Researchers across the Health Group have been successful in attracting significant grants.

Genomics Research Centre director Professor Lyn Griffiths has attracted $978,000 from the current round of NHRMC grants for funding genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics projects. The grant will further research started back in 2000 to identify the genes responsible for the common disorders of migraine and cardiovascular disease, focussing on the unique population of Norfolk Island. “This grant is very special as we needed significant funds to do a full genome scan on these samples. It has been very frustrating to be poised and ready to go with this work so the grant is wonderful news for all involved,” Professor Griffiths said.

The Centre has also received funding from the National Heart Foundation to use the same Norfolk Island samples and focus on six regions of the genome, previously implicated in cardiovascular disease risk.

School of Medical Science’s Dr Jiri Neuzil has received a three year ARC Discovery grant worth $238,000 to further his work on alpha-tocopheryl succinate and its potential as an anticancer agent. The vitamin E analogue appears to play a role in inhibiting the growth of tumour cells and the formation of the blood vessels that feed the tumours. The Queensland Cancer Fund is also funding a related project over two years to specifically look at the role of alpha-tocopheryl succinate in the death of mesothelioma cells.

Pro Vice Chancellor of Health Professor Allan Cripps is co-investigator with University of Canberra colleagues in a $230,250 NHMRC grant to further research into Streptococcus pneumoniae and other bacteria that cause infections in children. “There is the potential to develop an improved pneumococcal vaccine which could prevent the respiratory and middle ear infections which cause significant morbidity and mortality in Aboriginal and other communities,” he said.

The expertise and quality of research in the School of Psychology has also been recognised with academics attracting and collaborating on a number of ARC grants. Professor Drew Nesdale is chief investigator in a three year funded project on children’s intergroup prejudice.

Head of Psychology Associate Professor Peter Creed, Centre for Environment and Population Health director Professor Cordia Chu and head of International Business and Asian Studies Associate Professor Leong Liew, are collaborating on a study of policy making related to HIV/AIDS and SARS infections in China.

Director of Forensic Training Associate Professor Mark Kebbell will be involved in a prospective longitudinal study of recidivism in child-sex offenders while Dr David Neumann will work with Griffith colleague Associate Pat Thomas from the School of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning in a project to identify how athletes can best focus their attention in sport. Novice to elite level athletes from the sports of golf, cycling and cricket will be involved in the study.
School of Public Health
Head of School – Professor Stephanie Short

The Griffith School of Public Health, established in 1997, has 33 academic and general staff (including 13 adjunct academics) at the Logan, Nathan and Gold Coast campuses. It is committed to achieving excellence in public health research and postgraduate research training as a foundation for high quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programs. The School's distinctive socio-ecological approach integrates public, environmental and occupational health concerns with policy and service management considerations.

The School's health professional programs in environmental health, health promotion, occupational health, nutrition and dietetics, public health and health services management are underpinned by principles of work integrated learning and research-based teaching that draws on the social science disciplines, epidemiology, environmental chemistry and relevant biomedical disciplines.

Our international postgraduate students are drawn principally from India, Indonesia and China, and our current research projects have linked us with the health care professions and with a range of partners in our field, including Queensland Health, the Logan Area Division of General Practice, Horticulture Australia, Australian Macadamia Society, the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, the Institute of Sociology in Bulgaria, and the Genomics Research Centre and Heart Foundation Research Centre closer to home. Pictured are Prof Short, Prof Weller, His Excellency Mr Lyubomic Todorov, Bulgarian Ambassador to Australia and his wife.

In 2006 Professor Stephanie Short assumes Directorship of the Queensland Centre for Public Health. The QCPH, to be based at the Ship Inn at South Bank, attracts both Federal and State health funding. In 2006-10 priorities for the Griffith University, QUT and UQ Consortium include obesity prevention, biosecurity and emergency preparedness.

School of Human Services
Head of School – Dr Jayne Clapton

The School of Human Services was an inaugural school of the Logan Campus of Griffith University established in 1998. In 2006, the School will run three major undergraduate programs: a Bachelor of Human Services; Bachelor of Human Services Child and Family Studies and the new Bachelor of Social Work. As a multidisciplinary school with majors in family and community studies, childhood studies, child protection, disability studies, rehabilitation counselling and studies in ageing, the School has local, national and international reputation for excellence and innovation in learning and teaching, as well as in research. The Common Time program, aimed at enhancing the first year experience of university and with aiding student retention, received a national teaching award for innovation across the institution in 2002. Griffith University will again be represented for this award in 2006 by the School's innovative Learning Circles initiative, developed in the Child and Family program to encourage critical reflective graduates. Since its inception, staff and students from the School have also been recognised in various ways and from various institutions for excellence.

The School of Human Services is engaged in many activities such as community partnerships with various stakeholders within the local area; collaborative research with numerous human service agencies; and communities of practice that share knowledge and new initiatives. For example, the current process of developing a new course on Australian Indigenous Practice utilises all of these opportunities.

As a dynamic, growing school which promotes cutting edge contemporary scholarship, the School is also broadening its offerings through combined degrees both with Criminology and Criminal Justice, as well as with Education. Postgraduate programs are expanding with increasing graduate certificate offerings, including with various industry partners. Students undertaking Honours programs, as well as a revised Masters of Human Services, or a Research Higher Degree, continue to provide the opportunity to extend knowledge and research in the Human Services and nurture future leaders of the various disciplines.
Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation

Director – Professor Wendy Chaboyer

The Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation was established in mid-2003 to deliver improvements in health care and outcomes. It is directed by Professor Wendy Chaboyer and has 33 active researchers as members. The Centre’s major initiatives focus on the introduction of new interventions and practices to improve patient care and on innovative and collaborative models of health service outcomes. The Centre provides seeding grants, equipment, funding for visits by international leaders and RHD conference support.

The Centre moved into its new premises in Clinical Sciences 2 building at the Gold Coast campus in August and now has suitable dedicated space for a research training environment with satellite centres on the Nathan and Logan campuses. In the first full year of operation (2004), the Centre exceeded its annual competitive grant target by 25%, attracting in excess of $900,000. A solid performance is anticipated for the current year. Significantly, Centre members this year have been successful in competitive projects in chronic illness (Prof Marianne Wallis $80,000, Dr Winsome St John, $113,000, Dept of Health and Ageing), in acute care (Prof Wendy Chaboyer $115,000, ARC Linkage Scheme), and in ageing (Prof Wendy Moyle $72,000 ARC Linkage Scheme). Other members participated in major projects, including Prof Debra Creedy (a family study funded by NH&MRC $554,000) and Dr Liz Patterson (general practice study funded by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute $555,000).

The Centre hosted several overseas visitors throughout this year, including Dr Denise Polit, an internationally acclaimed researcher and author, visiting for six weeks as part of the (Griffith) Sir Allan Sewell Visiting Fellowship program; Gerry Richardson, a health economist from the University of York (three months); Professor Phil Carspecken an expert in educational psychology from the University of Indiana; and Associate Professor Lukman Thalib, a medical statistician from the University of Kuwait. The visitors presented workshops and seminars as well as providing valuable collaborative opportunities and individual consultation sessions with research staff and RHD students associated with the Centre.

Group News

HUMAN SERVICES

The School of Human Services and Gumurri Centre have held a second gathering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Human Service Practitioners and Community Members who are helping to develop a new course on human service practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Through building a community of practice around this course, the intention is to develop a cultural competence framework which is specifically appropriate to the Australian context. The course will be developed around case studies from human service practice and will be taught fully by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators and practitioners. Whilst child protection will be a major theme, the aim is for students to be able to engage with people of all ages and work with communities to develop responses to a range of welfare, health and education concerns. Contact Dr Ann Ingamells Email: a.ingamells@griffith.edu.au; phone: 3382 1238 for further information.

Research Australia Thank You Day

Griffith support for Research Australia’s national Thank You Day initiative contributed to more than 350,000 personal thank you messages from the community to health and medical researchers around the country.

The response far exceeded Research Australia’s target of 100,000 messages, suggesting health and medical research is widely appreciated and valued.

The 2005 theme for Thank You Day was Research for a better future for our children.

Clinicians, researchers, children and families attended a child-friendly morning tea at the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health to celebrate, and to hear Pro Vice Chancellor for Health Professor Allan Cripps announce Griffith’s Children’s Health Research Program.

Prof Cripps said the vision for the program was to develop solutions that could maximise the potential for every child to live a healthy life.

“This new program is a natural fit for our university as we will be engaging with the wider community and working across traditional health discipline boundaries to meet our goals.”

Griffith Health Supporters Thank You Evening

Supporters of Griffith Health joined Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Allan Cripps on 9th December to celebrate the festive season. The evening was well attended with representatives from community groups, business and health professionals and provided the opportunity for Professor Cripps to thank everyone for their support during the year.
Ms Kym Macfarlane, Dr Karen Noble, Ms Jennifer Cartmel 
School of Human Services, Learning Circles Initiative

Ms Kym Macfarlane, Dr Karen Noble and Ms Jennifer Cartmel have received both a Health Group citation and a Griffith University award for teaching excellence in the Innovation Across the Institution Category. As academics in the Bachelor of Human Services Child & Family program, they have developed Learning Circles within the practicum experience to enhance student interaction and critical reflection within Human Service practices. Learning Circles are democratic, self-managed focussed discussions.

In 2nd year placements, the Learning Circles are held at the work site (such as in child care settings) and include the experienced practitioners who are the students’ mentors and supervisors. In the 3rd year practicum, peer Learning Circles are used to debrief specific aspects of pedagogy and practice in human service organisations. This year, two groups were also trialed in places of work where clusters of students were placed in broader practicum contexts. These trials included at Multilink in Logan, as well as in the Department of Child Safety.

The Learning Circles innovation evolved from research conducted through a Griffith University Teaching and Learning grant in 2003; and recently culminated in a book launch of a published monograph in November 2005. The research has contributed to the development of national and international conference papers and publications; and is being adopted by professional associations as best practice for field education. The School of Human Services congratulates the staff, students and industry partners on the success of the Learning Circles project.

Dr Judy Wollin, RN PhD
Deputy Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery (Logan campus)

Dr Judy Wollin is the recently appointed Deputy Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Logan Campus. Dr Wollin completed her PhD in 1999 ‘Assessing Disability: the reliability and validity of the MS Disability Profile’. Since then, she has continued to build a research agenda in the area of living with multiple sclerosis and disability. Her research has included being a CI in a national research project addressing the palliative needs of people with neurological illnesses funded by NHMRC.

Judy is an active member of the Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation and has recently submitted an ARC linkage application with other centre members.

Judy has built close links with community groups providing services for people with MS and has been instrumental in the production of community publications with the MS Society Queensland. These links are reflected in ongoing invitations to present the most recent being at the annual MS UK Trust conference (2005) The Importance of Assessing Quality of Life in People with MS. She also offers an elective addressing the health needs of people with MS open to all health professionals working with people with MS.

Current collaborative works include two multi-disciplinary research projects; one addressing major depression in people with MS and the others addressing quality of life in people with MS. The cross disciplinary links have been established at the MS Clinic Royal Brisbane Hospital were Judy is a clinical researcher. Judy has also built national and international links as President Elect of the MS Nurses International Credentialing Board – President Elect and the nurses representative on the advisory panel for the Australian MS Longitudinal Study.

As the new Deputy Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Logan Campus Judy looks forward to continuing to develop the strengths of the young and vibrant team here at Logan.
**Staff News**

**RECENT APPOINTMENTS**

**Human Services:** Dr Lesley Chenoweth has been appointed Professor of Social Work.

**Public Health:** A/Prof Zdravka Toneva has been appointed as a Visiting Associate Professor from 1 November to 15 December 2005. Zdravka is an Associate Professor with the Institute of Sociology in Bulgaria. During this visit research in the areas of household expenditure on health in Bulgaria, health care access and affordability will be progressed.

**ACTIVITIES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Public Health:** Dr Ben Desbrow has recently completed a study looking at the attitudes and use of caffeine by athletes competing in the 2005 Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon World Championships as part of his doctoral studies. Over 135 international competitors completed a pre-race questionnaire and 50 post-race blood samples (including one from a 75 year old!) were collected for plasma caffeine analysis. The study was supported by the Heart Foundation Research Centre, School of Public Health and Labman Hawaii Inc.

Ben has also recently participated in a fluid balance study with the Australian Cricket team in Brisbane. The study was a collaboration between Ben Desbrow (GU), Cricket Australia, Prof Louise Burke (AIS Canberra), Dr Michael Leveritt (UQ) and researchers from the Gatorade Sports Science Institute in Chicago. The study involved strictly monitoring fluid intake and changes in body weight, taking urine specific gravity measures and the analysis of sweat electrolyte concentrations.

**Long Service Medals:** On 1 December 2005, Professor Stephanie Short was delighted to present medals to recipients from the Griffith Health Group: Silver Medal (25 years service) Prof Roger Willis, School of Medical Science; Bronze Medal (15 years service) Mrs Denise Emson, School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science; Mrs Vicki Fuller, School of Human Services; A/Prof David Shum, School of Psychology.

**PRIZES AND AWARDS**

Congratulations to Jamie Cruz, 3rd year Bachelor of Human Services student who recently received the Doris Kemp memorial award from Epilepsy Queensland for an outstanding contribution by a tertiary student. The award was presented by the Minister for Community Services.

Congratulations to Jia Lia was awarded the 2004 Public Health Association Dissertation Prize. Dissertation title “Community’s perceptions of needle and syringe availability support programs for HIV/AIDS prevention among intravenous drug users in Ganjiakou, Beijing, China.

**NISSOKEN GRADUATION**

The graduation of the 21st cohort of students to complete the Bachelor of Nursing Post-Registration degree program was held 18 November 2005. The program continues to be a success with to date over 800 nurses graduating from the program. Ms Bronwyn Locke, CEO of Hill View Aged Care Pty Ltd and recently elected president of Aged Care Queensland Incorporated (ACQI) presented the occasional address. The ceremony was attended by Mr Akira Goto and Mr Yoshi Koshitani from the Nissoken Group as well as, family, friends and School of Nursing and Midwifery staff. Miyako Masuda was granted the Award for Excellence in Academic Studies in Nursing.

**CORNERSTONE GRADUATION**

Internationalisation is part of Griffith University’s mission. In line with this mission, Griffith Health has an increasing number of international students studying in Australia and overseas.

In December the Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Health attended the Cornerstone Nursing Graduation at Old Parliament House in Singapore. The graduation ceremony included the first cohort of students to complete the Bachelor of Nursing Post-Registration degree program in Singapore.

The program was developed by Griffith’s School of Nursing and Midwifery so that registered nurses based in Singapore could upgrade their college qualifications to a professional degree in nursing. Over 70 students have enrolled in the program since it was first offered in 2003.

“I am proud of this program, which is accredited with the Singapore Nurses Registration Board,” said Professor Rocky Luo, Principal and Chief Executive Officer of the Cornerstone Training Centre.

“The program is also supported by the Singapore Government in their effort to increase the number of Bachelor prepared nurses in the workforce.”

Graduates received their awards in the presence of family, friends and teachers. They must be congratulated on their dedication and achievements, especially those who have had to balance study commitments with work and family responsibilities.
Conference Presentations


Cartmel J. Outside School Hours Care: the implications for training. Keynote Address, Queensland TAFE Child Studies Teachers Symposium, Brisbane, 26 September 2005.


Desbrow B, Leveritt M, Hughes R, Jones L. Scheelings P. How strong is your brew? An independent analysis of consumer exposure to caffeine from retail coffees. 5th Annual Health and Medical Research Conference of Queensland, Brisbane, 3-4 November 2005.


Gatfield TJ, Larmar SA. Cultural archotyping – A new approach to market research. Fifth International Conference of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations, Beijing, China, 2005.


Lam A, Ong K, Ho YH. Colorectal mucinous adenocarcinoma and signet-ring cell carcinoma: the clinicopathological features and significance of p16 and p53 expression. 5th Annual Health and Medical Research Conference of Queensland: Brisbane 3-4 November 2005.


Lam A. Diagnostic dilemmas in thyroid cancer. Multidisciplinary update on thyroid cancer for surgeons, Coolum 9-12 November 2005.

Lam A. Molecular Pathology and cancers. Special lecture for Graduate Student in Medicine, Jichi Medical School, Omiya, Japan 31 October 2005.


Lam A. Teaching of medical students in Australia: a new start. Special lecture for Graduate Student in Medicine, Jichi Medical School, Omiya, Japan 2 November 2005.

Lam A. Thyroid oncological research. Joint Griffith University- Mater Medical Research Institute Symposium, Brisbane 26 October 2005.

Larmar SA, Gatfield TJ. Challenging behaviour in the regular classroom: Empowering teachers working with a diverse population of children and families through the Early Impact program. Fifth International Conference of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations, Beijing, China.


Publications


Campbell FK. Litigation neurosis: Pathological responses or rational subversion? Disability Studies Quarterly, Fall 2005;25(5) [E-Version].


Zimmer-Gembeck M. Using Multiple Methods to Develop a Gender-balanced Assessment of Relational Aggression Among Adolescents. GURG. (2006:$24,000).

Research: Funded Projects

Ashton K. Gene Expression Profiling of Age-Related Changes in Ischaemic Tolerance in Male and Female Mouse Hearts. NRG. (2006:$12,220).


Morrison N. Chemoenzymes in Osteoclast Differentiation. GURG (2006:$12,000).


Neumann D. The Effects of Nicotine on Psychological Functions that differ Between the Sexes. GURG. (2006:$14,000).


Osmond J, Tilbury C. Permanency planning decision making. Griffith University Industry Collaborative Grant with the Department of Child Safety (2006:$10,000).


Pointney D. Role of Sumo-1 Conjugates in Alpha-synucleinopathies. GURG (2006:$12,000).


Tilbury C. Aspects of the school to work transition for young people in State care. Griffith University New Researcher Grant (2006:$11,000).

Waters A. Sex Differences in Physiological Systems of Response to Stress in Adolescents With and Without Anxiety Disorders. NRG (2006:$19,800).

Zimmer-Gembeck M. Using Multiple Methods to Develop a Gender-balanced Assessment of Relational Aggression Among Adolescents. GURG. (2006:$24,000).
From the Office of PVC (Health)

It is just one year since the Health Group was formed and what a year of achievement it has been.

**January**
Griffith’s first cohort of medical students commenced their four-year graduate entry program based at the Gold Coast campus.

**May**
Five dental technologists become the first graduates from the School of Dentistry and Oral Health.

**July**
Official opening of the Griffith Centre for Medicine and Oral Health in Southport which is the home to the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry and Oral Health, and the Queensland Government announced plans to build a new teaching hospital at the Gold Coast campus and to fund an extra 235 doctor training places at Griffith. Staff move into new offices in Clinical Sciences 2 (G16) building at Gold Coast campus (Parklands).

**August**
The Gold Coast campus welcomed its first intake of Masters of Nursing students from Japan.

**October**
Official opening of the Clinical Sciences 1 (GO2) building at Gold Coast campus (Parklands).

**November**
Clinicians, researchers, children and families celebrated Research Australia’s national Thank You Day with the signing of the giant Thank You Card and the announcement of the Griffith’s Children’s Health Research Program.

**December**
First preferences for students wish to study in programs offered by Griffith Health jump 25%; Major successes in National competitive grants.

Over the year we have continued to grow our research effort and community commitment. We have been joined by many new staff who have embraced Griffith Health’s core values.

A special thanks to all our staff and students for your support throughout the first year. I wish you and our community a safe holiday break and I look forward to moving the vision further with you in 2006.