

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)

RESEARCH BULLETIN #8 4 June 2008

UNSW



PROFESSOR LES FIELD

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
(RESEARCH)

Dear Colleagues,

This is DVC(R) Bulletin #8 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. New Appointments

Professor Margaret Harding has been appointed to the new position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Strategy) with executive responsibility for the Graduate Research School, Grants Management Office and the Research Strategy Office. **Barbara Chmielewski** has been appointed General Manager Research & Research Training in the office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor. The new office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Strategy) will be co-located with the Research Strategy Office (RSO) on level 4 of the Rupert Myers Building from the end of June.

Professor Dianne Wiley has been appointed to the position of Senior Associate Dean, Graduate Research and she is located in the Graduate Research School. Effective immediately, Professor Wiley is the first contact point for providing academic advice on all higher degree matters to Faculties, Postgraduate Coordinators and supervisors. She will provide academic oversight of candidatures via attending Higher Degree Committees and work with Professor Harding in supporting all higher degree research students.

2. ARC Linkage Project Grants – Round 2, 2008

Congratulations to those UNSW staff who were awarded 22 successful ARC Linkage Projects in Round 2, 2008 with a value of more than \$11.4M with an additional \$21.4M cash and in-kind contributed from partner organisations. This was the highest amount of funding awarded to any institution nationally, and made up about 18% of all funding awarded in this round. There were 4 grants with each with funding of over \$1M including grants to Professor Martin Green (Eng), Professor Michael Sherris (ASB), Associate Professor Rick Cavichioli (Science) and Professor Aibing Yu (Science). See http://www.unsw.edu.au/news/pad/articles/2008/may/Linkage_grants.html for further information, and http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_outcomes.htm for the full listing of Linkage awards. This is a great result for UNSW.

For advice or assistance with the development of Linkage Grants, please contact James Walsh, Strategic Development Officer, RSO (j.walsh@unsw.edu.au).

3. Federation Fellows

We congratulate the three new UNSW Federation Fellows announced last month by the ARC. The new Fellows are Professor Michelle Simmons (Physics); Professor Aibing Yu (Materials Science); and Professor Brett Neilan (Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences). Further information on the announcement can be found at: <http://www.unsw.edu.au/news/pad/articles/2008/apr/federation-fellows.html>. These are the most prestigious of the ARC Fellowships so this is a great personal achievement for these Fellows and a great result for UNSW with three successful Fellowships being the most awarded to any institution in this round. The next round of Federation Fellowships will close in late November 2008, with final Guidelines expected to be released in mid-October 2008.

The names of any potential applicants for this round should be provided to Paul Ashworth, Strategic Development Manager in the RSO (p.ashworth@unsw.edu.au).

4. International Research Workshop

Following from the highly successful International Research Workshop held at UNSW in February this year, up to \$500,000 will be available via the International Research Collaborations Scheme in 2008 to ensure that initial contacts and potential partnerships that were identified at the IRW are translated into genuine collaborations to the benefit of all parties. The scheme will provide support for travel for UNSW researchers who participated in the workshop to meet with the Visiting Research Fellows in Asia who were appointed at the IRW. The scheme may also support reciprocal visits to laboratories for more detailed discussions to map out grant opportunities and/or research plans for visiting exchanges, or to attend follow-up workshops in Asia. Details of the Scheme are available at http://www.iaro.unsw.edu.au/pls/non/SURVEY_IRCS.login and will be emailed to all workshop participants within the next week.

A second International Research Workshop focusing on the Business, Law and Social Sciences has been proposed for early 2009.

5. ARC Future Fellowships Consultation Visit

The ARC Future Fellowships is a new initiative to attract and retain the best and brightest mid-career researchers. Over a five-year period (2009 -2013), Future Fellowships will offer four-year Fellowships of up to \$140,000 a year to 1,000 Australian and international top researchers in the "middle of their career". In addition, each researcher's administering organisation will receive funding of up to \$50,000 per year to support related infrastructure, equipment, travel and relocation costs.

We are expecting Funding Rules to be released in August 2008, with a closing date for submission of October 2008.

Professor Margaret Clayton from the Australian Research Council (ARC) will present a seminar and open forum discussion on this new scheme at UNSW - 2.00pm - 3.00pm, Wednesday 11 June 2008 - Theatre 6, Central Lecture Block. Please register at <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/strategic.html>

6. ARC Discovery Grant Rejoinders

The Assessors Reports on applications for the 2009 Discovery Project (DP) application round will be posted onto GAMS in early July (likely release date sometime between Friday 27 June 2008 – Wed 2 July 2008) with a 2 week time-frame for the preparation and submission of rejoinders to the ARC. All DP applicants will be contacted as soon as dates are confirmed. The Research Strategy Office (RSO) will provide one-on-one assistance and strategic advice to all applicants who request assistance in preparing their rejoinders. This assistance will include one-on-one interviews in the first week of the Rejoinder period with:

- Alan Johnston (ex-ARC Executive Director of Biological Sciences & Biotechnology Panel);
- Peter Baverstock (Research Development Officer, Faculty of Science);
- three Strategic Development Managers from the RSO, plus some limited additional support within Faculties by ex-ARC College of Experts members, as well as email support throughout the rejoinder period from RSO staff will also be available.

All current ARC Discovery Project applicants will receive full details of these support services, plus advice on how to prepare rejoinders by email in the next 2 weeks.

7. State and Federal Government Reviews

May seems to have been the month for Government Submissions! UNSW has made a number of important submissions to a range of State and Federal Government Reviews and Inquiries. Copies of our submissions are available at the following websites:

- **NSW Legislative Inquiry into Nanotechnology in New South Wales** - <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/committee.nsf/0/D3D854FE084E7749CA257426007F782D>
- **DIISR Review of the National Innovation System** - http://www.innovation.gov.au/innovationreview/Documents/497-University_of_New_South_Wales.pdf
- **Senate Inquiry into Australia's Space Science & Industry Sector** - http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/economics_ctte/space_08/submissions/sub35.pdf
- **National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Roadmap Review** – see <http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/res/protected/UNSWSubmissionNCRIS14May2008.pdf>
- **House of Representatives Inquiry into research training and research workforce issues in Australian universities.** - See <http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/res/protected/UNSWSubmissionResearchTrainingandResearchWorkforceInquiry.pdf>

There are also a number of submissions yet to be completed and due within the next month. UNSW will make a single UNSW submission (after consultation) to each of the following reviews:

- **ARC Future Fellowships** – Draft Guidelines under review. Comments/feedback to b.greene@unsw.edu.au by **10 June 2008**. See http://www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/media_23May08.htm for more details.
- **Review of Australian Higher Education** – See http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/reviews/highered_review/ for further information. A discussion paper will be released in the next few weeks.

8. Funding for “Proof-of-Concept”

To bridge the gap between a bright invention and submitting a patent, it is often difficult to find support to verify a concept, or to provide substance and working examples of technology. We have established a “Proof-of-Concept” scheme which will provide small amounts of support (typically in the range of \$10k-\$100K) specifically to provide resources to bridge the gap between a good idea and something which is commercially viable. Support will be available on the recommendation of NewSouth Innovations (NSi) for projects for which an invention disclosure has been made to NSi. Further information is available from Jim Henderson, General Manager Commercialisation, Life Sciences (j.henderson@nsinnovations.com.au) or Alan El-Kadhi, General Manager Commercialisation, Physical Sciences & IT (a.el-kadhi@nsinnovations.com.au).

9. Human Research Ethics Committee

With the recent retirement of Professor Andrew Lloyd from the UNSW Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), Associate Professor Michael Grimm has been joined as Presiding Member by Associate Professor Andrew Metcalfe. Andrew is the university's first non-medical HREC Presiding Member, reflecting the increasing rate of application to the HRECs from social sciences-based researchers. In addition, several new members have joined the committees: Dr Darren Gold (St Vincent's Clinical School), Dr Mark Boyd (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research), Associate Professor Heather Worth (National Centre in HIV Social Research), Associate Professor Shirley Scott (School of Social Sciences and International Studies) and Dr Lyn Craig (Social Policy Research Centre). I greatly value the commitment and enthusiasm of Andrew Metcalfe and the new committee members (as well as that of all continuing members) in undertaking this critical task for UNSW.

10. Chair of the Animal Ethics Committee

Michel Beal, the current Senior Presiding Member of the Animal Care and Ethics Committee has announced his retirement from UNSW and I am seeking a person to replace him as Chair of the ACEC. I am seeking somebody who is a senior academic staff member (Level D or E) with a background in animal research and with an interest in animal ethics. This is a very important position at UNSW and carries a responsibility loading and administrative assistance. If you interested in this post (or know somebody who may be interested) please contact me directly at L.Field@unsw.edu.au.

Professor Les Field
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)