the RQF in the current format and develop their own version. The Research Secretariat will keep everyone informed.

### Staff

As advised in my last newsletter, the Faculty Focus Group exercise has now completed its 1<sup>st</sup> stage. In all, 84 people took part in the focus groups – 58 academic staff and 26 professional staff. Two of the key problem areas identified in the staff satisfaction surveys of 2004 and 2006 - communication and workload - were also the most important for the focus groups. A number of suggestions were made for how these problems of workload and communication could be addressed and these suggestions will now form the basis of our staff development planning for 2008 and 09. I will be informing you of these plans in the new year.

### Teaching and Learning

A number of projects are coming to fruition in the Teaching and Learning area. They include:-

- An understanding of the relationship between student satisfaction and student learning outcomes
- An agreed set of principles on the management of at risk students
- Longitudinal comparison of trends in postgraduate programs
- A co-ordinated Faculty framework for Honours programs with an online toolkit and benchmarking processes
- A comprehensive, Faculty based evaluation and quality enhancement plan

These projects have formed the basis for our Faculty wide priorities for 2008, under the Associate Dean, (Teaching and Learning) Associate Professor Maree O'Keefe and the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. They will include:-

- Improving feedback
- Improving CEQ performance
- Continued quality enhancement
- Continuing support for clinical title holders

All Schools and programs will be involved in these developments in 2008.

A number of the staff of the Faculty have recently been nominated to receive Stephen Cole the Elder for Excellence in Teaching awards. The successful staff were:-

- Associate Professor Peter Devitt (School of Medicine) in partnership with Mr Eddie Palmer (Centre for Learning and Professional Development)
- Associate Professor Maree O'Keefe (School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health)
- Dr Shona Crabb (School of Psychology)
- Professor Martha Augoustinos (School of Psychology)

Associate Professor Amanda Le Couteur received a certificate of high commendation.

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## Learning and Teaching cont.

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching was awarded to **Associate Professor Marie O'Keefe**, School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health. Marie's nomination stood out not only in terms of the quality of her teaching, but in terms of her contributions, both nationally and internationally, to the scholarship of learning and teaching in her discipline, as well as her contributions to the University and the wider community.



## Facilities and Infrastructure

This priority continues to consume a great deal of activity. The Faculty has recently employed a health service planner (Ms Colleen Watson) to map the short and long term space needs of the Faculty and all Schools. At this current time, renovations are currently underway in four Schools to create more teaching and research space.

## 25 Year Service Medal

I would like to congratulate and thank Ms Wendy Burton, Mr Mick Guerin and Mrs Lucy Hatch for their 25 years service to the University. Wendy, Mick and Lucy received their Medals at a ceremony on November 27, 2007 hosted by the Vice Chancellor Professor James McWha in the Mitchell Building.



This is my last newsletter for 2007. Thankyou for all your outstanding work over the last very busy and exciting 12 months.

Enjoy your Christmas and New Year, see you in 2008.

Justin