

Dean's Awards 2010



*Prof Margaret Morris : Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievements in Research*



*Dr Matthew Miles : Dean's Award for Community Engagement*



*Prof Gary Velan : Teacher of the Year Award*



*Prof Derrick Silove : Dean's Award for Lifetime Achievement, Academic Staff*



*A/Prof Andrew Cole*



*Dr Emily Granger*



*Prof Geoff Driscoll*

*Conjoint Teaching Awards:*



*Janis Dick : Dean's Award for Lifetime Achievement, Professional & Technical Staff*



*Ted Crawford : School of Medical Sciences*



*Naomi Esselbrugge: St Vincent's Clinical School*



*Julie Hatzi : School of Medical Sciences*

*Dean's Awards for Professional & Technical Staff*



*Alli Humphries: NCHCR*



*Angela Russell : School of Psychiatry*



*Jake Surman : Computing Support*

### Dean's Rising Star Awards

Bright, David	NDARC
Dunn, Matthew	NDARC
Fung, Samantha	Neuroscience Research Australia
Kasparian, Dr Nadine	SWCH
Herries, Andy	SOMS
Lipworth, Dr Wendy	AIHI
McCarroll, Dr Joshua	Women's & Children's health
Martire, Dr Kristy	NDARC
Mills, Dr Katherine	NDARC
Nugus, Dr Peter	AIHI
Pasquier, Dr Eddy	Women's & Children's health
Power, Carl	BRIL
Seale, Dr Holly	SPHCM
Slade, Dr Tim	NDARC
Steel, Dr Zachary	Psychiatry
Wakefield, Dr Claire	SWCH



### Dean's List Awards:

Arora, Manit	St Vincent's Clinical School
Barrett, Ms Emma	NDARC
Chai, Edwin	SOMS
Han, Dr Jinnuo	School of Psychiatry
Hasib, Ahmadzai	SOMS
Hobbs, Megan	Psychiatry
Kho, Yong Chern	St George Clinical School
Lawrence, Briony	NDARC
Law, Jenaleen	PHCM
Maniam, Jayanthi	SOMS
Mayooran, Namasivayam	St Vincent's Clinic
Mekkiw Ahmed H	St George Clinical School
Milder, Tamara	St Vincent's Clinical School
Peate, Dr Michelle	POW Clinical School
Schiller, Matt	Rural Clinical School
Sebaratnam, Deshan	St George Clinical School
Seruga, Adam	Psychiatry
Shand, Fiona	NDARC
Siegle, Jessica	SOMS
Sinclair, Duncan	Neuroscience Research Australia
Tindall, Dr Elizabeth A	Women's & Children's Health
Tran, Tuan	SOMS
Vaithilingham, Vijay	SOMS
Wang, David	St Vincent's Clinical School

The following awards were also given at the function:

**McConaghy Prize for Postgraduate Research in the School of Psychiatry:** Henry Chung

**2010 Student Prizes in MBBS Program:** Tao Shen, Shah Inam, Catherine Tang, Timothy Cooper, Natalie Komadina, Yiling Siotu, David Milder, Gregory Kalogeropoulos

## Research Profile - Professor Margaret Morris

Professor Margaret Morris is chair and Head of Pharmacology, School of Medical Sciences, where she leads the Neuroendocrine Pharmacology laboratory. She completed her PhD at Monash University in Melbourne after a period working in Paris, France. In 1995 she moved to the University of Melbourne, where she established an active research group exploring the brain mechanisms involved in food intake and metabolism using animal models of obesity and diabetes. In 2005 she joined UNSW where she teaches in Medicine, Optometry, Medical Science and Science.

Her current research addresses critical questions concerning the impact of adverse early life events and lifestyle factors on chronic disease risk. Prof Morris uses neuropharmacological approaches to explore underlying CNS mechanisms in epilepsy, obesity, diabetes, and the link between obesity and hypertension. Current NHMRC funded research includes intergenerational transmission of obesity and the psychology of eating. Research in the Morris lab showed that palatable high fat diet can ameliorate the behavioral effects of early life stress; notably voluntary exercise had similar benefits (Psychoneuroendocrinology 2010).

Recent work by PhD student Dr Sheau-Fang Ng set out to investigate the role of paternal obesity on the health of offspring. The work culminated in a paper in Nature (October 2010) demonstrating that when rat fathers were fed a high fat diet to induce obesity and glucose intolerance, the resulting female offspring exhibited impaired glucose tolerance and insulin secretion as young adults. Sheau-Fang was awarded Best New Student Invention for this work. The work was carried out in collaboration with scientists in the UNSW Schools of Medical Sciences and Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, the Garvan Institute, and the University of Adelaide.

## NHMRC Grants

Congratulations to Professor Peter Gunning who recently received two NHMRC and two ARC grants worth almost \$2M. Peter was the only UNSW researcher to receive two NHMRC grants (worth more than \$500,000 each) in the latest funding round, for investigations aimed at better understanding the architecture of human cells as targets for new anti-cancer drugs.

Congratulations also to a team led by Dr Claire Vajdic from the Lowy Cancer Research Centre, for the award of \$1.6M for a population-based family study of follicular lymphoma.

In total, researchers at UNSW received 43 new Project Grants worth over \$22M, with UNSW Medicine receiving 88% of this amounting to \$19M. The affiliated medical research institutes also performed well, the Garvan Institute was awarded \$7,728,825, CCIA was awarded \$2,440,218, VCCRI was awarded \$2,059,331 and NeuRA was awarded \$2,003,062.

## Goldstars

Congratulations to the 21 members of the Faculty who were awarded Goldstars this year! Goldstar Awards are made to researchers who have highly rated grant applications that have not been funded by the NHMRC. For the list of successful applications please see the following website:

[http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/ApplyingForFunds/InternalSchemes/InternalSchemes\\_index.html](http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/ApplyingForFunds/InternalSchemes/InternalSchemes_index.html)

***N.B. All Goldstar recipients should consult Dr Laurent Rivory in the Research Strategy Office (l.rivory@unsw.edu.au)***



## Major Research Equipment & Infrastructure Initiative (MREII) 2011

The Faculty was awarded \$2.7M in Major Research & Infrastructure grants recently. These funds will be used to purchase common equipment to facilitate research in the Faculty's major research facilities and centres. A pleasing aspect of these awards was the number of career scientists that were supported to purchase research equipment essential for their scientific studies. The Faculty received 27 grants to support strategically focused research.

## NDARC SUCCESS!

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) has enjoyed another very successful year in the latest National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC) funding rounds, with a success rate of 34 per cent of all grants submitted – significantly higher than the national average.

NDARC staff were awarded more than \$1.45 million in NHMRC projects grants announced earlier this month. As well, NDARC Senior Lecturer Dr Frances Kay-Lambkin was awarded a \$384,100 NHMRC Career Development Award to continue her research into internet based treatments for depression and for co-morbid substance misuse. Dr Kay-Lambkin was also awarded a NSW Tall Poppy Award this year – one of five UNSW recipients. Dr Jennifer Chalmers, Research Fellow at the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) based at NDARC was awarded a \$70,500 linkage grant to investigate the impact of alcohol pricing on young Australians' drinking patterns and consumption of illicit drugs. NDARC Acting Director Associate Professor Alison Ritter is third chief investigator on an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence concerned with reducing the health, social and economic burden of injecting drug use in Australia.

The successful NHMRC project chief investigators for projects commencing 2011 are:

- Professor Maree Teesson and colleagues who have been awarded \$723,665, to evaluate universal and targeted programs to prevent substance use and related harms among adolescents, in collaboration with the National Addiction Centre, King's College, London;
- Professor Louisa Degenhardt, who has recently moved to the Burnet Institute in Melbourne, has been awarded \$204,472 to lead an investigation of the impact of opioid substitution therapy upon mortality and recidivism among prisoners;
- Professor Richard Mattick, who has been awarded \$284,472, on behalf of the Cannabis Cohort Research Consortium, to investigate the relationship between cannabis use, early life factors and life-course outcomes;
- Professor Jan Copeland, director of the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre, has been awarded \$241,283 to lead a double blind placebo randomised controlled trial of Sativex in the management of cannabis withdrawal. (Sativex is a cannabis-based mouth spray approved in some countries for the treatment of symptoms of multiple sclerosis).

Professor Maree Teesson and her team and Professor Shane Darke and his team have been awarded UNSW Gold Star Awards.

For a full list of all the researchers on the above mentioned NHMRC grants go to <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/rounds>

## The Louis and Artur Lucian Award for Research in Circulatory Diseases

The Award will be conferred upon the individual or individuals nominated, who in the opinion of the Award Committee, have made the most outstanding contribution towards research in the field of circulatory diseases. The Award Committee recognises no geographical limitations. Nominations are invited without distinction as to gender or nationality. Preference will be given to work done in the recent past. Nomination form and further information may be obtained from Wendy Wartho ([w.wartho@unsw.edu.au](mailto:w.wartho@unsw.edu.au)). Nominations and supporting material should be received by 25 March, 2011 to Dr Jacques Genest - [Jacques.genest@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:Jacques.genest@muhc.mcgill.ca).

## The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust was established in Australia in 1965 shortly after the death of Sir Winston to perpetuate and honour his memory by the annual award of Churchill Fellowships to Australian citizens, and are awarded to support Australians in all fields of endeavour whose expertise has progressed to the point where an overseas research project would be of value in improving their contribution to their field and the Australian community. A number of Fellowships are offered for specific study topics and applications for the award of Fellowships in 2011 round are now open, the closing date is 28 February, 2011. The forms may be downloaded at [www.churchilltrust.com.au](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au).

## IARC-Australia Postdoctoral Fellowship

A new **IARC-Australia Postdoctoral Fellowship** has been set up this year in collaboration with Cancer Council Australia in order to provide Australian postdocs in the early stage of their postdoctoral career with the opportunity to go to IARC for 1-2 years' training in one of our research Groups.

This fellowship offers a unique opportunity for a young scientist to be trained in an exceptional international, multi-cultural, scientifically stimulating environment.

As this is a new initiative, **the deadline has been extended until 31st December 2010** to allow a maximum number of suitable candidates to apply. Details and application forms are available on our web site:

[http://www.iarc.fr/en/education-training/iarcaustralia\\_postdoc.php](http://www.iarc.fr/en/education-training/iarcaustralia_postdoc.php)

[http://www.iarc.fr/en/education-training/form695\\_Australia.doc](http://www.iarc.fr/en/education-training/form695_Australia.doc)

## Paper of the Month

Phoebe Phillips, Lu Yang, Arthur Shulkes, Alain Vonlaufen, Anne Poljak, Sonia Bustamante, Alessandra Warren, Zhihong Xu, Michael Guilhaus, Romano Pirola, Minoti Apte, and Jeremy Wilson, "Pancreatic stellate cells produce acetylcholine and may play a role in pancreatic exocrine secretion", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Vol 107(40):17397-402.

## IPNs and IP Protection

### Why are disclosures or “IPNs” so important to NSi and why should you be interested in IP protection ?

There is a well established relationship between a university’s research income and the number of “invention disclosures” it receives. The latest figures from an Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) organisation – [an international body for tech transfer professionals] survey of ~ 160 US universities show that for every \$1 Million of research income the university generates ~ 0.6 “disclosures” (IPNs in our case).

Keeping these types of metrics is important because it allows us to benchmark against, for example, the other Go8 universities, but also with all other universities around the world. If researchers ONLY disclosed to NSi when they thought they had a great potential product with a clear market focus, we would never develop the pipeline of opportunities that are required to achieve commercialisation success in the long run- this is a numbers game and we need the disclosures to build the strong pipeline.

An IPN should be about novel research that potentially addresses a real problem. By disclosing this to NSi we can go away and do the type of market analysis that may uncover other applications never contemplated by the researcher (because he/she is only focused in his/her area of expertise/interest).

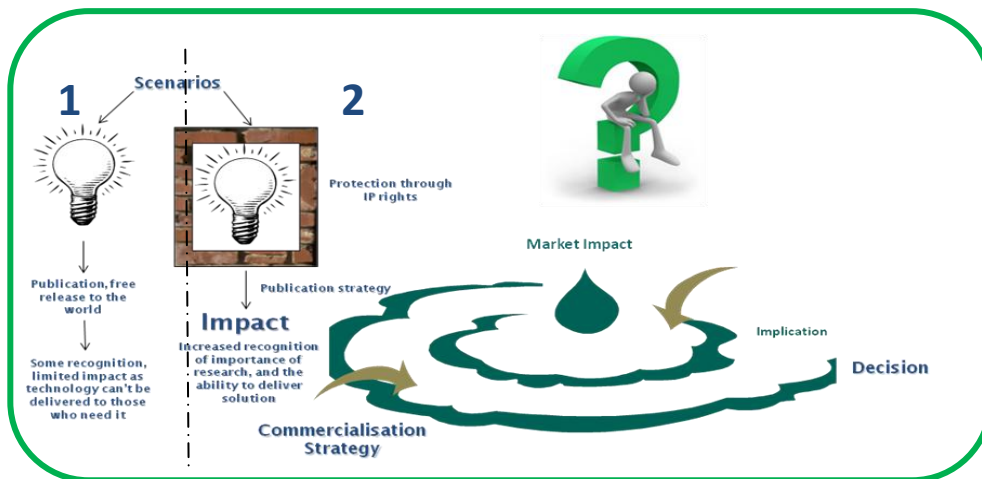
The numbers of new IPNs allow us to build a catalogue of research activity in the university and provide us with very useful information about the intensity of the research activity and the areas where this is happening (where the research is focused).

On average (for most US universities), of all IPNs received in any one year, less than half result in a patent being filed, and of those less than half get successfully commercialised (licensed, optioned, collaborative research, etc...).

Given the size and research income of UNSW, NSi should be receiving at least 40% more IPNs that we currently get every year- this (given the numbers above) puts us in a severe disadvantage with regards to building a strong pipeline because the numbers just don’t work out. For these reasons it is important that all researchers become more “disclosure” friendly/willing.

I would ask you to consider this argument and talk to me about your novel research. As the IPNs forms may be a bit overwhelming to those who have not filled them out before, I am happy to come meet with you and while you tell me about the research, I will fill out the form for you. Don’t be put off by the thought of getting involved in these activities- you are all very clever people with some great ideas- give us the chance to help you commercialise them.

The altruistic view of releasing information to the world for free (before it is protected) is counterproductive and actually “prevents” the transfer of technology from the “bench to bedside”. Protection of research results through patents (where applicable) maximises the impact of your research at a number of levels, significantly increasing the chances that your work may one day make a real difference in people’s lives.



#### Take home message

- **Commercialisation and IP protection are important, and potentially very effective ways for your research to make an impact on the world.**
- Disclosure of novel research to NSi through IPNs allows the university to benchmark its Research activity/impact against other institutions around the world
- IPNs help build a pipeline of commercial opportunities for UNSW
- Contact NSi early in your research
- It is possible to patent and publish at the same time (as long as this is managed carefully, in consultation with NSi)

One last thing, submitting an IPN DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY PREVENT YOU FROM PUBLISHING. Despite this common misconception you can effectively do both (publish and patent/disclose). We can manage the publications in line with the commercialisation strategy, but we need to be involved early and work closely with the researchers.

## Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and assistance during 2010 in our attempt to improve the research environment at UNSW. Whilst I am sure you agree that this has been another very successful year for the Faculty in terms of obtaining increased research funding and fellowship support, I am sure you would also agree that there is room for improvement and that a large number of research projects remain unfunded, despite the high quality of both the applicants and the research.

Thus my aim for 2011 is to further increase our level of research support and improve our resources and infrastructure, to achieve our full potential. I greatly appreciate your continuing support in this endeavour and would like to take this opportunity of wishing you the best for the festive season.

*Denis Wakefield, Associate Dean Research*