Recent achievements by School of Medicine staff

Dr. Simon Bradley, our senior lecturer in Neurology, has been awarded a $12,000 Griffith University New Researcher Grant for a project on genome screening in autoimmune disease.

Professor Rod McMullin has recently been awarded $150,000 from the Premier’s Department to fund a project which will look at the relationship between community structure and function, and health outcomes in the Goldfields communities in North Queensland.

Professor Rick Jackson has been invited to be Principal Investigator in a number of National Clinical Trials with large grant monies flowing to the region and the University.

Dr. Kim Forrester, senior lecturer in Law, Medical Ethics and Professional Practice was awarded her PhD earlier this year entitled The Impact of Structural (Legislation and Policy) on Professionals and Private Persons on the Outcomes of Disciplinary Tribunals and Committees in cases of Sexual Misconduct and Incapacitation or Unsafe Practice. The second edition of The Essentials of Law for Health Professionals, a book Kim co-authored, was also recently published. Kin’s also a member of a collaborative project that has received at Australian Research Council grant of $114,000 to develop evidence-based workforce models for nursing services in acute care hospitals.

Professor John Horvath to welcome students

The School is delighted to announce that Professor John Horvath has been appointed as the Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Health and Ageing and will give the keynote address at the welcome students event on 28 January 2005. Professor Horvath is a specialist in general practice and was awarded an Order of Australia (AO) in 2001 for his outstanding service to medicine. He advises the government on all health issues including public health, medical research, health promotion, quality of healthcare and medical workforce. Professor Horvath has previously indicated that the medical workforce shortage is one of the major challenges facing the health system.

Dr. Ray Tedman
Associate Professor in Anatomy, Coordinator Years 1 and 2
Ray’s research interest is in the influence of intervertebral disc bulges and posterior intervertebral foramina on symptomatic disc and structure, and possible associated dysfunction of the sympathetic nervous system.

Current projects
- Collaboration with Dr Richard Kwiatek, Rheumatologist at the Department of Nuclear Medicine, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Adelaide on a project to quantitatively investigate the brain structure of patients with myelomeningocele (SPM) using IWB and the advanced analytical technique of Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM).

David Prideaux
Professor of Medical Education

Current projects
David is investigating models for decision-making in the creation of new medical schools or change to existing programs. This study is using an online Delphi approach for the Australian Association of Medical Schools. Both Australian and international programs have been included.

Liz Reymond
Associate Professor in Palliative Care

Liz’s research interests concern the development of best practice in the management of palliative care symptoms and the enhancement of palliative care service delivery in the community setting.

Current projects
- The use of nebulised hydromorphone for the control of dyspnoea in palliative care patients: A randomised double-blind controlled trial comparing two aperients for prophylaxis of constipation in palliative care patients.

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The School of Medicine congratulates the Gold Coast hospital on the Queensland Government announcement of $16 million to grow the hospital’s services over the next three years. The expenditure is targeted towards improving emergency department services at both the Southport and Robina campuses.

Professor Judy Searle
Foundation Dean and Head
School of Medicine
Griffith University

Professor Judy Searle has been invited to be Principal Investigator in a number of National Clinical Trials with large grant monies flowing to the region and the University.

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Profiles of some research staff

Heather Alexander
Senior Lecturer in Medical Education
Heather's PhD focused on the assessment of knowledge with an emphasis on false knowledge. She has a contracted interest in any aspect of learning and safety and has led large scale research projects into educational interventions that directly benefit patients or prevent disease. Heather's research focus has been on the molecular pathogenesis of human cancers and undergraduate pathology education. She has published over 150 research articles in peer-reviewed journals and is on the Editorial Board for the peer-reviewed journals, Pathology and Endocrine Pathology.

Rod McClure
Professor of Medicine
Rod's research interests include public health and clinical epidemiological methods, and all aspects of the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of injury.

Affiliations
- Developing and delivering the Online National Injury-Related Hospital Mortality Data (INR-HMD) project
- Monte Carlo simulation modelling of the quality of trauma care (determinants of survival) and the role of hospital located trauma care units in the acute care of injured patients.