Research breakthrough signals new treatment hopes

A breakthrough in cancer research at Griffith University could signal important changes in the treatment of cancer and lead to more effective anti-cancer vaccines.

Associate Professor Steve Ralph from the Griffith Health Institute’s Genomic Research Centre is amazed and enthused by the significant results of the research project because of the marked effect in slowing down the growth of tumours.

“We have shown that cancer cells secrete a protein called Galectin-1 in high levels that protect cancers like a shield or shell around them. This protein promotes the blood supply to cancers as well as killing any immune cells before they have a chance to attack the cancer,” explained Assoc Prof Ralph.

“By using a drug design based on a sugar molecule, we can now block the action of this protein with the result that the growth of breast cancers and skin cancers in mice was very much slowed down. We have shown that the sugar-based drug works by blocking the shield, allowing immune killer cells to then enter into the tumours so that they are able to attack and kill the cancer cells.”

Associate Professor Ralph has worked on the project since 2002 and led a dynamic team of researchers from the Griffith Health Institute.

“Our results are truly remarkable and scientifically amazing.”

“The drug also disrupts the blood supply to cancers. The treatment has been shown in the animal models of cancer to greatly increase the potency of cancer therapies and cancer vaccines. It should also help make other immune-based cancer treatments more effective when combined with our drug.”

We expect that human clinical trials will show similar findings with our drug, heralding a new way to treat cancer as we know it,” said Associate Professor Ralph.
It gives me great pleasure to announce the inaugural winners of our new Health Group Excellence Award.

We have introduced this monthly award to recognise Griffith Health staff members who have made outstanding contributions to the Health group, the University, or the community, and to celebrate the diversity of staff achievements.

Open to all academic and general staff members, our first group of recipients include:

- **Ms Denise Emson**, for her 14 years of dedication to the staff and students of the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science.
- **Ms Jane Evans**, for being awarded the first PhD in Dental Technology in Australia.
- **The Go Health Go Griffith team**, headed by **Ms Suzzi Owen** and supported by **Dr Cheryl Baker**, **Ms Melanie Forsyth** and **Ms Melinda John**, for their continuing tireless work in Health promotion and program delivery.

New Griffith University offering - Master of Speech Pathology from 2012

I am pleased to announce the introduction of our newest degree offering – Master of Speech Pathology – which kicks off at the Gold Coast campus at the beginning of 2012. This addition further strengthens our already comprehensive teaching program and reinforces Griffith University’s commitment to delivering modern and relevant health degrees and courses.

The full-time graduate entry program is expected to have an intake of 40 students when it starts at the new $136 million Griffith Health Centre. The state-of-the-art Health Centre is being built adjacent to the new Gold Coast University Hospital, which is also under construction and due for completion in 2012.

The Speech Pathology program will use best-practice educational methods to train graduates who are competent, reflective and innovative practitioners in the field of speech pathology. This new program is based on the Flinders University model and involves an innovative enquiry-based curriculum. It incorporates a problem-based learning format in small groups.

Students will undertake three core curriculum streams including speech pathology skills and practice; professional studies and communication sciences; and research methods. They will also undertake a number of clinical placements to ensure that they achieve the competencies required to practice in Australia. Accreditation will be sought for this program from Speech Pathology Australia.

Griffith Health has collaborated with a wide range of service providers in southeast Queensland and northern New South Wales to gather support for student placement opportunities. The University’s visits and information have been well received and welcomed by service providers.

Opportunities for clinical placements now exist in hospitals, schools, child care centres, disability services and the private practice sector.

Undergraduate pathways to the Master of Speech Pathology vary with potential opportunities through degrees in health science, linguistics, medical science, psychology, public health, education, social work and nursing.

More information about this exciting new program is available from Melissa Lawrie (m.lawrie@griffith.edu.au) or on our website: griffith.edu.au/health/speech-pathology

Just six months into the year and already, we have had an exceptional few months of developments and achievements. I look forward to continuing this momentum in all areas of our Health Group—teaching and learning, research and administration.

**Pro Vice Chancellor (Health)**

Professor Allan Cripps

New Health Group Excellence Award

- **Ms Denise Emson**, for her 14 years of dedication to the staff and students of the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science.
- **Ms Jane Evans**, for being awarded the first PhD in Dental Technology in Australia.
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Leading research projects keep Griffith Health Institute at medical forefront

An innovative new program using some of the world’s most up-to-date technology to analyse the movement of muscle and bones signals the continued evolution and growth of the Griffith Health Institute (GHI).

Three new directors have also taken up positions with the Institute, including Professor Wendy Moyle who is now the Director of the Research Centre for Clinical and Community Practice Innovation (RCCCPI), and Associate Professor Luke Haseler who heads up the Heart Foundation Research Centre.

From Western Australia, Professor David Lloyd has arrived to take the reins of the newly established Musculoskeletal Research Program at Griffith.

This program will rely heavily on the very latest in computational modelling in the exploration of how joints and muscles are loaded, activated and ultimately stabilised to prevent injury and illness.

“The program involves multi-scale measuring and understanding to create physical activity and exercise programs that can prevent conditions like osteoarthritis,” said Professor Lloyd, a biomedical engineer whose first qualification was in mechanical engineering.

Associate Professor Luke Haseler, from Griffith’s School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science, aims to develop the clinical focus of the Heart Foundation Research Centre.

“A current focus of the centre has been the mechanistic basis of cardiovascular disease and we will build on this by looking at ways to prevent and protect the body from cardiovascular related illnesses,” Associate Professor Haseler said.

As Director of RCCCPI Professor Wendy Moyle aims to transform health and community services through the development of innovative and sustainable models of care. Industry links and partnership research are also high on her agenda.

“I would like to build capacity through national and international links within each of the RCCCPI units. I will encourage the funnelling of research findings to stakeholders so that healthcare staff use the best available evidence in their practice,” commented Professor Moyle.

Headed by Professor Lyn Griffiths, the vision of the Griffith Health Institute is to develop healthy communities through the prevention of chronic disease.

Health clinics lead the way with latest treatment

A range of excellent services are on offer to students, staff and the wider community at the Griffith Health Clinics.

Trained students under strict supervision use the very latest evidence and technology when working at the University’s dental, physiotherapy and psychology clinics. Clinical psychologists with at least four years’ training, who are completing postgraduate studies in clinical psychology, operate out of Psychology Clinics at the Gold Coast and Mt Gravatt.

The most up-to-date technology and equipment is also available to physiotherapy and exercise science postgraduate students who gain valuable clinical and professional experience working at the Physiotherapy and Active Health Centre on the Gold Coast campus. The centre offers treatment for acute injury, helps with rehabilitation after surgery, and also focuses on the prevention of injury.

Comprehensive treatment for a range of dental conditions is available at the Griffith University Dental Clinic, near the Gold Coast Hospital, to patients of all ages with a variety of dental conditions. While providing top treatment to the local community, the dental clinic also ensures further training for future technicians, prosthetists, therapists, hygienists and general dentists. From their third year, senior dental students start working in the clinic under the strict supervision of qualified dentists and specialists. Referrals are not necessary.

Griffith Health Clinics contact details

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Clinic (Gold Coast)</td>
<td>07 5678 0220</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dentalclinic@griffith.edu.au">dentalclinic@griffith.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology Clinic (Gold Coast)</td>
<td>07 5552 8556</td>
<td><a href="mailto:psychclinic-gc@griffith.edu.au">psychclinic-gc@griffith.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Psychology Clinic (Mt Gravatt)</td>
<td>07 3735 3301</td>
<td><a href="mailto:psych-clinic@griffith.edu.au">psych-clinic@griffith.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy &amp; Active Health Centre (Gold Coast)</td>
<td>07 5552 9220</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thephysiocentre@griffith.edu.au">thephysiocentre@griffith.edu.au</a></td>
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Improving the health and wellbeing of people in the tropics

The Queensland Tropical Health Alliance (QTHA) Research Committee has recently endorsed eight exciting new projects that will significantly improve the health and wellbeing of people living in the tropics.

Among them is a Griffith Health Institute (GHI) research project addressing mental health issues in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, which is an increasing priority for the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector.

Voices United for Harmony is a unique and innovative project aimed at improving both the mental and physical health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in SE Queensland.

Research experts, Dr Jing Sun, Professor Nicholas Buys and their research team, together with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council are assessing the impact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of active engagement in participatory community singing programs. Such socially inclusive activities are expected to have a profound effect on physical health, mental health, quality of life, and wellbeing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with significant social and economic benefits.

The project has seen the establishment of five choirs by five different Aboriginal medical services in the region. Kambu Medical Service Centre Pty Ltd. (Ipswich) choir recently won the Queensland Innovative Workforce Development Award by the Queensland Government due to this project.

The program is being expanded into Central, North and Far North Queensland. In North Queensland five communities have been set up and the project will launch on 23 June.

Our healthcare, our welfare, our decision?

Queensland’s health services, under strain from recent major natural disasters, could be better managed with community input, according to Griffith University researchers.

A new Griffith Health Institute (GHI) study looks at engaging the public in healthcare decision making through Citizens’ Juries.

GHI researcher Professor Paul Scuffham, GHI researcher, said very few studies had compared decision makers’ choices with those of the general public.

“Through this research, local communities will play a vital role in determining healthcare priorities,” Professor Scuffham said.

“This could then contribute significantly to improving healthcare planning, policy making and ultimately community welfare as the nation rebuilds from Queensland’s catastrophic weather events.”

The research study will engage Citizens’ Juries made up of jurors randomly selected from the electoral rolls and presented with a healthcare dilemma. Experts will then present evidence and be cross-examined by the jurors.

The research will focus on three key areas of relevance to Queensland Health and South Australia Health: elective surgery priorities and waiting lists; optimising appropriate use of emergency care departments; and interventions for obesity.

The study will also include three large scale web-based surveys, each targeting 3000 randomly selected Australians.

“Some countries, like the UK, now routinely seek the views of local people and communities in the assessment of health services and interventions when setting healthcare priorities,” said Professor Scuffham.
Griffith University joins forces with China in food safety

On Monday 17 January 2011 Professor Nan Junhua, Director General, of China’s National Centre for Health Inspection and Supervision (NCHIS) led a delegation to Queensland, Australia to visit a number of food and environmental health experts from Griffith University and the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC).

Dr Peter Davey, Deputy Director, Centre for Environment and Population Health, Griffith School of Environment, facilitated the visit and accompanied Professor Nan and his team to the GCCC chambers where they explored various initiatives in environmental health and food safety best practice, for capacity building in China, with Australia’s experts in the field.

The meetings are a part of a China-Australia Health Facility Partnership Program, which has been funded by AusAID to improve rural food security and to develop new models for promotion, training and multi-sectoral cooperation, across seven provinces in China.

In 2010, Dr Davey visited milk factories and community health centres in three of the seven rural provinces in China. He conducted seminars to educate the NCHIS staff and other agency professionals on risk minimisation in the areas of food safety and environmental health. During Dr Davey’s efforts in the region it soon became apparent that there were up to 100,000 health inspectors in China in need of ongoing, specialised training to improve the supervision of food safety audits of the nation’s major food suppliers.

As the project continues, the NCHIS visit to Queensland was imperative for the strengthening of this important capacity building project and Australia’s positive relations with China.

"While the tertiary sector in Australia has advanced to a leading position in food safety and environmental health education and training, China’s NCHIS has increased its research and training capacity. There is no doubt that we can work in partnership and learn together on this important environmental health area," said Dr Davey.

Developing next generation computational models of the musculoskeletal system

Seven leading international researchers from across the USA, New Zealand and Australia recently descended on Stanford University in California for a key data compilation exercise that will underpin future developments in musculoskeletal study.

Professor David Lloyd from the Musculoskeletal Research Program in the Griffith Health Institute was the sole representative from Australia. Professor Lloyd worked with his team of experts to run experiments on four patients who were fitted with specially designed total knee replacements that enable the loads experienced on the knee articular surfaces to be measured.

The research group compiled the most complete set of neuromusculoskeletal data ever collected on one set of patients at the one time. The data collected included full motion analysis with muscle activation patterns, fluoroscopic motion (i.e., dynamic x-ray) of the implants, strength, and articular loading from these patients walking, squatting, doing strength tests, and rising from a chair. This data will enable the researchers, and others around the world, to develop the next generation computational models of the musculoskeletal system.

"We can then use these models to estimate the loading of various musculoskeletal tissues (bone, cartilage, ligaments, tendons), which is only possible through computer modelling, with the ultimate goal being to develop new treatments for various musculoskeletal conditions," commented Professor Lloyd.

The project is being funded by the National Institutes of Health in the USA and led by Professor BJ Fregly (University of Florida), and Professor Darryl D’Lima (Shiley Center for Orthopaedic Research at Scripps Clinic), with co-investigators (alphabetical order), Professor Scott Banks (University of Florida), Dr Thor Besier (Auckland Bioengineering Institute), Dr Cliff Colwell (Shiley Center for Orthopaedic Research at Scripps Clinic), Professor Scott Delp (Stanford University), and as mentioned Professor David Lloyd (Griffith University).
Tomorrow’s health service to be shaped by today’s research

The increasing importance of medical research has been highlighted by Griffith University’s Dean of Medicine Professor Simon Broadley.

“The landscape is ever changing,” Professor Broadley said at the School of Medicine’s Academic and Clinical Excellence Awards.

He said emerging research with a focus on increased efficiency would shape the health industry, which he described as a “constantly transforming environment”.

“Graduating doctors and future graduating doctors are the people on whom this duty falls.”

Professor Broadley introduced the six finalists for the Best Research Presentation Award at a ceremony held at the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health recently.

Research topics ranged from management programs for chronic heart failure patients to innovative referral processes to deal with falls among the elderly. A rare cholesterol cancer, clinical ethics at the new Gold Coast University Hospital and preventive measures for coronary disease were also spotlighted during the presentations.

Dr Cullen O’Gorman claimed the $500 first prize for his presentation on the risk of Multiple Sclerosis among smokers. He was also among the winners in the ACE Research Awards where the work of Professor Roy Beran, Professor Simon Broadley, Associate Professor Glenn Francis, Professor Paul Scuffham, Professor Rohan Jayasinghe, and Research Fellow Dr Tracy Comans was acknowledged.

The ACE Awards reward those who share their excellence in the education of future health professionals, including clinical skills facilitators, school academic teachers, academic researchers and early career researchers.

They also highlight the work of staff and departments at nearby hospitals. The emergency department of the Gold Coast Hospital claimed a Departmental Award, while Professor Harry McConnell’s work in mental health earned him the Teaching Award at Gold Coast Hospital.

For the full list of awardees please email Professor Broadley—simon.broadley@griffith.edu.au

Missing persons question takes to the stage

Public appearances by Kate and Gerry McCann – the parents of missing Madeline McCann – have highlighted the desperate plight of relatives left behind when a family member goes missing.

It is a subject that rarely achieves such extensive mainstream coverage, a situation that Griffith University lecturer Dr Julie Clark aims to redress.

Dr Clark, who has written extensively on the subject, is hopeful that a wider Queensland audience will get the chance to get into the heads of the people left behind through a powerful piece of theatre, based partly on her research.

Writer/director David Williams saw far-reaching dramatic possibilities when he discovered Dr Clark’s research on missing people, and wove it into the script of The Disappearances Project, a powerful play he co-created with Yana Taylor.

The Version I.0 team researched the subject extensively before they sought additional material from Julie Clark, a lecturer at the School of Human Services and Social Work at Logan. The skilfully crafted result was The Disappearances Project, produced by Sydney ensemble group Version 1.0 as part of Performance Space’s Uneasy Future season earlier this month.

The play, performed at CarriageWorks theatre, earned favourable reviews as it trawled the minds of distraught relatives searching for missing brothers, sisters, mums, dads, sons and daughters. “It’s wonderful for a subject like this, which is not generally talked about, to get such exposure to a wider audience,” Dr Clark, who travelled to Sydney for a sneak preview, said.

Missing people, loss and grief are key areas of research for Dr Clark member, in particular a sibling, goes missing. Through a series of in-depth interviews with the siblings of missing adults, Dr Clark has researched siblings’ experiences including emotional reactions to their loss, and the characteristics of speculation, secondary grieving and not knowing.

“The aim of my study was to give voice to siblings of long-term missing people as their voices are largely absent.”

She is now hopeful that these previously unheard voices will be heard on a Queensland stage later this year, with the strong desire for the production to play in Brisbane. “It was a fantastic production, particularly the intensity of the performances and the visual effects. The way the notion of ‘mind traffic’ was represented was clever,” said Dr Clark.
International network focused on active ageing

Griffith University research will play a key role in a transcontinental move to reduce the frequency of falls among the elderly.

Professor Karl-Heinz Wagner, an adjunct professor at Griffith Health Institute, has been awarded $800,000 over the next three years to develop the “Active Ageing” research at the University of Vienna in Austria. The research will assess the effectiveness of therapies for the prevention of sarcopenia, a condition of age-related loss of muscle mass and strength, which is linked to osteoporosis.

“We will investigate the effects of healthy lifestyle interventions like exercise and wholesome nutrition on ageing, while understanding their underlying molecular mechanisms and effects on DNA stability,” Professor Karl-Heinz Wagner said.

The Griffith Health Institute’s Dr Andrew Bulmer (School of Medical Science), Dr Ben Desbrow and Dr Michael Leveritt (Public Health), Associate Professor Luke Haseler and Dr Surendran Sabapthay (Physiotherapy and Exercise Science) are part of an extensive research network taking on the project.

“This grant also gives us the opportunity to support the training of Masters and PhD students, who will work within the platform activities, conduct international laboratory rotations, utilising joint supervision as well as support to attend international conferences,” said GHI researcher Dr Andrew Bulmer.

In a further Austrian connection Dr Oliver Neubauer, a post-doctoral scientist at the University of Vienna and a consortium member of the research platform, received a separate research grant from the Austrian Science Fund to assess gene expression in recovering skeletal muscle at Griffith University in 2011.
Researchers from the Griffith Health Institute (GHI) participated in the “Rally for Research” held in Brisbane on 19 April 2011.

Researchers from the GHI supported the campaign that aimed to raise awareness of the potentially significant impact of federal funding cuts on health and medical research.

“Health and medical research has a significant impact on all Australians. Medical research provides an increased understanding of disease and susceptibility, and leads to the development of better diagnostics, preventative treatments and new therapeutics,” said Professor Lyn Griffiths, GHI Director.

“Continued sustainable federal investment in health and medical research is essential to address the health challenges that face our community,” she said.

The GHI receives significant funds through the NHMRC including funds to establish a new NHMRC Centre of Excellence program, Australia’s first Centre of Research Excellence in Nursing Interventions for Hospitalised Patients.

Griffith University’s Pro Vice Chancellor (Health), Professor Allan Cripps, also commented that continued sustainable federal investment in health and medical research is essential to address the health challenges that face our community.

“Funding that supports research to address the increasing burden of disease and the challenge of health prevention in our community is essential in maintaining the quality of life of all Australians in future years,” Professor Cripps said.

Over a period of about three weeks, rallies were held across the country, petitions signed and letters written to influential figures. This pressure and awareness raising campaign was all worth it. On Federal Budget night, it was announced that not only has NHMRC funding been secured but there is a slight increase on last year’s figure of 4.3%.

Volunteers add value to vital research

Volunteering your time and body to medical research might not seem the obvious way to while away a precious hour or two, but that time could make a world of difference to the future health and wellbeing of the Gold Coast community.

That’s the message to our local community from the Griffith Health Institute (GHI) which plans to build on the 3500 volunteers who took part in key clinical trials at Griffith University last year.

Chronic disease remains the focus of the Institute’s researchers with cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease and mental health under the microscope.

“We look at the effects of ageing, diabetes, obesity and activity on heart disease and translate this knowledge into improved ways of reducing disease incidence, and improving therapies for heart and vascular disorders.”

Preventing or reducing the impact of disease in childhood is a high priority for our society and therefore also a major focus for GHI.

Vital research is significantly progressed and enhanced by volunteers.

Current trials at the GHI include an examination of the benefits of using oral antibiotics in dental implant treatment, a study into the gene responses to intense prolonged exercise, the treatment of migraine among young and old, and the use of acupuncture to address hay fever.

Volunteer contributions vary from filling in a questionnaire for an analysis of work/life balance to donating a blood sample for a cardiovascular disease trial to a session in a laboratory for muscle and bone density research.
Indigenous communities throughout Australia are set to reap far-reaching benefits from a key initiative involving Griffith University and the Townsville District Health Service.

One fifth of students starting Griffith’s Bachelor of Midwifery program in 2011 are from Indigenous backgrounds. This group of 19 students, whose ages range from 19 to mid-50s, will bring a highly-valued and much needed set of skills into their communities on completion of the three-year full-time program.

A key strand of the Federal Government’s Close the Gap initiative, the collaboration will also focus on addressing disadvantage experienced by some Indigenous students in the University sector, ensuring they are adequately equipped and supported to complete the course.

Close the Gap calls on all Australians to commit to reducing inequality in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation.

“This initiative allows Indigenous women to take up tertiary studies and genuinely assists them in completing the courses they start,” senior lecturer and program convenor Dr Kerry Peart said.

“The idea was to put something extra into the program to facilitate their progress and support them through their studies. All of these students are affected in some way by isolation and we are looking at addressing this in a meaningful way.”

“This program has been a long time coming and is critical to the improvement of Indigenous health outcomes in maternal and child health. As a result of this program we expect to see an increase in the number of Indigenous midwives employed within the district and an improvement in Indigenous maternal and child health outcomes,” said Dr Peart.

Outstanding researchers awarded for excellence

The 2010 Vice Chancellor’s Research Excellence Award winners are:

Professor Stuart Bunn from the Australian Rivers Institute for the category Award for research leadership

Professor Alfred Lam from the Griffith Health Institute for the category award for excellence of an individual mid-career or senior researcher.

Quantum information science team, led by Professor Howard Wiseman, at the Centre for Quantum Dynamics for the category award for excellence of a research group or team.

Dr Keith Townsend from the Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing for the category award for excellence in an early career researcher.

The awards aim to recognise researchers in all stages of their careers and provide funding of up to $15,000 to support their research.

Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O’Connor said the nominees had made outstanding contributions to their disciplines.

“These awards play an important role in recognising our researchers’ hard work and celebrating their outstanding achievements,” Professor O’Connor said. “Griffith University’s research income, publications and impact have increased significantly in the past decade as a result of our exceptional researchers.”

Today, the University ranks among Australia’s top 10 research universities, based on analysis of the Excellence in Research for Australia 2010 National Report for the number of fields of research assessed as meeting world standard or better at both the two and four-digit levels. The University was also ranked seventh in Australia and 30th in the Asia-Pacific region in the prestigious Nature Publishing Index 2010 released in March this year.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) Professor Ned Pankhurst said the award winners were selected from a shortlist of highly performing researchers nominated by their peers.

“Congratulations to all nominees for standing out in a high performing research institution,” Professor Pankhurst said. “This is a significant year for Griffith as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formal creation of the University.”
Griffith dentistry students get their teeth into a virtual training world

Students at Griffith University’s School of Dentistry and Oral Health are set to learn their trade virtually. The school is the first in Australia to trial the Moog Simodont Trainer, a highly-realistic dental training simulator that combines virtual reality with cutting-edge haptic technology. The six-month evaluation will see students at the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health on the Gold Coast work in a virtual world of three-dimensional images and realistic feelings of drill and mirror.

“We are facing many different and very realistic patient situations in pre-clinical training,” Head of the School of Dentistry and Oral Health, Professor Ward Massey said. “The feel of treating the simulated patient is very much like reality and that feel is adjusted as the various instruments (drills and hand instruments) are changed.

Many practitioners use magnification in patient treatment nowadays and this is also simulated by zooming in onscreen. There is even the familiar whirring sound of the drill.”

The machinery will also be the focus of a research project at the School of Dentistry and Oral Health, comparing the development of spatial reasoning capacity of students using the technology early in their clinical skills development and students not using it.

The machine is the product of Moog Inc, a worldwide designer, manufacturer and integrator of precision controlled systems, and the Academic Centre for Dentistry, Amsterdam, where it has been rolled out extensively in their preclinical areas and supported by the Dutch government.

Book release


Professor Paul Martin is lead editor of this book with two other Behavioural Basis of Health members/psychology staff, Dr Ian Glendon and Dr Joseph Reser from our Gold Coast campus, each having a chapter in this Handbook.

Professor Martin is Head of School of Psychology and is based at Mt Gravatt.

Reviews

“Seldom do we see a handbook covering the entire field of applied psychology from an international perspective, and never before have I seen such a comprehensive volume with as many distinguished editors and contributors”.

David Barlow (Boston University)

“This up-to-date landmark reference compendium on professional psychology, in all its specializations and on applied psychological research, is a landmark resource for every behavioral scientist-practitioner”.

Kurt Pawlik (University of Hamburg)

“The IAAP Handbook of Applied Psychology is a reference book that no applied psychologist can be without. It is a masterpiece of outstanding quality by a team of distinguished international psychologists”.

Cary Cooper (Lancaster University)
Indigenous high school students from across the Gold Coast attended an experience day at the Griffith Health campus in Southport on Friday 6 May to hear from indigenous medical and dental students, and participate in learning activities and campus tours.

Griffith University Elder in Residence Uncle Graham Dillon welcomed the students and spoke about not being ashamed to work and the need to always aim higher, in all parts of their lives.

David Baker and Karen Taylor, indigenous Dentistry and Medicine students, spoke about their study and hopes for their future careers. David hopes to start an emergency dental clinic in indigenous areas, and Karen is looking to work with local healers on plant-based cures.

Students also heard from Clinton Schultz about his pathway to a career in health, leaving school at 15 to work around the world before studying psychology at Griffith University and now running indigenous health programs and initiatives on the Gold Coast.

After speeches, the students moved through activities in the School of Medicine labs, learning about anatomy, bone setting, filling teeth, paediatrics, and a shark attack first-aid demonstration on the School of Medicine’s $240,000 simulation patient.

The Go Health Go Griffith ambulance team demonstrated their simulation babies and CPR equipment before students enjoyed a barbecue lunch with the indigenous student support group, GUMURRII. Graham Coghill from the GUMURRII unit gave the students an introductory lecture about the support available at Griffith University and a tour of the facilities on the Gold Coast campus before the students returned to their high schools.

Group therapy emerges in treatment of prostate cancer

A new study by the Griffith Health Institute (GHI) and Cancer Council Queensland could provide a springboard to addressing the psychological challenges of the recurrence of prostate cancer.

The eight-week study examined the use of meditation-based techniques in the treatment of men with advanced prostate cancer, while simultaneously investigating the outcomes of innovative group therapy.

It found men become less anxious and avoidant of their cancer and were less fearful of cancer recurrence after engaging in meditation.

The research also observed that the group experience, and the support of other men whose disease was rapidly advancing, appeared to enhance acceptance. Men with advanced prostate cancer traditionally report higher levels of psychological distress, a poorer quality of life and are at greater risk of suicide.

Professor Suzanne Chambers, co-author of the study report and Professor of Preventative Health at the Griffith Health Institute says the men are a priority group for psychological intervention. The intervention needs to take into account the specific challenges that relate to the progressive and incurable nature of advanced disease. Professor Chambers is also Director of Research at Cancer Council Queensland.

She said the meditative approach used in the study leads the person to gain the ability to be both less avoidant and less reactive to their experience. The technique trained men with prostate cancer in the company of men in the same situation to exercise emotional composure in the face of negative emotions and challenging situations. Peer learning appeared to contribute to acceptance.

The relatively small study, involving 19 men, was carried out in Queensland but its positive results have opened the possibility of a more extensive study nationwide. Finding recruits in regional Queensland proved a greater challenge than in urban centres. This may reflect rural people being less likely to seek support in general, barriers to attendance based on face-to-face settings or more conservative views about meditation among regional men.

Research into how best to provide psychological support for men with advanced prostate cancer is urgently needed. They are a high need but to date are a relatively neglected group, the report says.
Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law 2011 Conference

Sponsored by Griffith Health Group, this year’s conference follows the theme of ‘Expectations, Hope and Futility: Law and Bioethics in Contemporary Healthcare’ covering:

- What is the role of Expectations (realistic or otherwise) in driving contemporary health care?
- To what extent can, or should, Hope be fostered – what are the harms and benefits?
- After 3 decades of defining, measuring and critiquing medical Futility, where are we in 2011?
- Do health consumers’ expectations and hope drive futile care measures across the spectrum of our healthcare system?
- Do health professionals’ misunderstanding of what would constitute a good outcome from the patient’s perspective drive futile care measures?
- What impact does this have on health service budgets?
- How are these considerations supported or denied in law within Australia and New Zealand?
- What are the roles of expectation and hope in medical research?
- How should we best frame these questions – ethically, legally or professionally?

The conference will be held 7–10 July 2011 at Twin Towns Outrigger Resort, Gold Coast.

Mother’s Day Classic

Sunday 8 May 2011

A team of 30 Griffith Health staff members and PhD students joined the masses at the Annual Mother’s Day Classic on Sunday 8 May. The picturesque route included the beautiful beachfront and The Esplanade at Main Beach. Overall one or other of the Griffith team represented Griffith Health in each event – 4 km walk, 8 km walk, 4 km run and 8 km run.

“We met early morning and participated in the event we were enrolled in. We then enjoyed a well deserved breakfast BBQ and a host of delicious homemade treats. It was a really collegial atmosphere”, said Associate Professor Mike Rathbone, Griffith University organiser.

The Griffith Health team won the award for Largest Tertiary Team registered. The Gold Coast event was one of 37 different events held simultaneously across the nation. A record 120,000 Australians stepped out for breast cancer research in the annual Mother’s Day Classic event. Over 3500 participants in the Gold Coast event made this the highest number ever for this location.

Associate Professor Rathbone says to all Griffith Health staff, “Put Sunday 13 May 2012 in your diary now and join fellow Griffith colleagues in next year’s Mothers Day Classic.”

Ms Jessica Bugg

Third year student, Ms Jessica Bugg, was recently awarded a Pharmacy Cricket Scholarship valued at $2500 due to her academic achievements, commitment to pharmacy and demonstrated leadership ability. A member of the 2010 GUAPS committee, Ms Bugg plans to use the scholarship to further her understanding of patient focused care in rural settings.

Ms Amber Searle

Pharmacy student, Ms Amber Searle was selected as one of 28 people worldwide to represent Griffith University at the annual Pharmaceutical Japan Tour 2011 organised by the Association of Pharmaceutical Students Japan.

The tour comprised visits to industrial, community and academic pharmacy locations as well as cultural locations. Ms Searle was awarded $500 from the School, $500 from Griffith International and $500 from the Health Group to assist her with the costs.
**Professor Patrick O’Leary**

Professor Patrick O’Leary has been appointed as the Head of the School of Human Services and Social Work. Patrick will take up his appointment in the School towards the end of September 2011.

He has an international reputation for research in the area of children and families, with particular expertise in gender-based violence and its impact on children. Patrick joins us from his current position at the University of Southampton where he is the Professor of Social Work Studies and the Director of the International Child Well-Being Research Centre.

**Nutrition Research Team**

The Nutrition Research team in the Research Centre for Clinical and Community Practice Innovation (RCCCPI), led by Dr Ben Desbrow, were promoted to full research unit status in recognition of this group’s outstanding development and productivity over the last few years (~30 MND dissertation completions, 21 journal articles, 11 funded research grants, 6+ HDR students etc).

**Professor Roger Hughes**

Professor Roger Hughes has been appointed Deputy Director, (RCCCPI) Practice Innovation, Griffith Health Institute.

He is internationally renowned for his research on public health nutrition workforce development, previously working as external advisor to workforce development projects in the European Union and more recently in Indonesia for the World Bank.

He is currently Secretary (Professional Affairs) of the World Public Health Nutrition Association and was recently appointed Chair of the School of Public Health Learning and Teaching Committee.

**Professor Clare Tilbury**

Professor Clare Tilbury has been appointed the inaugural Chair of a unique child protection research initiative. The Griffith School of Human Services and Social Work academic will drive the five-year program of research in partnership with Life Without Barriers, one of the country’s largest not-for-profit community service providers.

The Life Without Barriers Carol Peltola Research Chair has been established to lead research projects aimed at improving services for vulnerable children and families. Research will focus on understanding children’s perspectives about services and programs that would improve their lives.

The position has been established to further the contribution and life’s work of Carol Peltola, a leader in the development and provision of child protection services in Australia.

Professor Tilbury has an extensive professional background in the child welfare field as well as research expertise in the areas of measuring outcomes and effectiveness, racial disparity in child protection systems and using child protection and out-of-home care administrative data for research and policy and program development. She commenced the position in April 2011.

**Dr Siobhan O’Dwyer**

Dr Siobhan O’Dwyer (School of Nursing & Midwifery/Research Centre for Clinical and Community Practice Innovation (RCCCPI) has been awarded a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres (DCRCs).

There are three DCRCs, funded by the Australian Government, and each focuses on a different area of dementia research. Queensland’s DCRC focuses on carers and consumers.

Dr O’Dwyer’s research will investigate suicidality and resilience in family and spousal carers of people with dementia. She commenced the role in May and uses large-scale surveys and qualitative interviews to explore predictors and experiences of suicidality and resilience in carers, as well as knowledge and support systems in community and advocacy organisations. Dr O’Dwyer will be mentored by Professor Wendy Moyle (RCCCPI) and Professor Diego De Leo (Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention).

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PUBLICATIONS


McGrath, P. & Holewa, H. (2011) Reconceptualising Relocation for Specialist Treatment: Insights from New Zealand, Supportive Care in Cancer, 2.089


Poll, D.T., Gillespie, B.M. & Griffin, R. Deliberate Ignorance: A Systematic Review of the Use of Blinding in Nursing Clinical Trials; Nursing Research 2011,60 (1)9–16.


Hsieh, R. Understanding of osteonecrosis of the jaw by general medical practitioners and their referral pattern to dentists prior to commencing patients on biophosphonate for the treatment of osteoporosis (supervisor Reher R). $2200, September 2010.

Speicher, D.J. & Johnson, N.W. Saliva as a diagnostic fluid for Human Herpes virus carriage in man: a controlled study of HIV positive and negative subjects, $5500, January 2011.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL


AUSTRALIAN AND LEARNING TEACHING COUNCIL


Yeatman, H, Begley, A., & Hughes, R. Curriculum renewal in public health nutrition. 2010 – $158,000.

CANCER AUSTRALIA

Chambers, S.K., Baade, P., Youl, P., Atkin, J., Dunn, J., Garvey, G., Valerie, P., O’Connell, D. A project to build an accessible evidence base on the effects of stigma and nihilistic views on outcomes in lung cancer in Australia that can be used by policy makers, health professionals and cancer control agencies to inform the content of public health messages, clinical practice and supportive care guidelines. $588,112, 2011–2013.


OTHER

Bradley, G. & Glendon, I. Public understandings, risk perceptions, and responses to climate change and associated natural disasters. Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, $40,000.

Bulmer, A. Skeletal muscle and blood leucocyte gene responses to endurance exercise (GU Ref No: MSC/16/10/HREC); University of Vienna; EUR $10000–AUD$15000.

Dawe, S. Nowra South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service Whole of Family Team: PuP Training $18,000.

Dawe, S. PuP Training Cork Ireland GBP10,000.

Glass, B.D., Haywood, A., Miller, A., Llewelyn, V., Oelgemoller, M. Griffith University/James Cook University collaborative grants scheme: Managing Medicines. $8,667.

Harris, N. Voxbox: Rap for Health, Pilot program, ATODS Queensland Health, 2010. $20,000.


Minahan, C.M. Physical Conditioning of Elite AFL Players, Brisbane Lions $20,000.

Moyle, W., Cooke, M., Beattie, E. Jones, C. Cook, G. & Klein B. The effect of PARO on social engagement, communication and quality of life (QOL) in people living with dementia in residential care. DCRC-CC. 2011 $62,309 ($50,309 + PARO $12,000).


Reddan, G. Sports Coaching Program Development Grant, Open University of Australia, $48,000.


Reddan, G. Training for a four minute race. Surf Life Saving Australia Coach and Official Conference, Gold Coast, 4 April 2011.

St John, W. Enhancing continence care for frail older people at risk of nursing home admission. Griffith University Encouragement Award 2011: $30,000.


CONFERENCES


