The last three months has been a very busy time for research activities in the faculty, both for grant submissions and for research administration. We welcomed a new Senior Administrative Officer, Ravi Daga, who will be assisting the Faculty with research and internationalisation activities as well as identifying, recording and reporting on data across a wide range of activities. Following the departure of Deborah O’Leary, Ravi has also taken on the role of editing this newsletter.

The Research Quality Framework (RQF) preparation has continued to take a considerable amount of time and energy, and I appreciate all the effort people have been making to assist with this process. At this stage, HBS will be submitting three groups for assessment: Food & Nutrition (led by Prof Linda Tapsell); Health Behaviour, Communication & Performance (led by myself and Prof Julie Steele); and Neuroscience & Cognition (led by Prof Bob Barry). The draft documentation for each of these groups is being prepared – and there may be some adjustments to the number and nature of groups once these have been assessed. A huge thank you to Julia Green for all her work on getting the RIS data up to date for this process, and to Sue Low and Ravi Daga who are assisting with the collation of performance and recognition data.

Also related to research administration – and to improving the quality and recognition of our research outputs – we are revamping the ‘Research’ section of the Faculty’s website to provide easier access to research-related forms and resources, as well as providing an opportunity to disseminate news and promote research successes. Staff will have received an email during the week from the Research Student Centre regarding the promotion of HDR opportunities, and will see that HBS research areas are now promoted on that site (thank you to Heads of Schools and Research Directors for providing the necessary information within a very short timeframe).

Sue Low, FRC Secretary, is currently preparing a report on the outcomes of 2006 Faculty Research Funding. If you received funding in 2006 and have not yet provided a Final Report, please do so as quickly as possible (contact Sue if you do not have a copy of the form).

The Faculty’s Grant Submission Form – which must be completed for ALL research grants (external and university funding) has been updated and is available on the website or by contacting Sue. Please note that, as stated on the form and as previously advised, the complete application must be submitted to Sue Low or Narelle Guest a minimum of seven days before it is due to the Office of Research. The weekly grant listing that is emailed to all staff now includes these Faculty deadlines, so please take this into account when planning your grant submission.
This time of the year is also a busy time for our students. The university’s HDR Student Conference was held on Wednesday 26 September, and our Faculty was well represented with eight oral presentations and 12 posters; winners of the Faculty presentation and poster prizes will be announced later this year at the Annual HBS Research function.

The Centre for Health Initiatives has introduced two new Graduate Certificates which will commence in 2008, and a range of subjects will be available for Honours and HDR students who wish to undertake these as part of the Grad Cert or as stand-alone subjects (see page 6).

The Faculty will once again be offering a small number of Summer Scholarships – targeted at 3rd year students entering Honours or Honours students entering into Masters or PhDs. Application forms are available on the website or by contacting Sue Low, and the deadline for submissions is 02 November. The university will again be offering Honours Scholarships in 2008, so expect an announcement of these from the Research Student Centre within the next few weeks.

Finally, a big congratulations to our successful grant applicants, including two new NHMRC grants and one ARC grant (see page 4).

Professor Sandra Jones

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**Report finds Australian children in dire need of more omega-3s**

A new report has found that Australian children’s health could be at stake unless they start eating five times more fish and other food rich in omega-3s than they are currently consuming.

The report, which was released on 19th September, has been produced by an international team of nutrition scientists and health experts including Associate Professor Barbara Meyer from the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences at the University of Wollongong.

The evidence is strong enough to suggest healthcare professionals should consider omega-3s (a type of polyunsaturated fat) as an adjunct in the treatment of children with developmental brain disorders such as ADHD, dyslexia and dyspraxia.

The report recommends an intake of at least 500mg of omega-3 DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) and EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) per day for children aged 14 years or over. Research by Professor Meyer indicates that most children only consume between 34 and 118mg per day.

Professor Meyer, who has expertise in omega-3 fatty acids and their health benefits, said the findings are the result of conclusions that were reached at a Scientific Consensus Workshop held in Sydney earlier this year.

The workshop was born out of the need to better understand the role omega-3s have on children’s health in Australia, with panel experts all agreeing they require far more than current dietary intake research indicates. At the workshop, Professor Meyer and the other scientists analysed the body of evidence linking omega-3 nutrients to a critical role in the physical and mental wellbeing of children.

They are now calling on the Federal Government to set recommended dietary guidelines for intakes of long chain omega-3s at a level that will benefit the health of Australian children, saying that current recommendations are too low.

Scientific research is uncovering major roles for long chain Omega-3s in growth and development, cardiovascular disease, mental and behavioural health, diabetes and inflammatory diseases.

**For further information** or interviews: Contact Barbara Meyer on (02) 4221 3459 or e-mail bmeyer@uow.edu.au

**For details online** visit: http://www.omega-3centre.com/latestresearch.html
Dementia Research Flourishes in New Centre

Since the launch of the Eastern Australia Dementia Training & Study Centre (EADTSC) in July 2006 dementia research has flourished at the University of Wollongong. As well as securing project funding the Centre has attracted 9 new research students, undertaking Masters of Science - Research and PhD degrees, and employs 6 Project Officers. These research projects are multi-disciplinary and built on partnerships with a range of aged care providers and the SESIAHS and academic colleagues.

Being part of the Centre for Health Initiatives (CHI) and establishing the “Aged & Dementia Care” stream within CHI has enabled the new Centre to quickly establish itself as a leader in dementia research in the region. Long established partnerships built by the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences paved the way for this rapid growth of research projects. Topics include acute care of people with dementia, driving and dementia, the impact of the environment on physical activities of people with dementia, and understanding dementia in multi-cultural communities. These topics reflect national and international priorities for the care of people with dementia and their families.

Established partnerships across academic institutions and industry providers ensure the potential for the Centre’s research to have national and international relevance. The cohort of industry partners extend to Queensland and throughout ACT and NSW reflecting the responsibilities of the EADTSC to lead research across 3 States. Future academic partnerships with prestigious institutions including, the University of Manchester and University of Stirling, in the UK, and, in the USA, Jefferson University have been progressed through visiting professor programmes to the EADTSC. We look forward to presenting the findings of these projects in future issues of the FRC Newsletter.

News from iiMH

- Researchers from iiMH were involved in hosting a 3 day conference and 2 day pre-conference workshop program titled “International Conference on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Relational Frame Theory (RFT) and Contextual Behavioural Science”. This was held at UoW and attracted over 250 delegates predominantly from Australia and New Zealand. We were fortunate to have prominent presenters from the USA, Ireland, Sweden, and Australia. The success of this conference further strengthened the reputation of the small but active group of ACT researchers affiliated with iiMH and the School of Psychology (Powerpoint presentations from the conference are available on the ACT Research Group web pages at http://www.uow.edu.au/health/iimh/act_researchgroup/act-rtf-conference.html).

- In December iiMH affiliated researchers will be hosting the 2-day Australian Regional Group Meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research. The theme of the conference will be Evidence-Based Psychotherapy: Discovering the Effective Components of Change”. Keynote presenters will be, Professor Jacques Barber, Centre for Psychotherapy Research, University of Pennsylvania Medical School USA, who will talk on "The role of the therapist, the therapeutic alliance and techniques in outcome". Professor Mike Startup, University of Newcastle, Australia, will talk on "Therapist treatment adherence to, and client drop-out from, cognitive behaviour therapy for acute psychosis".

- Professor Frank Deane received a UoW Community Engagement Grant for Evaluating and capacity-building among members of the Lord Mayor’s Light and Hope Clubhouse for people with mental illness.

Presentations

Dr James (Jim) Joseph, held an impromptu seminar “Saving your brain from ageing” on Wednesday 12 September at the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences. This was a repeat performance of his presentation held at The University of Sydney the previous Monday.

Dr Joseph is lab chief at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Human Nutrition Research Centre on Aging at Tufts University and a former researcher at the National Institutes of Health.
Syndicate Projects

- The Smart Foods Centre, through the NCEFF partnership, has recently completed two Syndicate projects on the topics of Healthy Ageing, and Diabesity. The Syndicate project model for the Foods for Life program was developed in 2005 by Professor Linda Tapsell, Director of the National Centre of Excellence in Functional Foods (NCEFF, or ‘the Centre’) to provide an industry driven and commercially oriented arm to the scientific projects of the Centre. The model allows a number of companies to work together at a pre-competitive level. The inclusion of several companies provides the ability to leverage company co-investments and gain more research outputs for their investment dollar.

- Functional Foods for Healthy Ageing involved five food companies and included a science and market review, consumer insight research and product ideation followed by a technical and regulatory review of the product concepts. The Diabesity Attitudes Syndicate project included three companies and began with qualitative consumer research, the findings of which were used to develop a questionnaire that was implemented as a longitudinal study in Melbourne through the International Diabetes Institute. In both Syndicates the participating companies received considerable value from the research outputs, including:
  - An ability to work with other companies that they had not previously been in contact with;
  - Access to up to date expertise in the area of Functional Foods; and
  - A flexible environment that could be adapted to each company’s needs

National Award for Mental Health Research Team

UOW researchers from the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health, Professor Frank Deane, Dr Lindsay Oades, Dr Trevor Crowe, and Associate Professor Robert King (University of Queensland), were presented with a national award at the recent Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Services conference in Melbourne.

The award, presented by Senator Brett Mason, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, was in recognition of the Collaborative Recovery Model and Training Program.

This approach to mental health service provision encourages people with enduring mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia) to actively manage their health and wellbeing through identifying a recovery vision and systematically working towards goals using a structured action plan.

The research team has now trained over 700 mental health clinicians to deliver mental health services based on the Collaborative Recovery model developed at UOW and evaluated the effects of the program on individuals receiving treatment for mental illnesses.

It has involved collaboration with the University of Queensland and 10 government and non-government organisations in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

The program and testimonials from patients were recently featured in a special edition of “New Paradigm: The Australian Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation”. The research, supported by a five-year National Health and Medical Research Partnerships Grant, has attracted international attention and is due for completion in 2008.

Participating in International Biomechanics Conferences: Perspectives from BRL Research Students!

The biannual International Society of Biomechanics (ISB) Congress is the largest neuro-musculoskeletal biomechanics conference in the world. This year’s meeting was held in Taipei, Taiwan in the first week of July, and attracted over 900 participants, the largest academic conference to be held in Taiwan.

The Biomechanics Research Laboratory (BRL) was well represented by Professor Julie Steele, Dr Bridget Munro and PhD candidates John Whitting, Karen Mickle and Jasmine Menant. In the days leading up to the conference, a satellite meeting for the Footwear Biomechanics Group was also held, in which Julie was invited, together with German biomechanist Professor Ewald Hennig, to give the opening lecture on “The human foot from early child to adulthood”. Karen and Jasmine also presented some of their PhD findings.

The Taiwanese then welcomed the ISB attendants in spectacular fashion by holding the opening reception at Taipei 101, the tallest building in the world. After that, however, it was down to business with the next 4 days filled with up to 7 concurrent free communication sessions, 19 keynote presentations and poster sessions. There were additional learning opportunities with tutorials running on topics such as muscle mechanics and human locomotion. Furthermore, we were very privileged to have Professor Carlo De Luca, one of the leaders in the field of electromyography, give a very useful workshop.

Julie was invited to do an overview of research into landings, John presented some of his Honours research at his first international conference and Karen and Jasmine presented more of their PhD data. At the conclusion of this meeting, Karen and Jasmine then flew to the USA to present further findings at the International Society of Posture and Gait Research (ISPGR) held in Burlington, Vermont.

John would like to thank the following for awarding him student conference travel grants, making it possible to undertake this wonderful opportunity: ISB ($US1000); Faculty of Health & Behavioural Science ($2000) and UOW Research Student Centre ($750).
PhD candidate Katrina Weston-Green from the Neurobiology Research Centre for Metabolic and Psychiatric Disorders, School of Health Sciences, has been awarded a Post-Graduate Scholarship for Schizophrenia Research by the Schizophrenia Research Institute of Australia.

The grant of $23,300 will be used to fund her research into understanding the mechanisms behind the weight gain side-effect of some antipsychotic drugs used to treat schizophrenia. For example, Zyprexa (olanzapine) is an atypical antipsychotic drug that is commonly prescribed worldwide due to its effectiveness in treating otherwise antipsychotic unresponsive patients of schizophrenia and its reduced risk of extrapyramidal side effects. However, clinical studies show that Zyprexa can lead to excessive body weight gain, diabetes and metabolic disorders. Weight gain and obesity are major factors that determine non-compliance of patients to atypical antipsychotic treatment, which is a particularly difficult problem for schizophrenia patients as cessation of pharmacological treatment dramatically increases relapse rate by as much as 5-fold.

'We propose to identify key targets for anti-obesity therapy and develop a better pharmacological approach in hope to improve patient compliance and outcomes for those suffering schizophrenia', Ms Weston-Green said.

Professor Patrick Crookes and Mr. Roy Brown have been awarded a funding of $205,150 by The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education for ‘The development of an undergraduate nursing competencies assessment tool, for use across Australian Universities’.

The National Health & Medical Research Council on 25th September announced results for NHMRC Project Grants commencing in 2008. UOW researchers were awarded a total of $1.47M in funding for four grants, with a success rate of 22.2%. The following H&B staff were awarded the NHMRC grants:

- Dr Nadia Solowij and her team, Dr Murat Yucel, Dr Daniel Lubman, Dr Joseph Ciarrochi, and A/Pr Patrick Heaven.  
  **Project title:** Determining the cognitive sequelae of adolescent cannabis use: a longitudinal cohort study.  
  **Total funding:** $252,125.

- Prof Linda Tapsell and her team, Dr Marijka Batterham and Dr Karen Charlton  
  **Project title:** Is a higher intake of omega-3 fatty acids advantageous for weight loss?  
  **Total funding:** $458,750.

The Australian Research Council released 2008 ARC Discovery and Linkage Grants Scheme results on 26th September. The following H&B staff were awarded the 2008 ARC Discovery Grants:

- A/Professor P.C. Heaven; Dr. J. Ciarrochi; A/Professor T.C. Skinner and A/Professor W.J. Vialle.  
  **Project Title:** Predicting health, well-being, and educational success in emerging adults: An 8 year longitudinal study.  
  **Total Funding:** $236,000  
  **Project Brief:** This project will inform the community about factors that affect the psychological, physical, academic, and employment outcomes of emerging adults. It will improve our knowledge of why some young people do not reach their full potential. The project will provide a comprehensive assessment of factors associated with well-being across several domains. It will better equip and assist professionals to identify early those youth at risk of having poor psychosocial, health, and employment prospects post-school. The project will inform the development of intervention programs for young people and maximise their overall adjustment and well-being several years later.

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

1. Sue Liersch in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Indigenous Health, Division of Health and Behavioural Sciences was recently awarded a Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship to investigate less restrictive practices in acute mental health care.
2. Chao Deng has been appointed as an Editorial Board Member of *The Open Behavioral Science Journal* published by Bentham Science Publishers, USA.
3. Dr Dilip Ghosh has recently been made a Fellow of the American College of Nutrition. Dilip joined the Smart Foods Centre in June 2007 and is working in the area of regulatory affairs. His research interests include oxidative stress, bioactives, and functional foods.
4. Professor Patrick Crookes and Professor Julie Steele have been awarded national Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, which is an initiative of the Federal Government to support and reward excellence in teaching and learning. A delegation from the University, including the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, attended a ceremony in Sydney during August to celebrate the UoW citation winners for this year.
Plaque Presentation Acknowledges Rotary funding of key health-related research projects

Members of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) and Rotary Club Orange North at the University of Wollongong on Wednesday 22 August presented a plaque to UOW researchers to acknowledge the latest research being funded by Rotary at the University.

The ARHRF has funded two UOW projects within the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences’ Illawarra Institute for Mental Health totalling $72,135.

One of the research grant projects funded, involving Professor Frank Deane and Dr Trevor Crowe, is an evaluation of a residential program at the Salvation Army Endeavour House.

The 104-bed community house is located in Morisset (NSW) and accommodates people with psychiatric and substance use disorders. Researchers will evaluate the current program and clarify which components appear most helpful in order to make recommendations to improve the treatment program for those with complex mental health problems.

The other project is an evaluation of a recovery-based self help program for people with long-term mental illness and involves Dr Lindsay Oades and Dr Trevor Crowe. It is the first time the ARHRF has funded research grants at UOW.

The ARHRF is also jointly funding a PhD scholarship in cancer research in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Orange North and the Ian and Jean Simpson family, to the value of $75,000 over three years. The scholarship recipient, PhD student Kristie Munro is researching the importance of arsenic based anti-cancer drugs.

Kristie and her supervisor, Dr Carolyn Dillon, from UOW’s Department of Chemistry, are hopeful that within a decade the pioneering research will result in the development of much more powerful arsenic anti-cancer drugs.

Previous and current PhD scholarships funded by the ARHRF have been with Professor Anatoly Rozenfeld (Centre for Medical Radiation Physics) for PhD students Ian Kwan in 2005, and Nick Hardcastle in 2006, both in the area of radiation therapy for prostate cancer.

New Graduate Certificate Courses

The Centre for Health Initiatives (CHI) has introduced two NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATES which will commence in 2008, and a range of subjects will be available for Honours and HDR students who wish to undertake these as part of the Graduate Certificate or as stand-alone subjects.

Graduate Certificate in Social Marketing for Health

This course provides the skills required by students wanting to pursue a career in social marketing in a health related agency, or to pursue social marketing interventions as a practical way to approach a health problem. Subjects include:

CHIP911 Social Marketing for Health (Autumn Session)
GHMD930 Mass Media and Public Health (Autumn Session)
CHIP913 Social Marketing Practice (Spring Session)
CHIP912 Advanced Studies in Behaviour Change (Spring Session)

Graduate Certificate in Health Research

This course will equip students with a unique skill set to critically appraise health research, reflect on their own practice, build the knowledge and skills required to formulate and answer research questions, and undertake research if desired with appropriate supervision, support and feedback. Subjects include:

CHIP915 Essential Skills for Health Research (Autumn Session)
CHBC918 Critical Appraisal (Autumn Session)
CHBC919 Evaluative Research Methodology (Spring Session)
GHMB950 Reflective Practice 1 (Spring Session)

For further details on the subjects and/or courses, please contact Ms Louise Waters (Ph: 02 4221 5214; Email: lwaters@uow.edu.au)
Nursing database trial

The Library is currently trialling Nursing Resource Center from Thomson Gale Publishing. Designed for nursing students, it brings together disease and drug overviews, care plans, relevant journal results and animated anatomy and physiology diagrams. Please send any feedback on this resource to Alison Betts.

Follow the link from the Library homepage > Databases. Scroll down to the Trials listings

ScienceDirect – eBooks & ‘Hottest’ Articles!

A number of ScienceDirect eBooks have been added to the library collection covering Psychology and Health Sciences disciplines, including Handbook of Psycholinguistics and Encyclopedia of Foods. E-titles are included in library catalogue search results and listed in the monthly new book lists by faculty at http://library.uow.edu.au/ftlists/

ScienceDirect has also launched a Top25 Hottest Articles email service. For more information, visit http://www.info.sciencedirect.com/using/personalization/top25/

Conference proceedings - International

Trying to track down a paper from a recent or past conference? Access ISI Proceedings from Thomson Scientific (ISI), to search an index of papers from significant conferences, workshops and symposia. The ‘General Search’ includes search by topic, conference title or author.

Follow the link from the Library homepage > Databases > I > ISI Proceedings

For more information, please contact:

Alison Betts
Health & Behavioural Sciences Librarian
Phone: 4221 3536
Email: alison_betts@uow.edu.au

OR

Lucia Tome
Research Training Librarian:
Phone: 4221 3066
Email: lucia_tome@uow.edu.au
**List of Publications**

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<th>Journal Articles</th>
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<td>8. Jacobs DR, Tapsell LC, Food the fundamental unit in nutrition Nutr Rev (in press)</td>
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Conference Papers


9. Menant JC, HB, Munro BJ, Steele JR & Lord SR. What are the effects of a high heel-collar and a tread sole shoe on stopping over dry and slippery surfaces in older people. In Frederick EC & Yang SW (Eds), Proceedings of the VIIIth Footwear Biomechanics Symposium, Taipei, 27-29 June 2007; p 67.


14. Rahardjo, G., Huang, X., Tan, Y. Y. & Deng, C. The Role of Pyy and H1 Histamine ReceptorExpression in Chronic Diet-Induced Obese and Obese Resistant Mice. In 7th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience Conference Proceedings; Melbourne, Australia, 2007; pp 283.
Current Grants Opportunities as on 2nd October

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<td>15th October</td>
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<td>The Heart Foundation and beyondblue are partnering to fund research into the area of Cardiovascular Disease and Depression. These organisations are now calling for Expressions of Interest for research into this area. The Expression of Interest form is due 15 October 2007. Please advise Sharon Clarke on <a href="mailto:clarke@uow.edu.au">clarke@uow.edu.au</a> if you will be submitting an EOI. For 'Call for Application' &amp; 'Expression of Interest form' email either Sharon Clarke on <a href="mailto:clarke@uow.edu.au">clarke@uow.edu.au</a> or Ravi on <a href="mailto:ravi@uow.edu.au">ravi@uow.edu.au</a> For any other information, please refer to either Heart Foundation's website <a href="http://www.heartfoundation.org.au">www.heartfoundation.org.au</a> or beyondblue's website <a href="http://www.beyondblue.org.au">www.beyondblue.org.au</a></td>
<td>Sharon Clarke x 5815 <a href="mailto:clarke@uow.edu.au">clarke@uow.edu.au</a></td>
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Introducing.......

Hi, my name is Ravi Daga and I am the new Senior Administrative Officer at the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences. In my new role as the Senior Administrative Officer, I will be looking after Data Management, Research Management (including publishing of this newsletter) and Internationalisation for the Faculty. My association with the University of Wollongong goes back to 2000 when I came to UOW as an International Student from India in 2000 and completed my Graduate Diploma in Information Systems in 2001 and my Master of Information Systems (with Distinction) in July 2002. I started my employment at the Uni. from June 2003 as the Administrative Officer at the now known Woolyungah Indigenous Centre and was on a Secondment at Loftus Education Centre from February 2006 before taking my current position in the Faculty. I recently graduated with Master of Business Administration degree. I am based in the Faculty Office in room 237. I can contacted by phone 4221 5988 or by email ravi@uow.edu.au. For comments on this newsletter please feel free to send me an email or come and see me in the Faculty Office in room 237.

NEXT EDITION OF THE FRC NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DEC’07– JAN’08 PERIOD. IF THERE IS ANY NEWS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE FRC NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL IT TO ME AT ravi@uow.edu.au.