

RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Professor Philip Hogg— Inaugural Director of Lowy

I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Professor Philip Hogg** as the Director of the Lowy Cancer Research Centre, UNSW. As the Inaugural Director of the new Lowy Cancer Research Centre, his role will be to develop the Centre's identity and foster interactions with the Faculty, UNSW, industry and the community.

Professor Hogg is an NH&MRC Senior Principal Research Fellow. He was awarded this year's prestigious Cancer Institute NSW Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Researcher, the highest cancer research honour in NSW. The Award acknowledges the potential for Professor Hogg's research to change cancer treatment and improve the survival chances of patients. Professor Hogg is developing a new frontier of research and is working to commercialise his discoveries to ensure they have major clinical applications. His work represents a new paradigm in biology and has been recognised by other awards including the Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research and the GlaxoSmithKline Australia Award for Research Excellence. He has published over 100 research articles and is an inventor on 25 patents.



Peter Smith

Dean of Medicine

FROM THE HEART - Community support for research

Mary Krinitis has worked tirelessly to raise funds to support research into Juvenile inflammatory arthritis (JIA) and its complications. Mary quickly realised, after her son developed JIA, that little was known about this disease and there was a dire need for research into this condition. As a result, Mary established the George Kranitis Research Fund to promote research interest in the cause and disease mechanisms underlying juvenile arthritis.

As this is an uncommon disease, there is a lack of knowledge about its pathogenesis, despite the fact that it can have severe debilitating effects on young people not only causing severe arthritis, but also potentially blinding ocular complications. Funds raised by the George Kranitis Foundation have helped support ongoing research activity in the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr Jeanie Chui was appointed as the first George Kranitis Research Fellow. Jeanie recently completed her Doctoral research within the School of Medical Sciences looking at the role of neuropeptides in corneal stem cell biology. She was the inaugural George Kranitis Research Fellow and examined the role of newly discovered genes in the pathogenesis of uveitis.

Please see the video link I recently recorded for the fundraising effort:
<http://tv.unsw.edu.au/video/juvenile-arthritis/uveitis-research-fund-faculty-of-medicine>



Denis Wakefield

Associate Dean Research

George and his sister Katerina, with Jeanie Chui, Maria Sarris, Mary Kranitis, Peter McCluskey and Denis Wakefield

"Everything is difficult before it becomes simple" Claude Lelouche, La Belle Histoire

FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS

The Faculty was able to award 11 Early Career Researcher grants and 9 Faculty Research Grants amounting to \$393,000. For a complete list of successful applicants, please see:

[http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/resources/RNews091/\\$file/2009FRGECR.pdf](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/resources/RNews091/$file/2009FRGECR.pdf)

MAJOR EQUIPMENT GRANTS

17 Major Equipment Grants were awarded to the Faculty, plus one cross Faculty grant, amounting to more \$2.2M. For a full list of the successful applicants, please see

[http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/resources/FRG/\\$file/MajorEquipment2010.pdf](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/resources/FRG/$file/MajorEquipment2010.pdf)

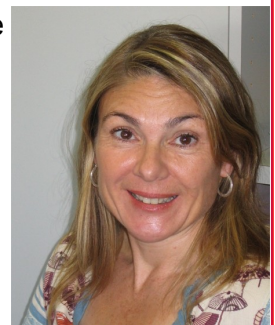
FUTURE FELLOWSHIPS

After successfully receiving 3 Future Fellowships for 2009, the Faculty has called for applicants for 2010 and over 20 researchers have applied.

At Your Service: Jasmin Handakas, Conjoint Liaison Officer

My part-time title has varied over the past 9 years but my role has remained fairly constant. I look after the Faculty's 1,500 or so conjoins. A conjoint appointment with the Faculty of Medicine, recognizes the valuable contribution of individuals who interact with UNSW medical students over a prolonged period of time during the course of their substantive positions e.g. within hospitals or community practices.

Recently, I have taken on the administration for the Faculty's Visiting Academic appointments. Although I don't actually get to meet and greet most of our conjoins and visitors, I enjoy responding to their queries and assisting them. I prefer an art house plot at the flicks but in a work day I have to admit - I am all for a Hollywood 'happy ending'! Jasmine Handakas : j.handakas@unsw.edu.au



How Can I Help?

Each month we profile members of the Faculty's staff who can help you with various aspects of your research. This month's profile is of **Gavin McKenzie:**

Gavin McKenzie is the Senior Technical Officer in the Histology and Microscopy Unit. After completing a Bachelor of Science degree at Macquarie University, Gavin began working at UNSW in 1997. In 2009 he completed his MSc degree at UNSW on immunohistochemical prognostic markers in colorectal cancer using tissue microarrays. Gavin is an integral member of the Histology & Microscopy Unit and has a wealth of knowledge in histological and immunohistological techniques. Recently he has developed expertise in the state-of-the-art Aperio Scanscope slide scanning and image analysis systems.

The Histology and Microscopy Unit provides high quality services in histology, microscopy, imaging and analysis techniques. The laboratory is equipped with a range of state-of-the-art equipment including: Aperio Scanscope digital slide scanners (for both standard light and fluorescence images), Leica and Dako automated immunostainers and Zeiss and Olympus digital cameras. HMU also has Metamorph and Aperio Algorithms software for extensive image analysis.



The Unit is available to postgraduate students, research staff throughout the University and to off campus research centres, Government departments and private industry groups. The Histology and Microscopy Unit can assist you with all of your histological and imaging needs.

To discuss your needs please contact Gavin by email g.mckenzie@unsw.edu.au or via the HMU on 9385 2529 or through the HMU website <http://histology.med.unsw.edu.au>

NSi Launches New Market Opportunity Assessment Service

NSi welcomes being notified of potential Intellectual Property and inventions well in advance of the research work being completed. In these instances, NSi can provide Market Opportunity Assessments during the early stages of the research programme as an advisory service. These assessments can be used by researchers to focus their research towards outcomes that will increase the likelihood of the project receiving collaborative funding, improve the patentability and increase the chances of applying the invention in the wider community.

Service Description:

The Market Opportunity Assessment service can be tailored to meet the specific needs of researchers. For students commencing a PhD, the service could be as simple as a 1 hour discussion and providing them with industry reports to which NSi has access, or a brief industry overview.

For researchers scoping out major projects, a more detailed assessment may be needed. In these cases, the service could include concept development meetings with the researchers followed by NSi investigating and reporting on any or all of the following commercially relevant aspects:

Market Overview and Outlook

- Market size
- Market drivers and restraints
- Growth prospects
- Technical trends
- Regulatory issues

Competitive Overview

- Potential competitors
- Competing products
- Barriers to entry

Target Markets

- Value chain assessment
- Alternative applications
- Potential collaborators

To discuss or initiate the Market Opportunity Assessment service, please contact the NSi Senior Business Analyst, Robert Baker on 9385 9813 or via email r.baker@nsinnovations.com.au

For more information about this new service, visit: <http://www.nsinnovations.com.au/unswstaff/nsiservices.html>

Coming soon – UNSW Inventor of the Year Awards

Entries for the 2010 UNSW Inventor of the Year Awards will open on 22 March 2010.

Presented annually by NewSouth Innovations, the UNSW Inventor of the Year Awards recognise and reward inventors that are making the world a better place.

Boasting a total cash prize pool of \$28,000, the awards are open to UNSW academics and students who are commercialising their research with NewSouth Innovations, the university's commercialisation company. This year's awards will introduce a new Student Inventor of the Year category and a category to recognise Intellectual Property Notifications (IPNs).

NewSouth Innovations receives in the order of 100 new IPNs annually. These are the starting point for commercialising new inventions that can make a positive impact on the world. All IPNs submitted in the 12 months to 30 June 2010 will automatically be entered for the IPN award.

For competition details and to see 2009's Inventor of the Year finalists and winners visit: <http://www.nsinnovations.com.au/>



RESEARCH PROFILE: Scientia Professor Philip Mitchell, Head, School of Psychiatry



Professor Philip Mitchell is Head of the School of Psychiatry and Convenor of Brain Sciences UNSW.

Philip's research and clinical interests are in bipolar disorder and depression. The current research studies of his team, collaborators and doctoral students are focusing on the molecular genetics of bipolar disorder; predictors of the development of bipolar disorder in genetically at-risk young people; community attitudes towards the future possibility of genetic testing in psychiatry; psychological treatments for bipolar disorder (mindfulness-based cognitive therapy and internet-based interventions); epidemiology of bipolar disorder in Australia; identification of depression in adolescents; and stimulatory therapies for depression (such as transcranial magnetic stimulation and direct current stimulation).

He has published (in conjunction with colleagues) over 330 peer-reviewed papers or book chapters on these topics and is a member of the Australian NHMRC-funded Program Grant on depression and bipolar disorder.

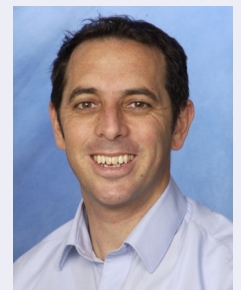
In 2002 Professor Mitchell was awarded the Senior Research Award of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. In 2004, he received the Founders Medal of the Australasian Society for Psychiatry Research. In 2006, he received a Medical Media award from Research Australia for his media commentary on a wide range of mental health issues. In 2008, he received a Rotary International Vocational Excellence Award which recognizes outstanding contributions made by individuals or teams for significant advancement in their field in Australia. In the 2010 Australia Day honours list he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to medical education, particularly in the field of psychiatry, as an academic, researcher and practitioner, through contributions to the understanding, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses.

Professor Mitchell is also Director of the Bipolar Disorders Clinic in the Black Dog Institute, Chair of the NSW Mental Health Priority Taskforce (which advises the NSW Health Minister on future directions in mental health services), Guest Professor at Shanghai Jiaotong University, and a Board Member of the Anika Foundation for Adolescent Depression and Suicide.

Dr Peter Nugus – Winner of the *Jean Martin Award*

The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) awarded Dr Peter Nugus the prestigious *Jean Martin Award* "for the best PhD in the Australian Social Sciences 2007-2009". Dr Nugus's thesis, *The Organizational World of Emergency Clinicians*, was completed in 2007 under the supervision of Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite in the Centre for Clinical Governance Research in the Australian Institute for Health Innovation. In the 30-year history of the award it has only ever once been awarded for a health-related topic, and this is the first time it was awarded to a scholar not enrolled in a core Social Science department. Dr Peter Nugus is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Clinical Governance Research, working on an ARC Linkage Interprofessional Learning Research Project.

In awarding the prize to Dr Nugus at the TASA annual conference dinner at the ANU, the chair of the panel said: "Excellence in scholarship and balanced treatment of sociological theory and research are the main criteria for deciding the Award. There is much to be said about the fascinating detail of the thesis. Importantly, however, in the view of the selection panel, Dr Nugus's thesis was seen as an outstanding contribution to Australian sociological scholarship. The panel determined that the thesis was exceptionally well organised, theoretically sophisticated and overall an interesting and well executed study. As one of the panelists noted in justifying the nomination: 'The narrative flows easily; the ideas expressed are lucid, concise and persuasive. It is a very focused work; an exemplary model in how to structure a thesis'".



The thesis is an in depth sociological study of Emergency Departments (EDs). Dr Nugus spent 12 months full-time observing and interviewing staff in two Sydney EDs. The thesis provides a "behind-the-curtain" view of life working in the ED. It focuses specifically on the negotiation processes and communication skills emergency clinicians used when engaging clinicians from other departments to become involved in the care of their patient and to admit them as inpatients or to determine if they need to be discharged. Among publications to have emerged from the thesis is a recent article, by Dr Nugus, Professor Braithwaite and Dr Jackie Bridges (City University, London), in the *British Medical Journal* entitled 'Selling patients'.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TALENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The 2010 Professional Development & Talent Management Program for academic staff will be launched next week. This year our postdoctoral staff are being invited to participate. This means that over 550 staff within the Faculty will be involved in the program . Our on-line system has a number of innovative enhancements which include:

Academic Portfolio

- Automatic upload of data of your "publications"
- Automatic upload of data of your grant income (Category 1)
- The ability to pre-fill your professional and community engagement activities from the previous year
- Inclusion of a supervisor and staff member ranking for research, teaching and professional and community engagement activities

Goal Planning

This section has been changed to reflect Key Performance Targets (KPT's) and includes the University's, Dean's and Heads of Schools/Centres/Institutes KPT's as a guide.

If participating in the Professional Development Scheme is a new experience or you are interested in gaining a better understanding, there are a range of training workshops on offer to help you gain maximum value out of the process. Bookings can be made via MyUnsw - open your staff profile tab and click on training, then select the appropriate course.

- Effective Performance Development Conversations for Academic Managers/ Reviewers
- Getting the most out of your Performance Development conversation for Academic Staff
- Writing Key Performance Targets
- Performance Coaching for managers

The deadline for completion is 30 June 2010.

I am sure you will find the Program of great benefit and an opportunity to reflect on your research, teaching and service contributions. Take time to plan for future career development and discuss any assistance you may need. **Karen Walker** (k.walker@unsw.edu.au, ext 51664)

2010 NHMRC Achievement Award for Career Development

Fifteen of Australia's most distinguished health and medical researchers were recognised for their outstanding contribution to the success of medical research in this country.

Congratulations to Dr Yong Li for receiving one of the above awards. Dr Yong Li obtained a Ph.D. degree in Faculty of Medicine in 2000 from the University of New South Wales. Currently, he is a Senior Cancer Institute NSW Research Fellow and the Head of Cancer Research Program, St George Hospital and Conjoint Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine at UNSW.

*** DEADLINES AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR RESEARCHERS ***

Australian Synchrotron - ANZAAS Winter School

12-15 July 2010

Application deadline

12.00 noon, April 9 (no late applications)

Full details and on-line application process can be found at:

<http://www.synchrotron.org.au> and click on the Winter School link.

A maximum of 3 students per institution will be accepted.

At least one travel subsidy will be provided for a successful UNSW student - this will be organised via the Analytical Centre. Students wishing to apply for a travel subsidy must email a copy of their application to A/Prof. Grainne Moran, g.moran@unsw.edu.au with 'AS Winter School Application' in the subject line. Students needing advice or help with their application are also welcome to contact A/Prof. Moran.

GMO LIEF Information Session:

Date: Tuesday 30 March 2010

Time: 12—2 pm

Venue: UNSW Analytical Centre, Ground Floor Seminar Room (G37)

Catering : A light lunch will be provided

Close of Registration: 5pm 24 March

For information on LIEF applications please see:

(http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/ApplyingForFunds/ARC/LIEF_2011.html)

LIEF NOI enquiries to GMO Operations Team: operations.gmo@unsw.edu.au

TRAINING WORKSHOPS:

Together with the Research Strategy Office we are developing a series of workshops to assist researchers in developing their grant/fellowship applications. During March 2010 workshops for NHMRC Partnerships/Development Grants and NHMRC Training Fellowships have been held and these were very well attended. The next workshops planned for 2010 will be:

August: NHMRC Project Grants #1

December: NHMRC Project Grants #2

December: Practitioner, Research and CDA Fellowships



**Researchers interested in the above should regularly check the Faculty of Medicine website for details which will be advertised in due course. **

POSTDOC MEETING: 2pm, 15 April 2010, LGO2, Wallace Wurth Building (C27)

As our post doctoral community is growing, the Associate Dean Research would like to invite all Faculty of Medicine postdocs to a meeting to discuss an exciting timetable of events during 2010. All postdocs will be invited—mark your diary now!

PUBLICATION OF THE MONTH

February 2010

Fabio Luciani and Samuel Alizon, "The Evolutionary Dynamics of a Rapidly Mutating Virus within and between Hosts: The Case of Hepatitis C Virus". *PLoS Computational Biology*, 5(11): e1000565. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1000565.

CONTACT DETAILS : Office of Medical Research, Faculty of Medicine: Wendy Wartho Tel: 02 9385 8210, Fax: 9385 1442 or Email: w.wartho@unsw.edu.au