Cure for brain damage hopeful with stem cell research funding

The Griffith Health Institute (GHI) has received $2 million funding to undertake research aimed at curing brain damage using stem cell research. The funding will allow the establishment of a centre undertaking brain stem cell research, supporting postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers engaged in this work.

The estate of Dr Clem Jones AO awarded the cash contribution to GHI over five years for two types of research projects, involving neural stem cells and mesenchymal stem cells as a means of affecting and mediating brain injury repair. Brain damage can be caused in a number of ways including injury, neurological or neurodegenerative disease, stroke, cancer and even ageing. This research program will utilise stem cell technology as a means of affecting and reducing brain damage.

GHI Director Professor Lyn Griffiths said the research will be led by Professor Jiri Neuzil, who has been researching stem cells for many years and more recently has commenced studies on neural stem cells. “We can use neural stem cells as a model for repair of damage and as a means of influencing disease progress and rehabilitation,” Professor Griffiths said. Work will be undertaken by Dr Larisa Haupt to investigate the use of mesenchymal stem cells to mediate brain repair. “The second project our funding will cover involves mesenchymal stem cells, which are stem cells derived predominantly from the bone marrow,” Professor Griffiths said. “These are multipotent cells and they have a large capacity for self-renewal. As they can potentially contribute to the structural support of normal cells, tumourigenic and damaged cells, we can use them as potential regulators of cells. “This research is novel and potentially groundbreaking, as it is aimed at ways to reduce brain damage using novel and innovative new approaches.”

The research supported by the Clem Jones estate will look at the potential role of neural and mesenchymal stem cells in ameliorating abnormal neuronal conditions and brain damage. Chair of the estate David Muir said, “we are hopeful that this contribution will assist the Griffith Health Institute in effecting a cure for brain damage in stem cell research, in accordance with the vision of Dr Jones”.

Professor Lyn Griffiths
Professor Jiri Neuzil
Professor Larisa Haupt
Commitment to learning and teaching

It gives me great pleasure to announce the recipients of some of Griffith’s most prestigious awards.

It is testimony to their passion and commitment to learning and teaching that Health Group academics Karen Murphy, Niru Nirthanan, Nicola Shapland, Jing Sun and Suzzi Owen received Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Go Health Go Griffith has been awarded a Highly Commended in the Learning and Teaching Awards in the Educational Partnerships and Collaborations with Other Organisations section. The combined efforts of staff, clinicians and valued support from partners at Gold Coast Health Service District and Griffith Health makes this fabulous program a winner for health, in terms of engaging students and motivating them towards health professions and further education. The Go Health team consisting of Suzzi Owen, Melanie Forsyth, Melinda John and Cheryl Baker are delighted and very excited to have been acknowledged with the High Commendation.

The scheme is always highly competitive and the quality of applications was outstanding this year. Congratulations also to all staff who were nominated by their students and peers, in recognition of their commitment to enhancing the quality of students’ experiences.

Professor Allan W Cripps
Pro Vice Chancellor (Health)

Nursing interventions to improve service to hospitalised patients

Australia’s first Centre of Research Excellence in nursing is set to improve nursing services for a broad range of hospitalised patients who are at risk of compromised skin integrity, and pain and anxiety. The Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Nursing Interventions for Hospitalised Patients was awarded to the Griffith Health Institute by the National Health and Medical Research Council and will receive $2.5 million funding over five years.

Director and one of 10 chief investigators of the CRE Professor Wendy Chaboyer said the centre will provide evidence to policymakers and clinicians to ensure patients receive the highest quality of hospital nursing care and that such care is cost-effective.

The CRE will focus research on skin integrity, and pain and anxiety for four reasons. “We have chosen these two particular strands of nursing care because of their high risk of occurrence as complications for patients on top of their initial disease or injury; because of the high economic and psychosocial cost to hospitals and patients; and because of our research expertise,” Professor Chaboyer said. “Fourthly, and most importantly, registered nurses are largely responsible for acute patient care related to both skin integrity and management of pain and anxiety, and we need to invest in research to support them to make the right decisions. “Although nurses work with doctors and other health providers, the final decision about what intervention to implement for which patient, and how often, is ultimately determined and enacted on by the nurse caring for the patient." Through its research, the CRE will develop strategies to influence nursing practices and policy, and train future clinical nurse researchers.

“Much of what nurses do in hospitals is not evidence-based. Until recently, nurse researchers rarely conducted studies to evaluate the effect of their interventions,” Professor Chaboyer said.

The CRE comprises seven chief investigating researchers from Griffith University, three international chief investigators and associate investigators spread across Australia. Major hospital partners include the Gold Coast Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital.

Australia has more than 300,000 registered nurses. Nurses are the largest group of professional workers in the healthcare system, and fifty-four per cent of all nurses work in acute hospital settings. Up to 44 per cent of hospital operating budgets relate to nursing care costs, and nursing is the single largest labour cost for hospitals.
Short Courses in Implant Dentistry – Successful Delivery of the First Workshop

Professor Saso Ivanovski and Associate Professor Nikos Mattheos from the School of Dentistry and Oral Health have identified an opportunity to provide dental practitioners with high quality and focused education in implant dentistry.

The field of implant dentistry has been heavily impacted by massive growth in scientific knowledge and innovation. This has resulted in cutting-edge technologies and availability of new treatment modalities. Currently there is very little structured education offered by universities or other providers. Thus there is a real demand for focused and high quality continuing education in the field of implant dentistry.

Griffith’s School of Dentistry and Oral Health is addressing this unmet need with the launch of a new postgraduate program, Master of Clinical Dentistry in Implant Dentistry, which will be offered from 2011, and through provision of a series of focused short courses in implant dentistry.

Recently, a course aimed at dental practitioners with prior surgical experience in the placement of dental implants wishing to incorporate grafting techniques into their practice, was delivered face-to-face in a two-day hands-on workshop format. All participants indicated a high level of satisfaction with the quality of the program and 60% said that the course exceeded their expectations. Participants also received Griffith branded Certification as proof of participation. This record allows participants to claim Continuous Professional Development (CPD) activity required for annual registration as mandated under new National Guidelines.

Professor Ward Massey, Head of School of Dentistry and Oral Health said, “I have received a great number of enquiries from registered practitioners wishing to attend hands-on courses. The School therefore intends to concentrate on the development of a number of high quality short courses developed from our existing program offerings. The workshop described above is a great example of this philosophy and the responsiveness of School staff to changing CPD trends.”

Professor Allan Cripps, Pro Vice Chancellor (Health), said “CPD programs are a core activity of the Health Group and an important link between Faculty and the clinical community in the continuum of clinical education.”

Professor Saso Ivanovski and Associate Professor Nikos Mattheos are organising the next implant dentistry workshop which is due to run in early February 2011 at Gold Coast Sea World Resort. Interested participants can register their interest at the following link: http://oralimplantscpd.com/ Should you require further information, please contact Nikos at: n.mattheos@griffith.edu.au

Griffith Enterprise is working closely with the School of Dentistry and Oral Health to identify, capture, develop and implement content that can be efficiently translated into new short courses that will address unmet market need.

Journal of Social Inclusion

A new initiative by the School of Human Services and Social Work which aims to redress social exclusion through academic discussion and critique was launched by the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG at Logan campus.

The Journal of Social Inclusion (JoSI) is a peer-reviewed academic journal that contributes to current knowledge and understanding of the social processes that marginalise individuals, families, groups and communities. Mr Kirby said Australia had the opportunity to be a true example of a multicultural and cosmopolitan country. “From a monochrome nation during the colonial and early federal years, Australia has burst forth as a land of remarkable racial, religious and cultural diversity,” he said.

Head of School and journal editor Associate Professor Jayne Clapton said social inclusion had been a focus of international social policy agendas for more than a decade. “In Australia, the Labor government elected in 2007 initiated major social change strategies within a national social inclusion framework,” she said. “As a driver of social policy and enhanced economic productivity, and as an imperative for social action, concepts of social inclusion invite discussion and critique.”

Associate Professor Clapton said many school members were researching conceptual and applied aspects of social inclusion including redressing social exclusion, social inequality, poverty, marginalisation, vulnerability, colonisation and systems of power.

The Journal of Social Inclusion, published biannually in April and October under the guidance of an International Editorial Advisory Board, is part of Logan campus’s commitment to the Griffith Strategic plan.

www.griffith.edu.au/health
Researchers found faulty gene causing migraines

Professor Lyn Griffiths

Research has found that migraine with aura (accompanying visual disturbances) is caused by a faulty gene.

Feeling safe, acting safe: self-protection strategies of people with intellectual disability at home

This study asks people with intellectual disability about the ways they keep themselves safe wherever they may live. A significant body of research on abuse of people with intellectual disability shows that they experience assault, violence and other harms at high rates, that the recognition and response to this maltreatment is often poor, and that they have little recourse to justice as victims. A pressing need has been identified in existing research for a stronger focus on prevention and protection of people with intellectual disability from harm.

People with intellectual disability have been largely left out of research efforts which look for the causes and consequences of abuse and harm.

The study, undertaken by an international team of researchers from Griffith University in Australia, University de Montreal in Canada, Oxford University in the UK, and other research organisations, was published in the prestigious medical journal *Nature Medicine* recently.

The study found that a mutation within the KCNK18 gene affects a protein, called TRESK, which regulates pain pathways and the threshold of sensitivity of pain centres in the brain.

Griffith Health Institute Director Professor Lyn Griffiths said while previous studies found genes associated with migraine risk, this faulty gene directly caused migraine in a large multi-generational family. “For the first time, we have found a clear inheritance pattern for this gene defect and know it is the cause behind this debilitating condition,” Professor Griffiths said.

The team compared the DNA of people who suffer from migraines with that of people who do not. They found that one large family of sufferers of migraine with aura carried the mutation. “We traced a family over four generations and found that all people in the family with the gene mutation suffered from migraines and it was a dominant gene, so that a single copy of the mutation led to the disorder.” TRESK, plays an important role in nerve cell communication, and its pathways may provide important clues for migraine treatment. “This finding will give us a real opportunity to find a new way to fight migraine and improve the quality of life for those suffering.

Researchers found faulty gene causing migraines

Feeling safe, acting safe: self-protection strategies of people with intellectual disability at home

This study fills an important gap in the research landscape, in asking people directly about their lived experience.

The Queensland Office of the Public Advocate, Adult Guardian have contributed funding and support for the study, and the Endeavour Foundation and advocacy organisation Speaking Up for You are providing in-kind support. We expect this pilot study will form the basis of an ARC application in 2011.

Ladies in pink

Two hundred Gold Coast ladies in pink raised $5000 at the Label Magazine/ Esteem Day Spa Longest Lunch, to benefit Associate Professor Steve Ralph’s breast cancer research.

The three course lunch at Marina Mirage raised money for the Griffith Health Institute, and featured the raffle of a diamond and pearl necklace donated by Pamela Larsen of Sovereign Jewellery. Pamela is the Breast Cancer Champion of new research methods which can reduce and possibly eliminate tumours, drastically reducing the need for chemotherapy and radiology.

The $5000 raised will be presented to Professor Lyn Griffiths and Associate Professor Steve Ralph to further their valuable research.

Ladies in pink

Pamela Larsen, Director of Sovereign Jewellery and Maria Gambaro, Owner of Esteem Day Spa and the Gold Coast Magazine
School of Public Health staff teach risk assessment course in Vietnam

Dr Ross Sadler, Associate Professor Glen Shaw and Emeritus Professor Des Connell associated with the School of Public Health, presented a week-long comprehensive course at the Hanoi School of Public Health. Able backup to the official teaching team was provided by Dr Phung Trung Zung, who is a staff member of the Vietnam Ministry of Health and also a graduate student at Griffith University. The subject of the course was health risk assessment and pesticide application practices.

The staff members involved had successfully applied for competitive funding from the Crawford Fund to present the course for 22 attendees, who were all public health professionals from the northern part of Vietnam. The aim was to provide public health professionals with an opportunity to learn modern risk assessment methodology so as to better control the public health of agricultural workers. In addition to the lecture and workshop sessions, the course participants and instructors also undertook a field trip to view pesticide application processes at first hand. The participants then undertook a project of carrying out a risk assessment on what they had observed and formulating recommendations for improved practices in the future. There was great enthusiasm from the participants, so much so that the Vietnam Ministry of Health is anxious for the course to be repeated, with requests for conduct of similar sessions in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and Da Nang.

Griffith Health Institute – Clive Palmer breakfast

Billionaire businessman Clive Palmer has revealed that his determination to show the Gold Coast as a world leader in medical research and health care and not just a “tourist and real estate strip” is among the reasons why he took on the role of chair of the Griffith Health Institute (GHI) Development Board.

At a breakfast held on the Gold Coast during September, Professor Palmer addressed leading business and health professionals, politicians and media leaders from the South East Queensland community. “The Gold Coast has substance and with the Griffith Health Institute there is more reason to promote the Gold Coast as a centre of medical research excellence than a tourist town,” Professor Palmer said.

Professor Palmer joined the GHI Development Board early in 2010. The Griffith Health Institute, established in 2007, is a large multidisciplinary research institute with a focus on chronic disease prevention – specifically cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease and mental health, and an approach that encompasses behavioural, molecular, clinical and population components of research.

Guests at the breakfast included Shadow Health Minister Mark McArdle, businessman Jeff McDermid, Gold Coast realtor Max Christmas and internationally renowned jewellery designer Pamela Larsen. Channel Nine Gold Coast news presenter Rob Readings was the emcee for the event.

International spotlight shines on implant dentistry masters program

Griffith University’s new Master of Clinical Dentistry in Implant Dentistry program attracted international attention at the FDI World Dental Federation’s Annual World Dental Congress at which a record 10,000 participants from 115 countries attended. The congress was held in Salvador, Brazil, in September.

At a forum during the congress, Griffith University Associate Professor of Periodontology Nikos Mattheos delivered a keynote address on implant dentistry to a capacity crowd, which highlighted the new masters program to be launched in February 2011. The forum titled ‘General Dentistry versus Specialisation’ was aimed at helping young dentists find their way within the multiple professional pathways of dental practice.

Associate Professor Mattheos’s presentation discussed whether implant dentistry constitutes a new dental specialty or is an extension of general dentistry. The presentation reviewed international models of dental education and practice, but also highlighted the recently published Australian position papers, which included a compendium of guidelines developed by leading academics and experts on implant dentistry from all Australian dental schools. The Consensus Workshop was organised by Associate Professor Mattheos through an Australian Learning and Teaching Council grant in February 2010. “The new Master of Clinical Dentistry in Implant Dentistry program constitutes an ‘Australian model’ for the teaching of implant dentistry to general dental practitioners,” he said.

International members from Young Dentists Worldwide (YDW) were among a large number of Brazilians who also attended the forum. A key aim of YDW – which boasts more than 10,000 fans on its Facebook page – is to help young dentists connect globally and support their pursuit for a rewarding and fulfilling pathway.
A first for Griffith Health Institute

The Griffith Health Institute has had its first journal article published by name. ‘Food acquisition habits in a group of African refugees recently settled in Australia’ was published in the international journal Health and Place. The article was authored by Caroline Pereira, Nicolette Larder, and nutrition specialist Dr Shawn Somerset from the School of Public Health.

The study investigated how recently arrived refugees acquired food in their local food neighbourhood. It involved 10 African humanitarian migrants from separate households keeping a food and travel diary for one week. The participants’ neighbourhoods were mapped, using online satellite pictures, and found to contain an average of 78 food outlets available within a two-kilometre radius of their homes. For those participants who lived within one kilometre of a grocery store, vegetable consumption was higher, the study found. Where events were held for migration orientation, participants were introduced to more typical foods of the Australian population.

As stated in the published paper’s abstract, “While participants seemed not to live in food deserts, intakes of all food groups remained inferior to recommended levels, suggesting physical proximity and implied in-store choice alone do not guarantee a healthy diet. Migrant orientation events may represent an important setting for education about suitable options for adopting new foods into diets”. The study concluded that the first 12 months of resettling into Australia is a critical period for acculturation because participants’ food habits stabilise during this time.

Visiting Professor at AISRAP - Professor Jose Bertolote

The Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP) was pleased to host Professor Jose Bertolote during October/November 2010.

Up until 2008, Professor Bertolote was Coordinator of the Team on Management of Mental and Brain Disorders at the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, at the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, where he managed, among others, the WHO Prevention and Management of Mental and Neurological Disorders and the WHO Suicide Prevention Global Project. Currently he is Associate Professor at the Department of Neurology, Psychology and Psychiatry, Botucatu Medical School, Botucatu, Brazil, and Special Advisor to the Brazilian National Presidential Programme on Alcohol and Drugs.

During his visit, Professor Bertolote gave a guest lecture as part of the Life Promotion Clinic Seminar Series on the topic Suicide Prevention: Integrating Public Health with Clinical Interventions.
STUDENT NEWS

At the Commonwealth Games, Andrea Taylor won a bronze medal after running an excellent race over the 100m hurdles in 13.25 seconds. Andrea works part-time for the Physio Clinic on the Gold Coast campus and fits work around her athletics training, which she does on campus. She is currently training for the London Olympics and is then looking to retire and focus on physiotherapy. To help develop her career after athletics, she is hoping to pursue a postgraduate study with the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science.

Master of Physiology student Sarah Bombell also received a Bronze medal competing in the Synchronised Swimming Pairs. Sarah graduated from Exercise Science years ago and received an offer to undertake the Master of Physiology. She deferred up until last year when she came back to study after the last Olympics. However, she was lured back at the beginning of this year and has once again deferred her studies for 12/12 to compete. This is not a sport that receives much funding - so she has done well to achieve and survive these past 6 or so years.

PhD student, Bridget Maher, received the first prize of $1,000 in the University's Three Minute Thesis final. The judging criteria included communication style, comprehension and engagement.

The Australian Dental Research Foundation has awarded Undergraduate research grants for 2010/11 to:

- Ms Rachel Jen-ti Hsieh for her project entitled: "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."
- Ms Belinda Kuan-Jung Chen for her project entitled: "Evaluation of root discolouration following placement and removal of intracanal medicaments with an ultrasonic tip."
- Ms Malka Mishanthi Fernando for her project entitled: "Signalling of matric metalloprotease (MMP-2/9) and macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) in oral squamous cell carcinoma."

Success in National Student Healthcare competition

Congratulations to Fiona Ellem (Team Coordinator) and her exceptional student team consisting of Rebecca Prigg (Pharmacy), Ian Connop (Social Work), Collette Morris (Psychology), Olivia Tran (Dentistry) and Kylie Henderson (Medicine) who were the winners of the National HealthFusion Student Healthcare competition held on Friday 17 September. Ten university teams from around Australia competed in the heats and were judged on the following: a management plan they had developed for a complex client, their response to questions, their communication skills when interviewing the client, their response to a challenge scenario (thinking on their feet) and their overall demonstration of teamwork skills. Griffith entered the finals at 4pm against Monash (last year’s winners) and Curtin – both of whom fielded excellent teams, with well planned and engaging presentations.

Working with athletes

Students and staff from Griffith University’s Physiotherapy and Active Health Centre worked during the Pan Pacific Masters Games to provide expert care for competitors and get even more valuable practical experience working with athletes.

Two clinics ran during the Games, at Griffith’s Parklands campus and at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, and operated at full capacity for the 14 days of the games. Students from the Master of Musculoskeletal and Sports Physiotherapy program worked with athletes from different age groups and backgrounds to prepare and repair them for competition.
**STAFF NEWS**

**“Healthy Teaching” Recognised at Gala Night**

Five Gold Coast Health Group staff were recognised at Griffith’s Celebrating Excellence in Teaching Gala Evening last week as making outstanding contributions to student learning and the student experience.

Dr Karen Murphy from the School of Psychology and Dr Niru Nirthanan from the School of Medical Science were announced joint winners of the Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching (GAET) Individual Teacher Award in the category of Biological Sciences, Health and Related Studies. Nicola Shapland, from the School of Pharmacy was announced joint winner of a GAET Award in the Early Career category. All three academics are dual award winners for 2010, having also won Faculty Learning and Teaching citations for their engagement, professional expertise and scholarly approach at the Health Group level.

Dr Kairi Kõlves is the winner of the LIFE Award in the category of Emerging Research. As a Senior Research Fellow at (and now Acting Director of) Griffith University’s Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, Dr Kairi Kõlves has been remarkably prolific. Since 1996, she has published nineteen peer-reviewed papers, the contents of which have been cited frequently by others in her field. The results of her research findings have made their way into over thirty journal articles.

Her expertise encompasses a wide range of topics, including the epidemiology of suicidal behaviour, youth suicide, the role of alcohol in suicide processes, and cross-cultural comparisons of suicide and suicidal behaviour. She has presented at nearly a dozen international conferences and has conducted extensive research in both Europe and Australia.

Dr Kairi Kõlves

The Griffith University Postdoctoral and Research Fellowship Scheme was established to assist the University in achieving its objective of strengthening its research profile and capacity through attracting high calibre early career researchers as Postdoctoral Fellows and high calibre researchers who have demonstrated potential to become leaders in their field as Research Fellows.

Congratulations to the following applicants who have been selected for the award of a 2010 Griffith University Postdoctoral and Research Fellowship -

**Dr Langfeng Dong** – Research Fellowship (Health)

**Host Research Centre:** GHI - Molecular Basis of Disease

**Project Title:** Mitochondrial complex II is a new target for anti-cancer drugs

**Dr Yu Rong Yang** – Research Fellowship (Merit)

**Host Research Centre:** GHI - Population Health

**Project Title:** Environmental change impacting on the spatiotemporal transmission dynamics of *Echinococcus* spp. in Ningxia, China

Suzanne Owen, from the Griffith Health Executive was awarded a commendation in the GAET Programs that Enhance Learning category for the GO Health, GO Griffith Experience while Dr Jing Sun from the School of Public Health received two awards: a commendation in the GAET Early Career Award section and a Dean’s Commendation in the Faculty Learning and Teaching Citations.

Health Group Dean, Learning & Teaching, Professor Nick Buys said these awards were a testament to the exceptional commitment and passion for fostering student learning within the Health Group.

Left to right: Dr Karen Murphy, Nicola Shapland, Prof Nick Buys, Dr Niru Nirthanan and Suzanne Owen.

**Health check**
Dr Rudi van Staden – Postdoctoral Fellowship (Merit) 
Host Research Centre (Lead): Centre for Infrastructure Engineering & Management (CIEM) 
Collaborating Research Centre: GHI – Molecular Basis of Disease 
Project Title: Dynamic analysis of dental implant insertion process and development of treatment planning database tool

Professor Newell Johnson has accepted a role as the member of Editorial Board of the Chinese Journal of Dental Research, the official English journal of the Chinese Stomatological Association. It has been published and distributed overseas for more than 10 years since 1998.

Dr Liisa Laakso (School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science) was appointed President-elect of the World Association for Laser Therapy (WALT) at the recent biennial WALT Congress in Bergen, Norway (Sept 25-28, 2010).

WALT is an international, multi-disciplinary organisation (including medicine, dentistry, basic and applied sciences and allied health etc) with a mission of promoting research, education, and clinical application of laser therapy. The organisation was formed in May 1994 at Barcelona, Spain, with the merging of two international organizations, namely, International Laser Therapy Association (ILTA) and International Society for Laser Application in Medicine (ISLAM). The multi-national membership of WALT includes the world’s leading experts in all forms of treatment mediated by the photo–bio–modulating effects of light occurring without thermal effects on irradiated tissue.

To add to Australia’s accomplishments at the Congress, Dr Laakso and Dr Chow were invited speakers in Norway, showcasing the significant work being done in Australia in the field of laser medicine.

Professor Lesley Chenoweth has just been appointed to the National Advisory Group on Supported employment for the Australian Government’s ten year Vision for the Supported Employment.

Professor Lesley Chenoweth has been made an Honorary Professorial Research Fellow at the The Northern Institute Charles Darwin University. This new Institute was officially launched on Thursday 7th October. Its focus is on northern Australia and its neighbourhood South East Asia and will provide valuable links for our research in rural and remote service delivery and practice and Indigenous health and human services.

On 25 October 2010, Dr Allison Milner was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for her thesis entitled Suicide in a Global World: An Empirical Examination of the Relationship between Globalisation, Social–Ecological Factors, and Suicide Mortality in 35 Countries.

At The Australian Conference on Traumatic Stress (ACOTS) held in Brisbane recently, two of the three poster prizes went to Griffith Uni Posters. First prize (and $300) went to Louise Du Chesne and Sharon Dawe for their poster on the construct of Shame. One of the two runner-up prizes (and $100) went to Rhonda Boorman (4th year psychology), Jenny Gamble and Vivian Jarrett (midwifery) for their poster on Childbirth, Trauma and Resilience. Both were wonderful representations of the research ongoing at Griffith and a great effort. 

Professor Norman Morris has been appointed as Chair of the Australian Physiotherapy Council.

Dr Andrew Davey has been appointed Head of the School of Pharmacy. Andrew received his PhD from the University of Wales, and is currently Program Director for the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science, Bachelor of Pharmacy program at the University of South Australia. He has previously worked as a pharmacist and as an academic at the University of Otago. He has a number of grants including NHMRC and extensive consultancies. He has also served as the treasurer of the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association. Andrew will join Griffith Health in early 2011.

Congratulations to the following staff who have received research grants:

A grant of $212,000 has been awarded to a team that includes Marion Mitchell, Amanda Henderson, Carol Jeffrey, Duncan Nulty, Michele Groves (UQ), Michelle Kelly (UTS), Pauline Glover (Flinders), and Sabina Knight (Centre for Remote Health Alice Springs) for the ALTC Priority Grant. The project entitled: An implementation framework for OSCE ‘Best Practice Guidelines’ designed to improve nurse preparedness for practice.

An Experienced Researcher grant of $20,000 has been awarded to the team of Marion Mitchell, Leanne Aitken, Bala Vankatessh, Sharon Wetzig and David Shum. The study is on “Delirium and long-term cognitive impairment in ICU patient”

The 4th Asia Pacific Regional Conference jointly hosted by AISRAP and Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA) was held in Brisbane from 17 – 20 November 2010. Conference Co-Chair, Professor Diego de Leo, gave a keynote presentation: “Can we really rely on suicide mortality data?” Naoko Ide, Jacinta Hawgood, Urska Arnautovska, Allison Milner, Darrel Doessel, Beverly Gladman, Jerneja Sveticic, Kathy McKay, Kaira Kolves, Angelo de Gioannis, and Luke Balcombe gave oral presentations at the conference.

www.griffith.edu.au/health
The following 2 publications were printed incorrectly in the previous issue of *Health Check* for which we apologise:


The following publications were printed incorrectly in the previous issue of *Health Check*:

- Cooke, M., Moyle, W., Shum, D., Harrison, S., Murfield, J. (2010). A randomised control trial exploring the effect of music on agitation levels and anxiety in older people with dementia. *Aging and Mental Health*; First published on: 14 July 2010 (First).

**PUBLICATIONS**


FUNDING

Barrett, R., Lichtwork, G. Newsham-West, R., Mills, P. Muscle structural adaptation in stroke survivors. (GHI) $13,000.

Boyle, G. J., Neumann, D. L., & Chan, R. Empathy–related responses to individuals of the same and different racial groups. Bond University Vice–Chancellor’s Research Grant Scheme 2010. $6,000.

Chaboyer, W., Rickard, C. NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Nursing Interventions
for Hospitalised Patients. 2011 – 2015, $2.5 million.

Colson, N. and Nuag, H. Epigenetic Dysregulation in the Homeostatic Control of Eating. (GHI) $9,000.

Dawe, S. QIADP-Family Intervention based on the Parents Under Pressure Program, Queensland 2010. Health PHASE IV $71,000.

Du Toit, E., Bulmer, A. and Headrick, J. The Effect of Anabolic Steroid Hormone Therapy on Body Weight, Adipose Tissue Distribution and Cardiac Structure and Function in a Rodent Model or Obesity and Hypogonadism. (GHI) $8,000.

Ford, R., Andrews, G., Shum, D., Gray, P. and O’Callaghan, M. Episodic memory in children born preterm or with very low birth weight: A behavioural and electrophysiological investigation. (GHI) $8,000.

Forwood, M., Morgan, D and Nguyen, H. Radioprotective capacity of vitamin C and D effused tendon allografts sterilized by gamma irradiation. (GHI) $13,000.


Gray, D. Ross, A., McManus, D., Olveda, R. The impact of carabao and dogs on human schistosomiasis japonica transmission in the Philippines. (GHI) $12,000.

Griffiths, L.R., Haupt, L., Neuzel, J. Neural stem cell and mesenchymal stem cell research. Clem Jones Foundation. 2010 – 2014. $2 million. (This is a re-print as authors listed in the previous issue of Health Check were erroneously listed for which we apologise).

Hall, T., McConnell, H., Hattingh, L., McGovern, T., Fejzic, J., Evaluation of Adult Epilepsy Treatment Model. Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. $9,000.

Harris, N., Wenham, K., Somerset, S. & Rowe, F. GI Community food garden as a hub of humanitarian migrant health and settlement. Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Settlement Grants Program. 2010-2011, $40,000.


Hattingh, L. Evaluation of emergency contraception services by community pharmacists. (GHI) $6,000.


Ivanovski, S. Cell adhesion to a nanoscale modified titanium surfaces. (MBoD) $8,000.

Kendall, E. and Queensland Health. Co-ordinated Care Fellowship Program. 2010-2011, $200,000.

Kendall, E. and Queensland Health. Medical Workforce and Development Fellowship Program. 2010-2011, $200,000.

Kendall, E. and Queensland Health, Multilink and Access In. Our Logan: Multicultural Health and Wellbeing Program. 2010-2011, $100,000.

Kendall, E. and Queensland Health (Chronic Disease Program), Multilink Community Services Inc. and AccessServices Inc. Logan Natural Helper Project. 2010-2011, $231,460.

Kuipers, P., Muenchberger, H., and Kendall, M. Getting it right from the start: Building efficacy in relationships in hospital to support people with brain injuries. (GHI) $8,000.

Lam, A., Smith, R., Gopalau, V., and Tan, J. Transfection and knockdown of GAEC1: Baseline genetic studies for a novel oncogene. (MBoD) $8,000.

Lea, R., Jayasinghe, R., Griffith, L., McCartan, C. Identifying genomic profiles for accurate prediction of coronary artery disease. Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. $18,000.

Lea, R., Garry, R. and Griffiths, L. Establishing a DNA diagnostic tool for predicting disease severity in Crohn’s disease patients. (GHI) $13,000.

Lewohl, J. Functional Analysis of miR-203, an alcohol-responsives microRNA. (MBoD) $7,000.

Massa, H., McMonagle, B., Cripps, A.W. Microbial Pathogenesis of Otitis Media in Urban Children. Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. $18,000.

McClure, R.J., Spinks, A.B., Sipe, N.G. The role of macrophages in uropathogenic E. coli infections. 2011 – 2013, ARC Discovery grant. $1,555,305.

Mellick, A., Wei, M., Mittal, V., and Day, C. Targeting bone marrow mediated angiogenesis and metastasis in breast cancer. 2011 – 2013, ARC Discovery grant. $394,615.

Mitchell, M., Aitken, L., and Shum, D. Delirium and long-term cognitive impairment in ICU patients – a pilot study. (GHI) $12,000.

Moyle, W., Jones, C. Towards positive and meaningful connections in long-term aged care. Relational perceptions, attitudes and experience among older people and families. 2010/11:GHI $14,000; RCCPPI $800, Total: $14,800.

Munn, A., Wei, M., Chernoff, Y.O., Cai, M. A role for the actin cytoskeleton in suppression of prion pathology in yeast. 2011 – 2013, ARC Discovery grant. $235,000.

Neumann, D., Chan, R., and Boyle, G. The development and application of a universal stimulus set to study empathy and other psychological states in social cognitive neuroscience research. (GHI) $14,000.

Neumann, D. Psychological strategies for maximum health and enjoyment during moderate intensity and vigorous physical exercise. 2011 – 2013, ARC Discovery grant. $180,000.

Neuzil, J. Mitochondrially targeted anti-cancer drugs modulate the mitochondrial genome. 2011 – 2013, ARC Discovery grant. $310,000.

Neuzil, J., Blanchard, H., and Ralph, S. Mitochondrial complex II is a new target for anti-cancer drugs. 2011 – 2013, ARC Discovery grant. $432,957.


Peart, J. Caveolins in ischaemic intolerance and impaired cardioprotection with age and disease. (GHI) $13,000.

Pountney, D. Drugs that lower calcium as potential treatments for Parkinson’s Disease. (MBoD) $7,000.


Shum, D., Fleming, J., Man, D., Griffith, J. Assessment of prospective memory impairment in individuals with TBI using a virtual shopping task. (GHI) $14,000.


Stewart, D., McConnell, H., Somerset, S., Rowe, F., Ross, N. Mental Health, Body Image and Diet Quality: what are the links and how can we develop and effective intervention for obese children? Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. $3,000.

Sun, J. Buys, N. Evaluation Framework for Communication Services Local Indigenous Community Campaigns to Promote Better

Tiralongo, E. Short Training Workshop in Integrative Medicine for Pharmacists Griffith Enterprise Innovation Fund. $35,500.

Tiralongo, E., Tiralongo, J., Grice, D., May, T. Australian mushrooms - a source of novel anti-cancer agents. (GHI and MBoD) $9,000.

Ulett, G. Clinical Assessment of IL-10 in Patients with Urinary Tract Infection. Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. $17,000.

Ulett, G. Analysis of Temporal Interleukin-10 Responses in Urinary Tract Infection in Mice. (MBoD) $8,000.


Venturato, L. and Moyle, W. Enhancing care for people with dementia living in long-term care settings: Exploration of a ‘Quiet Proximity’ intervention. (GHI) $8,000.

Walker, T., Bisset, L., Keyzers, G., Thomas, M. A randomised controlled trial on the effect of Physiotherapy and an external rotation brace in the management of first time anterior shoulder dislocations in patients aged 10–40 years Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. $9,000.

Wei, M. Developing a novel oncolytic therapy for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). (MBoD) $8,000.

Zhang, L., Rickard, C., McMillan, D., Gowardman, J. The bacterial community on arterial and central venous catheters from hospitalised patients in intensive care units (ICUs). (GHI) $12,000.

CONFERENCES


Biggs, A., & Brough, P. “This is the culture you are working in – you are supposed to be tough!” A case-study of harassment and bullying in corrections. Proceedings of the 27th International Congress of Applied Psychology. Melbourne, July 2010.

Bosshardt DD (presenter), Lang NP, Salvi GE, Huynh-Ba G, Ivanovski S, Donos N. Early Healing Events on Chemically Modified SLA Implants in Man. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14–17 July 2010.


D’Lima M (presenter), Wanzala P, Johnson N. Oral Candidiasis as a Predictor of TB in HIV Outpatients. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14–17 July 2010.


Gao, J. (presenter), Zhou, C., Quan, J., Johnson, N. Oral cancer progression via crosstalk between osteoblasts and cancer cells. IADR ANZ Division Golden Jubilee Meeting, Kiama, 27–29 Sept 2010


Hamlet, S. (presenter), Davies, J., Ivanovski, S. Cytokine expression response to nanoscale-modified titanium. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14–17 July 2010.

Hannawi H (presenter), Hamlet S, Ivanovski S. Effect of growth factors on periodontal differentiation: In vitro study. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14–17 July 2010.


Itthagarun A. How the volume, concentration and frequency of treating of fluoridated milk affect the remineralization potential of artificial caries lesion. Invited chairperson to lead the discussion. Borrow Foundation meeting, Barcelona, Spain, July 13, 2010.

Ivanovski, S. (presenter), Hamlet, S., Salvi, G.E., Bosshardt, D., Lang, N., Donos, N. Gene Expression on Modified Implant Surfaces
during Osseointegration in Man. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14–17 July 2010.


Kyd J, Krishnamurthy A, McGrath J, Browne J, Vahedi F, Cripps A. Mucosal host immune responses are modulated by airway bacterial composition. The potential of this modulation to affect vaccine-induced immunity. 4th Community Research Placements in Oral Health Teaching: the Griffith Experience. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14–17 July 2010.

Lalloo, R. (presenter), Johnson, N.W., Mackay, J., Foster, R. A Clinical Experience in Remote Australia – Student Feedback. 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14–17 July 2010.

Lalloo, R. (presenter), Bosshardt DD, Salvi GE, Huynh-Ba G, Ivanovski S, Donos N. Early Osseointegration Adjacent to Various Implant Surfaces in Humans: 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR and 5th General Session of the Pan European Region of the IADR, Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), Spain, 14–17 July 2010.


(Do to space limits, several conferences could not be included in this issue, but will be added to the next issue of Health Check).