**Griffith Health Vision**

*Promoting Health, Enabling Communities*

Griffith Health will, through leadership and innovation in teaching, research and community engagement, create sustained improvements in all aspects of health and health care for the local, national and international communities.

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**New Gold Coast University Hospital Secured**

With the re-election of the Labor Government in Queensland, a 750-bed Gold Coast University Hospital is to be built on the Griffith University Parklands campus. It is anticipated that this new hospital will be operating by the end of 2012 to serve the growing needs of the region.

The new Gold Coast University Hospital, at a construction cost of $1.23 billion, is a major investment which will increase capacity for delivery of patient care, research and teaching. Co-locating the hospital on Griffith’s campus presents significant opportunities for collaboration between Queensland Health and Griffith in areas including research, teaching, and shared infrastructure.

The close proximity of the hospital to the University’s teaching faculties will enable greater involvement of clinicians in teaching and enhance the educational experiences available to health students. Closer and more regular involvement in teaching by clinicians will also increase opportunities for hospital staff to actively contribute to curriculum development - ensuring our curricula remains informed by the latest clinical developments.

The increase in size and services from the current Gold Coast Hospital will allow Queensland Health to make available extended clinical placements for Griffith's large and expanding numbers of health students. As well as offering our students access to top-class, authentic clinical environments, the new Hospital is likely to offer more opportunities for local employment of our graduates and strengthen the future health workforce in the region.

The Gold Coast University Hospital will also open up opportunities for health professionals and academics to jointly engage in research and investigate ways in which health services can be enhanced into the future. Griffith is quickly consolidating its position as a major research university with a great deal of health research activity well established and significant research capacity building occurring. The opportunities for the development of joint research projects are considerable, offering the potential for the Gold Coast region to firmly establish itself as a major national health research and development hub.
School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science

Head of School – Dr Lewis Adams

The School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science is currently experiencing growth both in student numbers and staffing levels.

Our physiotherapy programs, uniquely built on a solid foundation of Exercise Science courses, are ranked amongst the best in Australia and are in high demand. We hope to open an on-site physiotherapy clinic in 2007 to increase our capacity in this area.

The School is working enthusiastically with other health schools to ensure that the quality of our undergraduate courses and student experience continues to improve.

The School is also looking to establish new postgraduate programs in Musculoskeletal and Sports Physiotherapy, Coaching Science and Medical Imaging.

Griffith Psychological Health Research Centre

Director – Professor Kim Halford

The GPHRC was established in 2003 under the directorship of Professor Kim Halford. The primary aims of the GPHRC are:

1. To understand both the individual and social factors that influence psychological health.
2. To develop and evaluate programs that promote psychological health.
3. To make effective programs as widely available as possible.

The GPHRC is staffed by academic researchers and clinicians with backgrounds in clinical, developmental and social psychology. This breadth has been a key component in the development of a range of research projects that brings together theoretical psychology and clinical applications.

Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation

Director – Professor Wendy Chaboyer

The Research Centre for Practice Innovation (RCPI) has been operational since July, 2003.

The vision of the RCPI is to create evidence for innovative health and community services practice in order to promote excellence in service delivery, leading to improvements in the lives of individuals and the community.

The mission of the RCPI is to be viewed as the institution of choice for the conduct of world class, rigorous, multi-method collaborative research focusing on health and community services. Since inception, our stretch goal has been to become an externally funded centre of research excellence (CRE) by 2010.

To promote our growth towards a CRE, the Centre has developed a three stage developmental model for facilitating research capacity; Emerging Areas of Research Strength (EARS), Programs and Units. The table demonstrates our national and international reputations in a variety of areas.

Research activity in the School continues to grow with better than ever outcomes in research grants, publications and RHD enrolments and completions. This activity is supported by new state of the art technology in Magnetic Resonance Imaging, X-ray Absorptiometry and Motion Capture Analysis.

In addition, the School is actively developing mutually beneficial links with community partners in high schools, health care facilities and sports organisations.

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<td>Units</td>
<td>Disability, Chronic Illness and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Professor Lesley Chenoweth   (07) 338 21485</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
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<td>Professor Leanne Aitken                    (07) 3240 7256</td>
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<td>Ageing and Older People</td>
<td>Professor Wendy Moyle                      (07) 3735 5526</td>
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<td>Family</td>
<td>and Women’s Health</td>
<td>Dr. Jenny Gamble                          (07) 3382 1083</td>
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<td>EARS</td>
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<td>A/Professor Margaret McAllister            (07) 3735 6460</td>
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<td>Clinical Research</td>
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<td>Professor Marianne Wallis                  (07) 5519 8728</td>
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Staff Profiles

Dr Lewis Adams
Head of School, School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science

Dr Lewis Adams graduated with an honours degree in Physiology from London University in 1972 before working as a cardiorespiratory clinical scientist/PhD student at a leading London hospital. On completing his PhD in 1977, he joined Charing Cross Medical School, teaching in the Department of Physiology and undertaking clinical research in the Department of Respiratory Medicine.

His research on the neural basis of dyspnea (shortness of breath) has given him an international reputation in this area. His pioneering use of functional brain imaging has led to important insights into how the human brain controls breathing to meet the needs of complex behaviours like exercise and speech.

By 1996, Lewis had become Professor of Respiratory Physiology and head of a substantial research team at the renowned National Heart and Lung Institute. As part of Imperial College Medical School, he also took an active role in establishing an innovative new medical curriculum. In 2001, Lewis joined Griffith with the aim of building research capacity within Physiotherapy and Exercise Science and in 2003 he took over as Head of School. Lewis is delighted to be an active participant in the rapid development of Griffith Health. As well as consolidating Griffith's strong reputation in physiotherapy and exercise science programs, he is looking to establish new programs that will help meet health and recreational needs of the expanding Gold Coast community.

Associate Professor Jan Nicholson BSc(Hons) MSc PhD
Research Fellow, Griffith Psychological Health Research Centre

Jan Nicholson was appointed as an Associate Professor in the Psychological Health Research Centre based at the Mt Gravatt Campus in February 2006. Prior to this, she was a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology for 11 years.

Jan has a background in child development, family psychology, epidemiology and health promotion. Her research has focused on promoting and protecting the health and development of children from vulnerable families. This has included longitudinal studies, randomized controlled trials, qualitative research, and evaluations of program implementation, diffusion and sustainability.

Jan's current research focus is primarily on two national studies. The ‘Longitudinal Study of Australian Children’ (LSAC) is the first comprehensive national study examining the lives of Australian children. Every two years, health and wellbeing are assessed for 10,000 Australian children who were recruited in 2004 in their first and fifth years of life. Jan’s role on the study includes heading the Family Functioning Design Team and she is an investigator on several grants undertaking analyses using the LSAC data.

Her second major project is the independent evaluation of a national dissemination trial. The ‘Sing and Grow Project’ is an early parenting intervention for highly marginalized parents and their infant children. It uses group music and song-based activities as an enjoyable and non-threatening approach for engaging parents and teaching appropriate parenting skills.

Jan brings to Griffith a strong track record in attracting research funding, having obtained in excess of $2.2M in nationally competitive research funding. Her goals for the next five years include personal development in the use of the latest statistical methods for analysing multi-level longitudinal data, and to develop and mentor a cohort of post-doctoral and graduate researchers. She received an NHMRC Career Development Award (2006-2010).

Professor Lesley Chenoweth BSocWk MSocWk PhD
Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation
Professor of Social Work, School of Human Services (Logan)

Professor Chenoweth returned to Griffith in March this year as Professor of Social Work and was recently appointed as leader of the disability and rehabilitation research group within the Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation. Lesley has more than 30 years experience as a social work practitioner, researcher and educator. Her work has focussed largely on disability research and she is internationally known for her work in deinstitutionalisation and community living. Current projects include a study of sustainability in disability services with ACROD (Qld) and a project with researchers from The University of Queensland and Dr Tamara Ownsworth (School of Psychology) into the support needs of people with acquired brain injury following transition from hospital. Lesley has recently completed a major study, funded by the ARC and Department of Child Safety, of recruitment and retention of practitioners in rural and remote areas.

Her key aspirations at Griffith are to build a strong social work program of research, research skill development, teaching and service in social work with colleagues and community partners and to foster the development of disability research excellence at Griffith. The key to success is Griffith’s interdisciplinary approaches and the capacity to develop strong synergies across research, learning and teaching and practice.
Group News

**Biogen Idec Scholarship awarded to the School of Medicine**

Associate Professor Simon Broadley accepted a cheque for $25,000, from the national sales manager of Biogen Idec, Mr Peter Bright, to support the first Biogen Idec scholarship in the School of Medicine. The Scholarship recipient will form part of the research team led by Associate Professor Broadley, in association with Professor Lyn Griffiths, to determine if a link exists between Multiple Sclerosis and migraine susceptibility.

**Dentistry and Oral Health**

On 26 July Dr Saeed Mohammad Al-Shamsi, Ambassador of The United Arab Emirates (pictured at right in photo) and his wife, accompanied by Mr Grayson Perry, Manager, Economic Development, Gold Coast City Council, met with Professor Newell Johnson, Dean, School of Dentistry and Oral Health to discuss areas of potential collaboration between the School and the UAE. The Ambassador commented on the very high standard of clinical and teaching facilities within the School.

**Nursing and Midwifery**

Dr Jillian Brammer and Dr Marion Mitchell, School of Nursing and Midwifery, recently spent a week in Singapore teaching students enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing, offshore program for post-registration nurses. While they were teaching at T.E.D. Human Resource Development Centre (formerly known as Cornerstone), they were interested to see all issues of Health Check proudly displayed on a noticeboard for students to read, taking Griffith Health to all who pass the noticeboard. Students enrolled in this program appreciate being part of Griffith University and this is one of the ways they feel they belong to the Griffith community.

**Students participating in group work activities during 3928NRS Clinical Teaching for Health Professionals**

**Women’s mental health on the agenda**

Staff and students were privileged recently to hear Professor Carol Nadelson, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Boston’s Harvard Medical School, speak about domestic violence and sexual abuse as risk factors for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Professor Nadelson has researched women’s mental health extensively and was responsible for one of the first rape crisis programs in the US.

Domestic violence is a serious public health problem with about 600,000 cases reported in the US each year. About 20% of high school students report date rape, and up to 25% of women experience sexual abuse during their lifetime. While there were still many barriers preventing women reporting rape or domestic violence, Professor Nadelson said about one in seven doctor visits and one in three emergency room visits were related to domestic violence. One quarter of suicide attempts were also linked to domestic violence.

Professor Nadelson continues her educational and women’s health focus by mentoring and facilitating the promotion and career advancement of women faculty by planning and implementing career development programs, and educating senior faculty and hospital leadership about women’s career issues. Professor Nadelson’s visit was sponsored by Griffith Health and the Office of Equity and Community Partnerships.

**Tweed Clinical Education and Research Institute**

On 26 July Professor Allan Cripps represented Griffith at a ceremony marking the turning of the first sod to begin construction of a $4 million Tweed Clinical Education and Research Institute. This Institute will provide a base for the increasing numbers of health students attending placements at The Tweed Hospital, and will encourage staff to engage in teaching and research collaboration with other academics and clinicians who share interests in the northern NSW region. Planned for completion in early 2007, the Institute will feature a lecture auditorium, tutorial and clinical skills rooms, library, computer laboratory, research rooms, and a student common room.

"This new Institute, and the partnership that underpins it, will provide real gains for northern NSW through enabling the strengthening of clinical education and through providing a base from which research can be conducted into the health issues that are important to the region”, Professor Cripps said.

The Tweed Clinical Education and Research Institute is a partnership between Bond University, Griffith University and The Tweed Hospital, supported by the Australian Government's Sustainable Regions Programme.
The degree of Doctor of Science was awarded in August to Professor Diego De Leo, Director AISRAP for his submission entitled “Suicide Prevention and Psychogeriatrics”.

This prestigious degree is awarded to eminent doctoral graduates for original and substantial contributions of distinguished scholarship adding to the knowledge and understanding of any branch of learning with which Griffith University is concerned. The award of the degree is based on the examination of substantial published work, or a combination of thesis and published works.

The School of Human Services recently welcomed Ms Karen Struthers, MLA and current member of the Griffith University Council, to the Logan campus. Karen was re-elected in the seat of Algester and has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health. Before moving into politics, Karen began her professional career in social work and was keen to hear about the new social work degree course at Logan. Karen is also a former student of Griffith University, having completed her Masters of Public Sector Management (Hons) in 2003. The School of Human Services is keen to build links between our research program and government’s social and health policies as a way of enhancing service outcomes in Queensland.

New Staff Appointments
School of Public Health, Ms Mileva Tubbs, Lecturer
School of Human Services, Dr Julie Clark, Lecturer
School of Medicine, Ms Penelope Beem, Lecturer
School of Psychology, Dr Ruth Ford, Senior Lecturer

Pharmacy student Ines Francia is embarking on her second degree at Griffith with the support of an indigenous health scholarship from the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund. The 26-year-old first graduated from Griffith in 2002 with a Bachelor of Nursing.

Her career change was prompted by her interaction with ward pharmacists while working as a registered nurse in a Brisbane hospital. In particular, she was attracted by the possibility of having specific knowledge of medications and combining that with the counselling aspect of pharmacy.

“I am interested in providing health promotion and health education in the community. Indigenous people experience many health disorders and diabetes is especially common,” Ms Francia said.

“As well as the medication management aspect to this disease, patients should be encouraged to manage their symptoms and modify their lifestyle to prevent deterioration of their health.”

Ms Francia said she is looking forward to the opportunity to eventually work with indigenous patients in urban, rural or remote communities.

“I see myself as culturally sensitive to the issues of indigenous Australians and hope to have a positive input into their care.”

First year Master of Pharmacy student Jane Hoffman has been elected vice president of the National Australian Pharmacy Student’s Association (NAPSA). It is the first time Griffith has been represented at an executive level on the national council and an opportunity to further promote Griffith’s new pharmacy program. NAPSA is currently focussing on progressing educational projects such as a one-day certificate in complementary medicines, first aid training, the annual NAPSA Congress, and a curriculum survey across its 11 branches. Griffith Health has shown its support for Jane with a one-off grant to help offset costs associated with her NAPSA commitments.

Matthew Hutchins works at Melita Parsons Physiotherapy and treats up to fourteen people a day. Mr Hutchins treats many different types of muscular, skeletal and posture-related problems although his specific focus is respiratory conditions.

Physiotherapy is Mr Hutchins’ second career. He started as an anaesthetic technician, which according to the Jobs Guide 2006 requires a Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology as an entry point. Mr Hutchins went back to complete a Bachelor of Exercise Science then a Master of Physiotherapy, both at Griffith University.

During his studies, he was a volunteer and student representative for the Australian Physiotherapy Association before joining them as a Queensland Branch Councillor when he graduated last year.
Conference Presentations


Dunn AC, Hine TJ, Cell P. Adaptation to pure noise, not motion, determines the strength of the jitter after effect. 33rd Australasian Experimental Psychology Conference, Brisbane, April 2006.


Stewart D, Hughes R. Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP) Quality Workshop on development of competencies for public health education; and quality indicators and assessment processes for PHERP. Melbourne, 13 September 2006.


International Psychology Congress

The School of Psychology was well represented by Gold Coast staff, who presented five papers at the premier 4-yearly international gathering of applied psychologists – the 26th International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP), held in Athens 16-21 July under the auspices of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP). Professor Peter Creed and Dr Fran O’Callaghan presented their paper entitled, ‘Job-seeking differences between older and younger unemployed job seekers,’ as part of which he presented his paper, ‘Organizations’ use of explanations following service failure: co-authored with researcher Airom Bleicher, now at UCLA. At this conference, Ian Glendon was also elected President (2006-2010) of the Traffic and Transportation Division – one of IAAP’s 16 divisions. The next ICAP, to be held in Melbourne in 2010, will be the first to be staged in Australia – a tribute to the hard work put in by members and staff of the Australian Psychological Society.

Book Launch

‘Ethics and Professional Practice for Psychologists’ edited by Shirley Morrissey (School of Psychology) and Prasuna Reddy (University of Melbourne) and published by Thomson, was launched at the Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference on Thursday September 28, Auckland, New Zealand.

Grant Funding


Moyle W. The Dementia Collaborative Research Centre – Consumers, social research, carers and carer support led by QUT and which GU are a collaborator. 2006: $2.2 million.


Thorton J, Hine T, Blumenstein M. Griffith University Institute of Integrated and Intelligent Systems Grant Hierarchical Predictive Memory: A New Architecture for Intelligence 2006: $12,000.
Publications


Neumann DL. The effects of physical context changes and multiple extinction contexts on two forms of renewal in a conditioned suppression task with humans. *Learning and Motivation* 2006;37(2):149-175.


Steinglea SK, Occhipinti S. Dispositional optimism as a predictor of decision-related distress after localized prostate cancer. *Health Psychology* 2006;25:135-143.


Research Update

Dementia Research

The 2005 Federal Budget initiative ‘Helping Australians with Dementia, and Their Carers – Making Dementia a National Health Priority’ committed $320.6 million over five years to support people with dementia, their carers and families. As part of this commitment a $7 million investment in three Dementia Collaborative Research Centres located in Sydney (University of New South Wales), Canberra (Australian National University) and Brisbane (Queensland University of Technology) were recently announced. A bid for a centre for “Consumers, Social Research, Carers and Carer Support” lead by QUT and in collaboration with Griffith University (Professor Wendy Moyle, RCCP), LaTrobe, Curtin and Hammond Care Group and Alzheimer’s Australia, offers the opportunity for early interventions and benefits for consumers and carers of people with dementia. The centres will receive funding over a three year period. Professor Moyle was appointed as the node leader for research that encourages social engagement in people with dementia. Funding specifically for this research node has been allocated.

In another success, Professor Moyle was also involved in a successful bid for a Dementia Training Centre ($3.4 million) called the Eastern Australia Dementia Training and Study Centre. This bid was lead by the University of Wollongong, in collaboration with QUT, Griffith University and University of Sydney. Griffith University and QUT will lead the Queensland promotion of lectures and courses for health professionals, scholarships and promotion of research.

Physiotherapy and Exercise Science - Carrick Institute Funding

The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, an initiative of the federal government’s Department of Education, Science and Training, has awarded $155,000 under its Priority Projects Program 2006 to Megan Dalton (Senior Lecturer, School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science) to develop a national, standardised approach to assessing the competency of students completing physiotherapy courses which will benchmark best practice in assessing student’s skill levels while complementing the theoretical elements of the program.

Co-investigators on the project include Dr Heather Alexander (Griffith University, School of Medicine), Professor Jennifer Keating (Monash University) and Dr Megan Davidson (La Trobe University).

Supervised clinical practice is an essential component of all physiotherapy programs in Australian universities and the move to a more consistent approach to assessment will strengthen the development of the profession. With a consistent approach across universities and facilities that accept students for supervised training, the burden on clinical assessors will also be reduced.

Universities are finding it more difficult to arrange clinical placements for the growing number of students in physiotherapy programs so anything that entices experienced clinicians to help train these students is welcome.

As part of the research, views will be sought from students, clinicians, managers and educators so the end product is one that is validated, reliable, and one the profession wants and will use. The research will contribute to Ms Dalton’s PhD thesis.

The Achilles Healing Project

The School of Medicine at Logan is currently conducting research that aims to discover the most effective treatment for painful Achilles tendons, a condition that affects up to 17% of active people. Unfortunately conventional therapies are often ineffective, forcing the injured to retire from their active lifestyles. However there is hope as emerging research has shown support for alternative treatments including eccentric exercises and prolotherapy. The Achilles Healing Project from the School of Medicine at Logan is conducting a clinical trial examining the effects of both treatments separately and in combination. If you are currently experiencing any pain in your Achilles tendon and it has persisted for at least six weeks, you are invited to take part in this worthwhile trial. Treatment is provided at no cost to participants. To be a part of this vital research please contact Associate Professor Michael Yelland on (07) 3382 1337 or E-mail: m.yelland@griffith.edu.au

Griffith University Lymphoma Project

The Genomics Research Centre held the Griffith University Lymphoma Project honour Board unveiling and the Genomics Research Centre Clinic Opening on 8 September 2006. The honour board has been established to acknowledge those who have donated $10,000 or more to the Griffith University Lymphoma Project. The Griffith University Lymphoma Project was established to develop new methods for early detection and better treatment of lymphoma. Thanks to all supporters who joined them on the night.

The first lymphoma postgraduate research scholarship has been awarded to Michael Green to undertake research on the genes involved in lymphoma susceptibility and progression.

Barefoot Bowls

The Barefoot Bowls day was held on Sunday, 17th September, at the Broadbeach Bowls Club to support the Griffith University Lymphoma Project. The day was well attended by Griffith staff, representatives from the Lymphoma Support and Research Association and the local community.

Congratulations to Sharon Millman, Director of the Lymphoma Support and Research Association for winning the closest to the ditch competition. The day was a resounding success with everyone enjoying themselves immensely and raising not only awareness but $4,000 towards Lymphoma Research.