HEALTH CHECK
Griffith Health Newsletter

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.

PVC Report

Welcome to the first Newsletter for the Health Group. The purpose of the Newsletter is to provide students, staff and our community, information on activities and achievements of the Health Group. We plan to have six issues a year. Each issue highlighting 2 Schools, 1 Research Centre and at least 2 staff members. The Newsletter will highlight research achievements including research grants and publications.

The Health Group formally commenced on January 1 and I take this opportunity to welcome you all to “Griffith Health”. With 10 Schools (Anatomy, Dentistry and Oral Health, Human Services, Medical Science, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Exercise Science, Psychology, Public Health), 6 Research Centres (Applied Cognitive Neuroscience, Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, Genomics, Griffith Psychological Health, Heart Foundation, Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation), 5,426 students and 378 staff Griffith Health is one of the largest academic Health groups in the Australian University sector. This provides us with substantial opportunities for multidisciplinary research, teaching and community engagement.

Much of the first couple of months has focussed on developing and implementing administrative structures for the new group.

The new Group has no Faculties. A Group Board has been established for both academic (Faculty) and strategic functions. Committees for Teaching and Learning, Research, Internationalisation and Community Engagement are being established. The Group has a single academic Dean, Professor Debra Creedy and portfolio Deans in Teaching and Learning (Prof Stephanie Short), and Research (Prof Gillian Bushell).

The Dean of Research has been appointed across the Griffith Health and Griffith Science and Technology to facilitate research activities and opportunities between Griffith Health and Griffith Science and Technology.

Welcome to Griffith Health.

Professor Allan Cripps
Pro Vice Chancellor (Health)

Dean of Health Report

The year has begun at a hectic but exciting pace. I am very fortunate to be working with a great team of academic managers and administrators in the Health Group.

My role as Dean involves a variety of responsibilities. As Chair of the Health Group Faculty Board, I am involved in decisions regarding teaching and learning, research, community partnerships, internationalization and student assessment, progress and appeals. I also have planning, staffing and equity responsibilities for Schools in the Health Group. I bring to the position nearly 30 years experience in clinical practice (as a registered nurse and psychologist) and tertiary education. I commenced at Griffith University in 1994 and have worked on the Nathan, Logan and Gold Coast campuses.

As Dean of Health, I recently attended the inaugural meeting of the Innovative Research Universities Australia (IRUA). The IRUA consists of Flinders, Griffith, La Trobe, Macquarie, Murdoch and Newcastle Universities. IRUA member universities were established in the mid 1960’s and 70’s and are characterised as medium-sized research intensive, student focussed, community engaged, equity aware and social-justice-oriented universities. The event explored how we can develop positively as a group and as individual universities. The challenge ahead is to imbue these characteristics in Griffith Health to lead the way in health research, education and cutting-edge practice.

Professor Debra Creedy

Professor Debra Creedy
**School of Anatomy**

**Head of School – Dr Helen Massa**

Griffith University has taught anatomy to students on its Gold Coast campus since 1990. The establishment of the School of Anatomy was approved in 2001. The goals of the School are to provide for advanced teaching and research in anatomy; and to provide advice to the University through the PVC (Health) on all non-academic matters relating to the teaching and research in anatomy.

The School of Anatomy is responsible for ensuring that Griffith University complies with all relevant legislation for the School’s operation under the Transplantation and Anatomy Act. The academic staff who teach anatomy are all experienced in teaching the discipline and are supported by technical staff who have specialist experience in anatomy. A Code of Conduct to be followed by staff and students has been developed and will be applied in operating the new anatomy facility in the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health.

The School supports student learning in human anatomy to over 800 students per year. Students are enrolled in programs ranging from medical science to the health professions and all can access osteological, histological, model-based and cadaveric resources. The current School of Anatomy committee is comprised of staff from a number of Schools, including Dentistry and Oral Health, Physiotherapy and Exercise Science, Medical Science, and Medicine.

Development of the School and its activities continues to accelerate, with the establishment of a body bequest program underway and considerable excitement surrounding the relocation to the 6th floor of the Southport site (GH1) adjacent to Gold Coast Hospital for Semester 2, 2005. These ‘state of the art facilities’ will set a new benchmark for high quality learning environments for the study of human anatomy.

**School of Dentistry and Oral Health**

**Dean and Head of School - Professor Newell Johnson**

The School moves into its second year of student intake with enthusiasm - and much hard work. We now have two cohorts of new undergraduates in the three streams leading to the Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Hygiene/Therapy; in Dental Technology; in Dental Sciences [in preparation for the 2 year postgraduate diploma leading to registration as dentists]; in the post qualification degree course in dental technology; and a first intake in the graduate Masters programme in prosthodontics for experienced graduate dental technologists. This suite of courses is unique in Australia - perhaps the world.

The existing core academic staff are performing brilliantly in delivering these, and we are actively recruiting all around the world for a tranche of senior appointments to lead the clinical disciplines as all students move to active clinical experience later this year. We are moving right now into our gleaming new clinical and laboratory spaces in the Medicine and Oral Health Centre at Gold Coast Hospital: exciting and challenging! With the arrival at the beginning of the Semester of our full-time Dean and Head of School we are planning new strategic initiatives in community experiences and research projects for undergraduates, in staff research, and in the recruitment of Research Higher Degree students to start the School of with a strong research ethos.

**Applied Cognitive Neuroscience Research Centre**

**Director : A/Prof David Shum**

The Applied Cognitive Neuroscience Research Centre (ACNRC) was established in 2003 under the directorship of Associate Professor David Shum. The purpose of the Centre is to advance cognitive neuroscience research by bringing together experts in the fields of vision science, psychophysics, neuropsychology, developmental and cognitive psychology, education, psychometrics, exercise science and engineering. The ACNRC encompasses the research activities of 18 staff and 30 postgraduate students from the Nathan, Mt Gravatt and Gold Coast campuses, as well as a host of national and international collaborators.

Using state-of-the-art techniques, these researchers work together on projects funded by bodies such as the ARC and NHMRC that increase our understanding of the sensory and cognitive processes of perception, language, motor function, attention, memory, reasoning and problem solving. The Centre holds monthly seminars to stimulate new research ideas and disseminate knowledge and findings. ACNRC research has implications for the better assessment and remediation of brain functions, and the enhancement of human performance, health and well-being.
Staff Profiles

Professor Murray Dyck  
(School of Psychology, Gold Coast )

Professor Dyck received his professional education in clinical psychology at the Universities of Winnipeg and British Columbia, pursued his doctoral research at the University of Sydney, and was a post-doctoral Clinical Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been a practicing clinical psychologist since 1982 when he began working at the Nova Scotia Hospital in Dartmouth, Canada. Before joining Griffith, Murray was Associate Professor and Director of clinical psychology programs at Curtin University in Perth. Murray’s research focuses on developmental disorders, including autism spectrum, communication, and coordination disorders, and especially on the problem of ‘co-morbidity’ or the high rate of co-occurrence of these disorders. To date, his research has revealed significant problems in how developmental disorders are defined and has provided procedures for mapping specific neurocognitive impairments in children with disorders. His research has also provided a much better picture of how neurocognitive processes develop in typical children, especially of how cognitive processes become more, and less, differentiated as development proceeds. As for the future, Murray aims simply to join his new colleagues in providing the highest quality clinical psychology education and conducting the highest quality research. He looks forward to forging new clinic/research collaborations.

Professor Newell Johnson  
(School of Dentistry and Oral Health)

Professor Johnson graduated from the University of Melbourne and has since spent most of his professional life in the United Kingdom. He is internationally renowned for his clinical research especially in the area of head and neck cancers, and oral aspects of HIV/AIDS. Previously head of the Oral Health Research Group within the Dental Institute at London’s prestigious King’s College, and Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Oral Cancer and Precancer, Professor Johnson also has active research projects in both Africa and India. His move to Griffith University provides the opportunity to develop new relationships particularly in rural and remote communities of Australia and outwards to regional neighbours including Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. Newell has been awarded the 2005 Oral Medicine and Pathology Research Award by the International Association for Dental Research, and the peer-selected John Tome’s Medal in 2004 for outstanding services to the profession and the British Dental Association. Newell said he was keen to make a contribution to the profession in Australia, in both educational and research terms. Included in his vision for the school is to build research around the known links between oral and systemic disease.

Group News

Gold Coast Hospital Open Day
On Saturday 12 April, the Gold Coast District Health Service opened the doors of the Gold Coast Hospital to the public, holding the first Open Day for several years. Tours were conducted, demonstrations given and information displayed by well over 40 community organisations and a variety of units within Queensland Health.

Griffith Health was invited to participate to make the most of the opportunity to raise the profile and awareness of the strength and breadth of teaching and research conducted by Griffith Health, to develop relationships with health professionals, and to gain community support and future participation in research or teaching activities.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Allan Cripps attended to give a presentation on ‘Careers in Health at Griffith’, and staff from the School of Medicine, who established a special display, were on hand to respond to the steady flow of hospital staff and community members during the day. The School recruited volunteers to participate in various activities, while the enquiries from prospective students were mostly for the physiotherapy and nursing programs.

First Medical Students - School of Medicine
The Health Group welcomes the first cohort of 86 Medical Students into the new Graduate entry Medical Program. The program commenced in January 2005 and will be conducted at the recently constructed Medical and Oral Health Facility.
Staff News

RECENT APPOINTMENTS:

Prof Stephanie Short, Dean - Teaching and Learning
Prof Gillian Bushell, Dean - Research, Commercialisation and Intellectual Property (Griffith Health and Griffith Science and Technology)
Dr Elizabeth Patterson, Dean and Head, School of Nursing
Dr Chris Purcell, Deputy Head, Nursing (Logan campus)
Dr Marie Cook, Deputy Head, Nursing (Nathan campus)
Dr Helen Massa, Head, School of Anatomy
Dr Jayne Clapton, Head, School of Human Services
Prof Anne McMurray, Acting Head, Pharmacy (until 2 May 2005)
A/Prof Peter, Creed, Head, School of Psychology
A/Prof David Shum, Deputy Head, Psychology (Mt Gravatt campus)
Dr Glenda Andrews, Deputy Head, Psychology (Gold Coast campus)
Dr Roger Hughes, Deputy Head, Public Health
Ms Ming Liang, Lecturer, Public Health
Mr Darryl McGinn, Lecturer, Public Health
Ms Cheryl Wardrope, Lecturer, Public Health
Mr Ramon Shaban, Associate Lecturer, Nursing (Logan)
Ms Carrie Fairweather, Associate Lecturer, Nursing (Logan)
Dr Ursula Kellett, Sr Lecturer, Nursing (Nathan)
Dr Amy Johnson, A/Lecturer, Nursing (Nathan)
Dr Sandie McArthy, Lecturer, Nursing (Gold Coast)

ACTIVITIES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Associate Professor Wendy Moyle School of Nursing Nathan Campus promoted to Professor

Ben Desbrow, Dr Roger Hughes, Dr Shawn Somerset and Melinda Spencer who specialise in teaching and research in nutrition and dietetics have joined the School of Public Health and provide the accredited Master of Nutrition and Dietetics program at the Gold Coast campus.

Griffith University Annual Excellence in Teaching Awards
Sessional Teacher award - Mr Brendon Ward (Human Services)
Highly Commended - Natalie Loxton (Psychology) and Elaine Pidgeon (Public Health)

Student News

Awards
Joanne Williams (M Organisational Psychology) awarded a GUPSA Postgraduate Coursework Award. Joanne obtained the perfect GPA of 7 in her program.

Dr Ru Yan (Public Health) awarded PhD for thesis entitled ‘Settlement Stress and Health Needs of Migrant Women from the People’s Republic of China in Brisbane’.

Michelle Hanisch (School of Psychology - Gold Coast Campus) awarded the 2004 APS Prize in Psychology. The APS Prize in Psychology is an annual prize awarded to the student who gains first place at the end of an APS accredited fourth year program.

Nissoken Graduation (School of Nursing)

The graduation of the 19th cohort of students to complete the Bachelor of Nursing Post Registration degree program was held on 18 March 2005. We recognise and congratulate them on their dedication and their achievements, especially those who have had to balance study commitments with work and family responsibilities.

We are proud of the success of this program, the Bachelor of Nursing Post-Registration. The program was developed by Griffith University’s School of Nursing to provide a structured course so that registered nurses in Japan could upgrade their college qualifications to degree level. Over 1,300 nurses have enrolled in the program since it was first offered in 1997. A considerable number of the students who have already graduated have indicated that they intend to continue with further study.

Our ceremony was attended by Mr Akira Goto from the Nissoken Group, family, friends and teachers. Shirai Michiko was granted the Award for Excellence in Academic Studies in Nursing.
**Research**

**Funded Projects 2005**


Broadley S. A Multicentre, Phase IIa Clinical Trial To Assess The Safety, Tolerability And Pharmacodynamics Of Cpn10 Administered As Multiple Intravenous Injections In Volunteers With Multiple Sclerosis. (CBio Ltd 2005: $565,111).

Broadley S. Linkage Genome Screen in Multiplex Families with Autoimmune Disease. (GU NRG 2005: $12,000).

Chaboyer, W. Developing the educational role of the ICU liaison nurse. (GU EGS 2005:$15,000).

Chaboyer W. Identifying critically ill patients in a regional hospital, (Nurses Board Victoria 2005:$20,000).


Chaboyer W & Johnson P. Identifying ICU patients discharged to the ward at risk of major adverse events. (GU RG 2005: $16,000).


Hughes R. An international consensus study of obesity prevention strategies. (GNRG 2004/5:$11,000).


McClure R. Child Injury Prevention Project. (Queensland Health and Department of Emergency Services 2005: $125,000).


Neuzil J, Headrick J, Barclay C. Mitochondrial role in cardiac myocyte apoptosis: from cells to the intact heart. (NHF grant-in-aid 2005-2006:$120,000).

Publications

January - March 2005


Presentations:
