

## DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)

### RESEARCH BULLETIN #7 11 February 2008

# UNSW



PROFESSOR LES FIELD

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR  
(RESEARCH)

Dear Colleagues,

This is DVC(R) Bulletin #7 to provide an update on important issues affecting researchers at UNSW. If you missed the previous bulletins – the contents are available at <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter.html>

#### 1. **International Research Workshop**

The inaugural **UNSW International Research Workshop** will be held at UNSW from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 22 February 2008. 93 researchers from 45 institutions across 11 countries have accepted invitations to attend. The draft program is attached. Participants will be appointed as Visiting Research Fellows of UNSW and will be provided with opportunities to exchange ideas with our leading researchers and to participate in roundtable discussions about research for 2008 and beyond. Please contact the Associate Deans (Research) in Medicine, Science and Engineering for further information.

#### 2. **China Scholarship Council Scholarships**

UNSW has been included as one of a number of international research Universities for students who are graduates from the top 46 Universities in China to be supported by prestigious **China Scholarship Council Scholarships** for PhD study at UNSW, or as Visiting Students (funding covers annual stipend, overseas health costs and travel at the commencement and completion of study). Further details re these scholarships including the application process and the award of fee remission scholarships is available at: <http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/scholarships/internationalschols.html>.

#### 3. **The New Government and the RQF**

Things in Canberra are still chaotic as far as sorting out the portfolios with responsibility for Higher Education and research in particular. Minister Carr has announced that the RQF (as we know it) has been abandoned but that it will be replaced by a “more metrics-based” quality assessment system. We are anticipating announcements within a few weeks. As yet we don’t know the time frame on which we will be required to report however the Minister has stated that, for the first assessment, funding will be de-coupled from the exercise and this means that RTS/IGS will probably stay for at least a few years to come.

DIISR are active in implementing their pre-election promises and there are a number of reviews underway, including a review into the National Innovation System (funding of ANSTO, AIMS, CRCs, the R&D Tax concessions etc etc). All of these will report by mid-year. UNSW will make submissions to these reviews through the Office of the DVC(R) and I will be calling for inputs as soon as the parameters are announced. With the review of CRCs, the current round of CRC applications has been delayed (by at least 6 months) so we anticipate a new call for submissions in the second half of 2008.

Another pre-election promise was the establishment of a series of mid-career Research Fellowships (targeted at the Associate Professor/Professor level). We are expecting more details to be announced within the next few weeks with the first round of applications probably in the second half of 2008.

#### 4. **Intellectual Property**

UNSW has an Intellectual Property Policy (<http://www.policy.unsw.edu.au/policy/ippol.htm>) which sets out the ownership of IP generated by our staff and students. By-and-large the University asserts ownership over all IP generated by staff in the course of their employment and the University (through NewSouth Innovations) will commercialise UNSW IP. The IP policy sets out the sharing of any commercial returns arising from technology transfer. Let me remind staff that UNSW IP must be commercialised through NSi (unless NSi has formally assigned the IP back to the inventors for commercialisation). Attempting to commercialise UNSW IP outside NSi effectively constitutes "theft" of UNSW property. Please contact NSi at <http://www.nsinnovations.com.au/> for further information on technology transfer and commercialisation.

#### 5. **Open access to publications.**

A debate is looming over free and open access to publications. At the end of last year, President Bush signed a funding bill containing a provision requiring the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) mandate open access for NIH-funded research - see <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/newsletter/01-02-08.htm#nih>. In a similar fashion, the Scientific Council of the European Research Council placed its guidelines for Open Access on the internet which make open access mandatory for ERC funded projects and explicitly includes both data and articles - see <http://erc.europa.eu/>.

The ARC and NHMRC are undoubtedly watching these developments and this will impact on publishing in Australia and support for online repositories.

Les Field  
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