Support for Griffith Health Institute continues to rise

Unique and ground-breaking research at the Griffith Health Institute has been bolstered by a $5.5 million increase in funding during the Institute’s first three years.

Griffith Health Institute’s first annual report, published at the end of 2010, shows a 157 per cent increase in research income from $3.5 million in 2007 to $9 million in 2009. The $9 million represents 14% of Griffith University’s total research income for 2009.

A further boost to the GHI came in the form of $2 million in late 2010 from the estate of former Brisbane mayor Dr Clem Jones. The significant contribution, which comes into effect this year, will be channelled into stem cell research aimed at curing brain damage.

Another coup for GHI was the establishment of Australia’s first Centre of Research Excellence in Nursing Interventions for Hospitalised Patients. Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the centre will receive $2.5 million over five years to improve nursing services for a broad range of hospitalised patients who are at risk of compromised skin integrity, and pain and anxiety.

GHI was set up in 2007 to spearhead the university’s research into the prevention of chronic disease, specifically cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease and mental health. “With the depth and level of expertise across our six research programs, the Institute is well positioned to provide novel responses to major health issues affecting Australia and the world,” said GHI Director, Professor Lyn Griffiths.

Research income is secured mainly through grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council, and from the business and industry sector. Philanthropic donations make up the remainder. “Griffith Health Institute is immensely grateful for the support we have received to date, which will help further our vision to develop healthy communities through research,” said Professor Griffiths.
Strategic partnership with Peking University

Dr Jing Sun, Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Health and I visited the Health Science Centre of Peking University in China in early November 2010 with the purpose of discussing a partnership between the Griffith Health Group and School of Public Health at Peking University in collaborative research, staff and student exchange issues.

Peking University is ranked number one in China and ranks 49th in world university rankings, having established a reputation in population based research through major national and international funding bodies.

During the visit, Dr Jing Sun and I met with the Vice President of Peking University, Professor Ke Yang; Dean of School of Public Health, Professor Yonghua Hu; and Assistant Dean of School of Public Health, Professor Peiyu Wang. We also visited Fangshan District where the national Key Project in population health was supported and funded.

At the conclusion of the visit a strategic partnership between Griffith University Health Group and Peking University Health Science Centre was agreed. This partnership will be realised through the establishment of a Collaborative Research Initiative with the setting up of a liaison office at both Griffith University and Peking University to facilitate this collaboration in the research areas of infectious diseases, genetic epidemiology, community and health services, mental health, health promotion, and health service management.

Professor Allan W Cripps
Pro Vice Chancellor (Health)
MOU between Griffith Health and Gold Coast Health Service District

The unique and exciting opportunities associated with the Gold Coast’s multi-million dollar Health and Knowledge Precinct has been formally recognised by the parties involved.

Allan Cripps, Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) at Griffith University, and Michael Allsopp, acting CEO of the Gold Coast Health Service District, signed a memorandum of understanding at the Gold Coast Health and Medical Research Conference, hosted by the Griffith Health Institute.

A $1.76 billion 750-bed university hospital and a $136 million health centre are under construction at the Gold Coast campus in the Parklands precinct. The construction of these facilities is due to be completed at the end of 2012.

The MOU acknowledges the intent of both parties to work together to deliver health services, practices and programs which are responsive to the needs of the Gold Coast community. They aim to enhance patient care, student education, clinical training, research and community service across one of Australia’s fastest growing regions.

The Griffith Health Centre represents the university’s largest investment in a single building in its 40-year history. It reconfirms Griffith’s intent to achieve the best medical outcomes for a broad and diverse health group by maximising collaboration.

New Code of Ethics for Social Work

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) has released a new edition of the Code of Ethics (2010). Associate Professor Donna McAuliffe from the School of Human Services and Social Work at Griffith took the lead role in what was a comprehensive national and international review of the 1999 version of the Code of Ethics. Dr McAuliffe has been the National Convenor for Ethics within the AASW for the past 3 years, and has been actively involved for over a decade in ethics complaint management, ethics education, policy, training and law reform, and ethics consultation. This review of the Code of Ethics was conducted over an 18 month period and there have been significant changes to the document, including a revised set of core values, new sections on remote service delivery, issues in rural and remote practice, culturally safe, competent and sensitive practice, self-employment and research. There were over 400 recommendations made to the review team, and a highly collaborative partnership developed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social work colleagues, resulting in a new preamble and indigenous artwork on the front cover symbolising the story of ‘Murr-roo-ma Mur-rook Boo-larng’ [To Make Good Together].

Griffith social work and human services students taught by Dr McAuliffe in undergraduate and postgraduate ethics courses were able to feed directly into the review of the Code of Ethics, and were able to benefit from inside knowledge of the review process as it unfolded. Dr McAuliffe will continue to work with the AASW to oversee training on the new Code of Ethics around the country.
The hunt for cane toad redemption

They’re ugly, they’re toxic, they don’t belong here and they’re every dog owner’s nightmare. But for Griffith University Medical Science student Stuart Sharry, the tale of the unpopular cane toad may be one of redemption.

Stuart has been awarded $53,500 to research cane toad venom, using the cutting edge technology on offer at the National University of Singapore. He will invest the funding and his academic endeavour into a scientific pursuit of unique cane toad ‘venom’ molecules that may have anti-cancer, antibiotic and pain-killing qualities.

A member of the Griffith Honours College, Stuart was one of 20 undergraduate students nationwide to take out one of the Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Awards for 2010. His unique cane toad project caught the eyes of Endeavour award adjudicators, not least because of its link with Singapore. Stuart’s university supervisor Dr S Niru Nirthanan had set up a Neuropharmacology Drug Discovery laboratory at the National University of Singapore before coming to the Gold Coast in 2008.

A Griffith Health Institute researcher, Dr Nirthanan had “a long track record” in the research of snake and scorpion venom and expanded his toxic horizons on his arrival in Queensland. “What gives Stuart an edge is that venom research has been a strength in Singapore for over 25 years,” Dr Nirthanan, who holds an adjunct appointment at the National University of Singapore, says. “In Singapore he will be looking to discover minute trace components in toad venom with state-of-the-art technology.” Toad and frog skin compounds are believed to have chemical substances which are capable of killing bacteria and other microbes. “Toads and frogs have thrived in dirty waters and swamps for 300 million years. They have evolved to be resistant to many forms of disease. You rarely see infections on their skin. That’s the rationale.” A detailed profile of the composition of cane toad venom could help develop new classes of antibiotics to fight drug resistant bacteria like MRSA.

Pearson wins Griffith University Discovery Award

Researcher Dr Mark Pearson has won the Griffith University Discovery Award at the Research Australia Awards. Dr Pearson has been given this honour for his ground-breaking work inventing and developing a vaccine against Schistosoma mansoni, a parasite that infects as many as 200 million people every year in developing countries.

Currently around 20,000 people die every year from these infections. The vaccine developed by Dr Pearson and his team will soon commence clinical trials and has the potential to save lives across the globe.

Griffith Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) Professor Allan Cripps congratulated James Cook University academic Dr Pearson for his outstanding research career. “I hope Dr Pearson’s potentially life-changing work will motivate and inspire others,” Professor Cripps said. “The Research Australia Awards help to raise the profile of health and medical research in the community and celebrate their achievements. “It is important to recognise their vital work which save lives, heal sick and injured people while also making significant economic contributions when this knowledge is exported.”

The Discovery Award is given to an early career researcher whose work is making a difference. The Award was introduced in 2008 and it has been supported by Griffith University since its inception. Presented annually for the past eight years, the Research Australia Awards recognise the great leaders and innovators, philanthropists, advocates and researchers that contribute to improving the health and lives of all Australians.

The Awards cocktail party celebration was held at Government House, Sydney on Thursday, November 25 and was hosted by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales.

Research Australia aims to secure a continued commitment to research to contribute to improvements in both national and global health, and to meet the challenges of the globalised, competitive research and innovation environment.
Hard grind for cancer cure

Sixty-two Gold Coasters downed three cups of green and high roasted coffee a day in a world-first study aimed at uncovering the brew’s cancer-fighting properties. Researchers from the University of Vienna and the Genomics Research Centre at Griffith University teamed up to investigate how drinking coffee changes human genes.

Professor Lyn Griffiths said past research had shown coffee contained antioxidants that protected the body against cancer and cardiovascular disease, but this study would show how and why that happened. “We don’t know how exactly it works and which genes it affects to do this,” she said. “This will give us an idea of how coffee will work to help fight some diseases.”

Initial studies showed people responded differently and this could determine what level of coffee was needed to protect them.

Participants were supplied with coffee machines and sachets and had to go from having a cup of coffee three times a day for four weeks to having none for a set period. Austria’s Dr Ute Boettler, who is heading up the study, took samples from participants as they went through the coffee drinking process to see if there were any changes in the body’s cells and genes. She has been involved in coffee studies in Europe that looked at every coffee from green to high-roasted and Arabica. “Not every coffee was having the same effect,” she said. “There was a large variance in the coffees so we tried to find the critical ingredient which seemed to be most effective. What we also saw was that your body reacts differently so it is dependent on genes.”

Rugby players’ bone and muscle mass weaken throughout season

Rugby league players lose muscle mass and bone density as a season progresses which may increase their risk of injury, Griffith University research has found.

Associate Professor Belinda Beck from the new Musculoskeletal Research Program at the Griffith Health Institute said if players optimised their muscle mass before a season kicked-off, they may reduce bone-related injury. “Our study aimed to understand the relationship between body composition and injuries,” Dr Beck said. “We found Titan players’ muscle mass decreased gradually through the season and their bone density began to decrease after mid-season.” Honours student Erin Georgeson said these findings would help coaches to combat these changes in players’ body composition. “With a better understanding of players’ physical changes, coaches can develop strategies to optimise athletes’ pre-season muscle mass and maintain this throughout the season”.

Associate Professor Rod Barrett said 31% of Australians suffered from musculoskeletal problems such as back pain, arthritis and osteoporosis, costing the economy $4.6 billion per year. “The new multidisciplinary research program is bringing together more than 25 researchers to prevent and manage these debilitating and chronic health problems in Australian communities,” Dr Barrett said.
Inspiring alumni networking breakfast

As a prelude to the annual Griffith Health Institute conference at the Radisson Resort, Health staff, students, and alumni attended the inaugural alumni networking breakfast. Guests met and enjoyed each other's company over coffee and breakfast before listening to a variety of speakers from across the group. Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Allan Cripps performed the Welcome to Country and introduced the first speaker, Bridget Maher, PhD student from the School of Medical Science. Bridget was the winner of the Griffith Three Minute Thesis competition, and represented the University at the Trans-Tasman finals in September. She gave the audience a detailed overview of her fascinating research into the genetics behind migraine headaches, and the potential to isolate the genes which cause them. Following Bridget, Dr Dave Houston, foundation alumni from the School of Dentistry and Oral Health, spoke passionately about the need for alumni to form networks and work together to support and inspire each other, to the benefit of their personal and professional lives. Dr Houston is a huge supporter of alumni activities at Griffith, and firmly believes in the power of these groups to benefit future students and the university.

As a finale to the morning, Brenda Tischendorf from Development and Alumni thanked guests for their attendance, and invited everyone to attend the opening session of the Griffith Health Institute conference.

To learn more about Health alumni activities, or support Griffith University Research and Health initiatives, please contact Brenda Tischendorf at (07) 5552 7095 or b.tischendorf@griffith.edu.au

Researchers urge tax reform to reduce binge drinking

Government policies to reduce binge drinking have failed to reduce alcohol-related incidents on the Gold Coast. Research findings show alcohol-related cases in Gold Coast emergency departments have not decreased in the past two years after the ‘alcopops’ tax was introduced in April 2008. Griffith Health Institute Adjunct Professor and Health LinQ Director Steve Kisely said targeting specific drinks was ineffective and a more comprehensive policy was needed. “A tax to increase the price of a specific drink such as alcopops does not work as young people can substitute a cheaper drink instead,” Dr Kisely said.

Griffith Health Institute Associate Professor Julia Crilly said the research was undertaken at the Gold Coast as it was a popular destination for young people and ‘schoolies’ week. “Over a four-year period (April 2006 to April 2010), two years prior to the ‘alcopops’ tax and two years afterwards, we compared administrative data to investigate the effectiveness of policies to reduce binge drinking. “The findings clearly demonstrate policies to reduce binge drinking need to be reviewed as current policies are not effective.”

The study is a time series analysis and a collaborative effort between Griffith Health Institute, The University of Queensland, Gold Coast Hospital, Curtin University of Technology and CSIRO.

Physiotherapy and Active Health Centre

Nestled in a corner of the Gold Coast campus, one of Griffith University’s most innovative clinical services is set to make further healthy inroads in 2011. Clients of the Physiotherapy and Active Health Centre in the Clinical Sciences building GO2 will be treated by emerging professional talents armed with the latest clinical knowledge at their fingertips.

Dr Richard Newsham-West is upbeat about the cohort of fully-qualified physiotherapists that are part of the postgraduate Musculoskeletal and Sports Physiotherapy program, who will join Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Andrea Miller, other members of the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science staff and Dietitian Lauren Ball, to work in the centre this year. "We want to get the message out that we are not just a research clinic or a clinic just for students but an Active Health centre," Dr Newsham-West said. "This is a clinical service like any private practice where we invite students, staff and members of the general public to come and seek advice or treatment for an injury, pain or health related problem that is preventing them participating fully in the Gold Coast lifestyle. A referral is not necessary."

Clients from within the university ranks and from the wider Gold Coast region use the service for treatment to acute injuries and rehabilitation from injury. For further information on the centre or to make an appointment, telephone 5552 9220 or email thephysiocentre@griffith.edu.au
Happiness is ... a New Year’s resolution that lasts

Griffith Health Institute’s Associate Professor of Psychology David Neumann is exploring the mindset of wannabe exercisers trying to lose weight and get into shape for the New Year, focusing on the pain barrier that undoes thousands of well-intentioned resolutions before January is past. “Many people make New Year’s resolutions to get fitter and healthier, but fail because of one reason. They don’t enjoy it,” he said.

“They don’t enjoy it because they find it hard. It’s hard to enjoy exercise when you’re overweight or not fit.”

Dr Neumann believes we can change the negative ways we think about exercise. “It’s important to use psychological strategies. We have to change how the mind interprets what the body is doing, and change it from thinking exercise is hard”

The research project is funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. It includes lab-based analysis using treadmills and weights, before extending into the community and will be carried out over a three-year period. Dr Neumann will collaborate with exercise consultants and sports psychologists, using the knowledge gained during the lab phase to develop exercise regimes and monitor people’s persistence, enjoyment and the longevity of exercise programs. “The strategies will account for exercise intensity and individual differences like age and experience,” he said. “The research project will also help those that currently exercise to continue to enjoy a higher intensity workout and encourage sedentary people to start exercising.

“It will show people of all ages and levels of moderate intensity and vigorous exercise by making it more enjoyable and less painful,” said Dr Neumann.

Hyperbaric chamber donation to School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science

The School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science is the proud recipient of a generously donated hyperbaric chamber, which will be invaluable for education and research. The Vitaeris 320 portable hyperbaric chamber is one of only thirty in Australia and was donated by Rhonda and Mark Conry at the suggestion of their daughter Rebecca, a Biomedical Science and Medicine alumnus.

Professor Peter Milburn and Dr Liisa Laakso from the School and Brenda Tischendorf from Development and Alumni met with the Conry family to receive and thank them for their generous gift, and transported the machine to the University. The School hopes to use the donated chamber in teaching laboratories for students, to give them experience in the equipment, and for researching the positive effects of hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

For more information on donating equipment to Griffith University to support education and research, please contact Brenda Tischendorf on (07) 5552 7095 or b.tischendorf@griffith.edu.au

Associate Professor David Neumann
STUDENT NEWS

Hope for allergy sufferers

A Griffith Health Institute research project is investigating how acupuncture helps to treat irritating and chronic allergies to potentially develop novel medicine for hay fever.

School of Medicine researcher John McDonald said previous research had shown that acupuncture helped to treat allergy and hay fever symptoms, but had not studied how it did this.

"As a practicing acupuncturist for 40 years, I have seen how effectively acupuncture can improve allergic conditions," Mr McDonald said. "However there is little understanding about acupuncture’s effects on our immune and nervous system."

More than 3.17 million Australians or 15.1 per cent of the population suffer from hay fever, commonly caused by grass pollen and dust mites.

Mr McDonald said current medication included antihistamines, which were only effective in treating early stages of the allergic response.

His PhD thesis is revealing for the first time how acupuncture changes our immune system and this understanding will inform future therapeutic treatments. When our bodies produce too much neurotrophins, proteins that help to repair and grow nerves, it makes our nose hyper-sensitive resulting in itchy nose, sneezing, runny nose, blocked nose and a general feeling of unease.

"Chemicals in our nervous and immune systems collaborate and interact with neurotrophins to stimulate their production," he said. "If we can break this collaboration, we can effectively control hay fever symptoms and we suspect that this is exactly what acupuncture does. The results of our study will answer this question."

This research project, funded by a grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council, requires 60 more participants suffering from hay fever to take part in a trial on the Gold Coast this year. For more information, please contact the Administration Centre by emailing g.wilkins@griffith.edu.au or the Allergy Clinic at: confirmations@aapt.net.au

Scholarship enables Stacey to help counsellors cross cultural barriers

Stacey Vervoort from the Kamilaroi nation is taking counselling to the next level with her research to make psychology more culturally appropriate. With the help of a scholarship, worth more than $66,000 over three years, the Griffith University PhD student is developing a model to help psychologists define cultural differences and counsel people from Indigenous and other minority groups more effectively.

Stacey said with the high rate of Indigenous mental health issues, it was urgent to address the gap in cultural-competence training. "While psychologists and counsellors are well-meaning professionals, they are often not able to cross cultural barriers," Stacey said. "More education about different cultures and distinct world-views as well as tools to explore and understand cultural influences will help to remove these barriers."

When Stacey was studying her undergraduate degree in psychology at Griffith, a cadetship gave her the opportunity to sit through counselling sessions for 12 weeks a year. "My cadetship opened my eyes about the issues Indigenous people and minority groups face in counselling sessions." She applied for a research higher degree at Griffith to tackle these issues and this opened many practical opportunities for her as well as a support network.

"I am now tutoring at the School of Psychology and also helping other Indigenous students at the University’s GUMURRII Centre. "The challenge is to juggle everything and to balance the excitement of the many practical opportunities with the demands of research studies."

Undergraduate student grant awardees

Congratulations to the following undergraduate dentistry students who received grants from the Australian Dental Research Foundation in September of last year:

Hsieh R. Understanding of osteonecrosis of the jaw by general medical practitioners and their referral pattern to dentists prior to commencing patients on bisphosphonate for the treatment of osteoporosis (supervisor Reher R). Australian Dental Research Foundation Inc., $2,200, September 2010.


Fernando MM. Signalling of matrix metalloproteinase (MMP-2/9) and macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) in oral squamous cell carcinoma (supervisor Gao J). Australian Dental Research Foundation Inc., $2,200, September 2010.
In November 2010, it was announced that a major international conference would be coming to Australia. The Australian Association for Cognitive and Behaviour Therapy (AACBT) submitted a successful bid to host the 8th World Congress of Cognitive and Behavioural Therapies. The congress will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, 13–16 July, 2016. Past congresses have attracted 2000–3000 delegates. Griffith’s School of Psychology’s, Dr Heather Green (Director and Past National President of AACBT) has been part of AACBT’s national leadership team involved with the successful bid, which was led by Associate Professor Ross Menzies of the University of Sydney.

Professor Wendy Moyle has been appointed the new Director of the Research Centre for Clinical and Community Practice Innovation (RCCCPI), Griffith Health Institute. Professor Moyle has held the role of Deputy Director of RCCCPI and will provide exemplary research leadership to this Group. Please join us in congratulating Wendy on her appointment.

Professor Wendy Chaboyer is thanked for the strategic leadership she provided over the last seven years as Director of the Research Centre for Clinical and Community Practice Innovation (RCCCPI), Griffith Health Institute. Professor Chaboyer was the foundation Director of the then named Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation and has held the Director role since 2003. In addition, Professor Chaboyer’s significant contribution to changes within the research structure of the Group is acknowledged. Wendy has moved into the Director role of the new NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Nursing.

Professor Diego De Leo has been selected as the recipient of the 2011 American Association of Suicidology (AAS) Dublin Award. The Louis I. Dublin award is a lifetime achievement award for outstanding services/contributions to the field of suicide prevention as evidenced by leadership, devotion and creativity.

Professor Paul Martin has commenced the position of Head of School of Psychology. Professor Martin is originally from the UK, where he obtained a PhD from the University of Oxford. After completing his PhD, he moved to Australia where he took up a position at Monash University before moving to Western Australia. Professor Martin became head of the School of Psychology at the University of New England in 1996, a position he held for 6 years. From UNE he moved to RMIT and in 2006 to Monash University to his previous position as Professor of Clinical Psychology and Director of Psychology at Southern Health.

Professor Martin has held numerous external positions including Chair of the Australian Psychological Society from 2000–2004, as well as a number of clinical appointments. He has extensive experience in a variety of University administrative and leadership roles. He currently holds 3 NHMRC grants and is the author of several books and numerous book chapters and peer reviewed journal articles.

Marilyn Casley represented the Child and Family Studies team of Doctors Kym Macfarlane and Jennifer Cartmel, Ms Christine Mahery on Tuesday 22 November 2010 at the University of Canberra’s Work Integrated Learning (WIL) National Showcase 2010. She made a presentation “Eventful practices: emerging educators contributing to the lives of children and families in local communities”. This presentation highlighted the partnership between Early Childhood Australia Queensland Branch, School of Human Services and Social Work Griffith University and Communities for Children Family Support. The presentation focused on the manner in which early childhood education and care (ECEC) practice is implemented largely across community services, education and health. She describes how across these settings there needs to be possibilities for knowledge sharing and exchange to enhance successful integration of services and inclusive practices in work with children and their families. She highlighted the “Talking Circle” project where the focus is on the social development and well-being of school age children in outside school hours care services and the “Mums and Bubs Expo” which involved groups of students collaborating to provide services to parents in this community based gathering. The session concludes with an exposition about the partnerships and significant contribution and impact of the outcomes of the projects on developing the professional skills of students and also on the lives of children and their families and the wider community.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Elaine Duffy as the Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Elaine will take up her appointment in the School from 21 March. Originally from the UK, Elaine received her PhD from Monash University. Elaine held a number of positions at Monash, including Deputy Head of School, Caroline Chisholm School of Nursing, Director, Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies in Rural Health and Acting Head of School, Monash University School of Rural Health, Gippsland. In 2003 Elaine moved to Canada to take up the position of Professor/Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor. She returned to Australia in 2007 to take up her previous position of Professor/ Head, School of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous Health, Charles Sturt University. We would like to thank the acting Head of School, Professor Anne McMurray for her commitment to the School and her outstanding leadership in guiding the School through the last few months, since the departure of the previous Head Professor Liz Patterson.

Associate Professor Luke Haseler has accepted the role of Director of the Heart Foundation Research Centre (HFRC), Griffith Health Institute. Associate Professor Haseler previously held the position of Deputy Director of HFRC and will now lead the team in undertaking high quality biomedical research in cardiovascular disease in order to both limit incidence and improve management of the single greatest cause of premature death and loss of productive life in Australia.
**Professor David Lloyd** will head up Griffith Health Institute’s new research program, Musculoskeletal Program. As Director, David will lead the team in developing and applying more systematic and patient-specific approaches to the prevention and management of musculoskeletal conditions through cross-disciplinary, multi-scale musculoskeletal research.

**Vote of thanks**

A big vote of thanks goes to the dedicated physiotherapy and administrative staff, as well as students of both the Master of Musculoskeletal and Sports Physiotherapy and pre-registration programs, who worked so diligently in providing physiotherapy services at the PanPac Masters Games.

Indeed all those who supported the clinic and MMSP examination operations in order that the PanPacs coverage could be undertaken. The event was a great showcase for Griffith, as well as the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science. Feedback from competitors and officials was overwhelmingly positive.

**PUBLICATIONS**


FUNDING

ACCCN
Mitchell, M., Aitken, L., Venkatesh, B., Shum, D., Wetzig, S. Delirium and long-term cognitive impairment in ICU patients. $20,000 : 1 year.

ALTC – Priority Projects

Australian Dental Research Foundation

Australian Learning and Teaching Council

Griffith University New Researcher Grant (NRG) scheme awardees 2011:

Boddy, J. Chronic illness and parenting: An exploratory study examining the lived experience of parents with chronic illness. $19,000.

Bulmer, A. Anti-inflammatory effects of bile pigments in macrophages: A novel mechanism for cardiovascular protection. $12,843.

Carty, C. How does use of paracetamol and NSAIDs affect physical activity levels and knee joint loading during gait in individuals with moderate-stage knee osteoarthritis. $12,528.

Cronin, N. The functional role of stretch reflexes during human locomotion. $8,000.

Smith, R. The role of VEGF polymorphisms and mutations in Avastin treatment for metastatic cancer. $14,700.

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CONFERENCES
Nath S., Goodwin J., Engelborghs Y., Pountney D. Alpha-synuclein Aggregation in vitro and in 1321N1 Cells is Promoted by Calcium. 10th Biennial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Society for Neurochemistry, Phuket, Thailand 2010.
St. John, W., Wallis, M., McKenzie, S., & Griffiths, S. Urinary incontinence: What symptoms are bothersome and how are they self-managed? The Second Asia Pacific Research Symposium, Taipei Medical University, College of Nursing, Taipei, Taiwan. 26-28 May 2010.
Vijayan, D., Radford, K., Bellette, A., Beckhouse, R., Ashman, R., Well, C., Nair, R. (presenter). Expression analysis of MINCLE on human peripheral blood cells. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Conventions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain 14-17 July 2010.
Waqanivalu, T., Stewart, D., Harris, N., Rowe, F. Health promotion in the Pacific: building PacHELPs (Pacific HeAlth Promoting Schools) as a collaborative Regional partnership GHMR Conference. Gold Coast, Dec 2009.
Weeks, B.K., & Beck, B.R. Recent participation in bone-specific physical activity is associated with tibial bone strength. Griffith Institute of Health and Medical Research Annual Conference, Dec 2010.
Zhi, Q.H. (presenter), Lo, E.C.M., Lin, H.C., Itthagarun, A. Using SDF and GIC to arrest dentine canes: 24-month results. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Conventions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14-17 July 2010.
(Due to space limits, several conferences could not be included in this issue, but will be added to the next issue of Health Check)