

Gold Coast Health and Medical Research Conference **2006**

Building on the success of the Gold Coast Christmas Medical Research Conference organized by the School of Medical Science in December 2005, the Gold Coast Health and Medical Research Conference 2006 was held on 14-15 December 2006 as an initiative of the Griffith Institute of Health and Medical Research. The 2-day meeting comprised 37 oral presentations spanning the research interests of the 9 schools within the Health faculty, and included invited talks by Prof. Mike Jennings, UQ and Dr. Doug Shelton, Queensland Health. The meeting attracted 128 registered participants, contributing 93 published abstracts in the 6 symposium sessions and plenary lectures. The symposia at GCHMRC2006 covered a wide-range of research areas, from psychology to molecular biology, infectious disease to neurological disease, with each session stimulating lively discussion and debate across disciplines. Much networking took place in the less formal atmosphere of the poster session and the conference banquet, with the prize for the best student poster being awarded to Ms. Mary Pagendam-Turner, Eskitis Institute. The conference was rounded off by a round table discussion focussing on how to succeed with the NHMRC. The Gold Coast Clinical Neuroscience Research Forum annual meeting followed the main conference programme on the afternoon of December 15.