The major recognition of success in Australian science comes annually with the Prime Minister's Science Award (formerly the Australia Prize) and the Science Minister’s Prize for Australian Life Scientist of the Year. This year the latter was awarded to Dr Jamie Rossjohn, an outstanding structural biologist within the Faculty, and one of Australia’s leading medical scientists who will play a major role in medical aspects of Synchrotron Science at Monash in the future. In his acceptance speech Jamie paid tribute to the exciting intellectual environment in which he works at Monash.

The Prime Minister’s Science Award was presented to Professor Graham Clark, who is well noted for his development of the bionic ear. Professor Clark, whilst primarily Melbourne University based, has had long standing collaborations with colleagues at Monash and has been actively involved in our MBBS parents group. His work has alleviated deafness in over 50,000 children worldwide, and he ranks as one of Australia’s greatest medical scientists.

The Dean’s - Alumni Lecture Series has continued with an excellent lecture by Professor David de Kretser on the topic of male infertility. This is an area where David and his group have led the world in recent years with major contributions both to understanding etiology and management in this area. Dr Sally Cockburn compered a panel discussion after the lecture which addressed many interesting issues.

The importance of the Faculty’s founding professors has long been acknowledged internally, and a decision was made to recognise their contributions with the unveiling of an Honour Board, which will take place early in 2005. It is often said that the founding professors and their commitment to excellence both in medical research and medical education has made the Faculty at Monash what it is.

The Medical Foundation Board was re-invigorated over the last few months with the appointment of a new Chair, Mr Rod Chadwick, and of several new Board members including Mr John Dammery from Sydney, Dr Jack Hansky and Mr Lionel Krongold. Rod is committed to building strong links between the Faculty Foundation, its alumni and the general benevolent and business communities.

Several exciting initiatives will be developed over the next few years to further enhance the educational and research excellence of the Faculty. Rod is an outstanding individual and we are very lucky that he has agreed to act as Chair of the Foundation.

Two major educational developments occurred since our first newsletter. The University Council has approved the delivery of an MBBS program in Malaysia. Student enrolment will commence in 2007 in Malaysia, with medical school campuses in Kuala Lumpur on the Monash Malaysia campus, and in Johor Bahru, centered around the Sultana Amina Hospital. This will be the first development of this type by an Australian university and will provide unique opportunities for both educational and research engagement with Malaysia and our other ASEAN neighbours.

A decision was also made to proceed with professional health sciences courses at the Peninsula campus, which will become a health sciences precinct. A diploma in health sciences will be offered next year, with enrolment in physiotherapy, occupational therapy and a combined health sciences and social work degree the following year. These new degrees will offer Monash unique opportunities to develop a multi disciplinary approach to aspects of health training and also to develop world class physiotherapy and

continues on page 2

Readers’ contributions to this newsletter are welcomed. If you have news you’d like to share with your colleagues, forward hard copy to: Alumni Office Building 64 Clayton Campus Wellington Road Monash University Vic 3800 or email: alumni@med.monash.edu.au Contributions should be no more than 200 words and should relate to the interests of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, its students, graduates and staff. Whilst every effort will be made to run readers’ contributions, we reserve the right to evaluate content for suitability, and to edit content where necessary.
School of Biomedical Sciences

The School of Biomedical Sciences was created in January 2001. It comprises the five biomedical sciences departments of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Pharmacology, and Physiology, and the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences. The School teaches in six undergraduate degrees and more than half of its students are enrolled in the Faculty of Science.

Head of School, Professor Warwick Anderson said the School was especially proud of the successful introduction of the Bachelor of Radiography and Medical Imaging, which, in its short life had already gained a reputation for excellence. In 2003, one of its students, Ms Elissa Griffiths, won the prestigious Shimadzu 21st Century Prize for the most outstanding radiography graduate in the country.

Professor Anderson said he was gratified by the number of graduates he has met in Melbourne and throughout Australia who commented on the great experiences they had as undergraduates in the School.

The School currently has approximately 65 academic, and 190 research staff and about 70 technical and administrative staff. Approximately 480 undergraduate and honours students are currently enrolled in its courses in the medical faculty. Professor Anderson said the School faced a number of challenges because to its size and complexity, including the need to streamline its teaching effort across its courses, the need to enhance the attractiveness of science education to school leavers, and the need to meet increasing competition in research, both nationally and internationally. Professor Anderson said that these challenges were compounded by the problem of insufficient infrastructure. He said the School was housed in some of Monash’s oldest buildings which were “not fit for modern sciences”.

However, it is a long way from doom and gloom in SoBS. Professor Anderson rates the excellent quality of its students, and a strong and rapidly growing research output, as key strengths of the School. He anticipates that the School will benefit from the growth in “big science” funding through the cross disciplinary approach, and he sees a rapid growth in commercialisation development as indicators of ongoing success. Professor Anderson credits the Faculty’s commercialisation team in large part for the remarkable increase in the pace of commercialisation of the School’s research.

Even the laboratory space problem is being addressed with a case for STRIP accommodation and the establishment of a “Monash University Biomedical Institute” being worked out. “We are aiming high”, said Professor Anderson. “Why shouldn’t Australia’s next Nobel Prize winner come from Monash?”

Professor Anderson has put out a call to anyone interested in helping further develop the faculty’s reputation as the leading biomedical teaching and research faculty in Australia to get in touch. He can be contacted on 03 9905 2501.

School of Nursing

What a busy year we’ve all been having! High on the calendar of events for the School this year was the highly successful “Working Life” conference which was held at Monash’s Malaysia campus in Kuala Lumpur, and more recently, the Palliative Care Nursing Research Conference which was held in historic Prato, Italy. The palliative care conference was a collaborative venture between King’s College (London) and Monash. Excellent keynote addresses were presented by Professors Joan Bortoff (University of British Columbia), Margaret O’Connor (Monash) Dame Jenifer Wilson-Barrett (King’s) and Alison Richardson (King’s). The conference not only provided an opportunity to further cement relationships with colleagues at King’s, but also afforded an opportunity for clinicians and scholars to meet, interact and exchange ideas about moving palliative care policy, practice and research forward in a collaborative way.

At the invitation of staff at Mildura Base Hospital, the School recently held an information session, on the hospital premises, to gauge public interest in the Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Rural Health Practice course in the region. Following overwhelming support from both potential applicants and a number of health care agencies within the region, the School plans to commence the course in February 2005. It is planned to deliver the course on-site in Mildura, in association with Monash’s rural clinical school located at the hospital. The clinical school is currently engaged in teaching medical (MBBS) students and the introduction of a nursing program will provide opportunities for greater interaction and collaboration between medical and nursing students. Discussions have occurred to establish a framework for joint teaching in areas such as clinical skills, therapeutics, communication and cultural studies.

Ed Byrne

Executive Workshop

Each year the Faculty’s Executive holds a two day workshop to consider planning and budgetary issues facing the Faculty over the short to medium term. The Faculty Executive comprises the Dean, Associate Deans, Heads of Schools, Faculty Manager, and a small number of additional nominees. Regular meetings of this group are held twice a month.

This year’s Faculty Executive Workshop was held on Monday 23 August and Tuesday 24 August at Lindenderry Conference Centre at Red Hill.

The major topics discussed were as follows:
- Each associate dean and head of school’s ‘vision’ for their area of responsibility within the Faculty;
- A range of specific topics from matters such as issues arising from the commercialisation of intellectual property, to quality issues and student clinical placements; and
- Proposed initiatives to be funded from the Faculty’s 2005 operating budget.

Outcomes of the Workshop are included in the Faculty’s operational planning and budgetary discussions for the following year.

Janet Kemp
Faculty Manager

Tony Barnett
Head of School
Head of Rural Health appointed

Professor Geoff Solarsh was recently appointed head of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences’ School of Rural Health. Geoff is a paediatrician who prior to coming to Monash was Professor of Maternal and Child Health at the University of Natal in Durban, a position he had held since 1995. In the course of the past 30 years Geoff has worked in the fields of clinical paediatrics and community child health at all levels of the South African health care system.

He completed his undergraduate medical training at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and his postgraduate specialty training in Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Cape Town.

During 12 years in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health in Durban, Geoff’s innovations in service and teaching models - linking clinical practice with epidemiological and public health perspectives - earned him a distinguished teacher’s award for community-based medical education from the University of Natal.

Also during this time he co-ordinated a successful consortium bid by three regional universities that resulted in the establishment of the Africa Centre for Reproductive Health and Population Studies, an international research centre for sub-Saharan Africa, based in a rural area north of Durban and concerned with interventions to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

For one year he served as acting director of the Centre, and was principal investigator (PI) of one of the Centre’s foundation projects, establishing a demographic and health information system in a rural population of 80,000 people.

Together with an American partner, he was co-PI on a Fogarty International Centre research training grant to develop research capacity in maternal and child health in sub-Saharan Africa.

Prior to leaving South Africa Geoff was PI on a National Institutes of Health planning grant to study developmental disabilities in a time of AIDS.

His main interests continue to be in the field of community-based medical and health science education, primary health care systems and child health in under served populations.

CMHSE officially opened

The Centre for Medical and Health Sciences Education was officially opened on August 19 by the Honourable Peter McGuaran MP, local member for Gippsland and Federal Minister for Science.

Nearly 150 Monash students, staff and invited guests attended the opening, which was held in the first floor foyer of the CMHSE building, affording guests a front-line view of the new facilities.

Mr McGuaran congratulated the faculty on its foresight in establishing the Centre. He said that education of doctors, nurses and other health professionals had improved over time and that continued advancement would come from finding better ways of educating students.

“We are now at a stage where we know what we teach is vital,” he said, “but how we teach is just as important”.

He said Australia had a deserved reputation as an innovator in education and that the Centre would bolster that reputation by conducting research into how we train our health professionals.

“It may not necessarily be front page research”, he said, but it is “immensely important research” that would ultimately lead to great benefits for the patient.

Mr McGuaran’s words echoed the remarks made earlier by Professor Richard Larkins, vice chancellor of Monash University, whilst recalling his experiences as a medical student.

Professor Larkins said that past expectations of medical education was of students’ compulsory attendance at mass lectures, of learning passively and of tuition which bore little relevance to clinical medicine, dissection being the only practical element.

He said that whilst recent developments in medical education had been fantastic, they had occurred without much evidence and that there was much yet to learn about evidence based medicine.

Professor Larkins said that the Centre would contribute to that knowledge by trying different ways of teaching and learning, by putting an evidence base to medical education and by integrating technology, clinical medicine and practical science.

At the conclusion of formal proceedings guests were invited to view a specially developed student exhibition, which included demonstrations and displays that showcased the facilities and learning environment.

Thank you

Staff of the Centre for Medical and Health Sciences Education wish to thank Paragon Systems, which kindly donated a 40 inch plasma display screen (worth $9,300) especially for the official opening of the Centre.

Those who attended the opening would have noticed the Centre’s promotional DVD playing on the screen during the proceedings.

Paragon Systems sales manager Mr Tony Tesoriero, said that he was proud of Paragon’s long standing association as a preferred supplier to Monash and that the donation of the plasma screen was to give something back as acknowledgment of that relationship.

Professor Brian Jolly, the Centre’s director, said the plasma screen would take up residence as a teaching resource after its official duties at the Centre’s opening.

From left: Tony Tesoriero and Penny Votsaris both from Paragon Systems, Peter McGuaran MP and Brian Jolly, in front of the plasma screen which was donated to the Centre by Paragon Systems.
Monash success in 2005 NH&MRC program grant funding

Of nine National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) Program Grants awarded to Victoria for commencement in 2005, five were awarded to Monash University’s Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; more than was awarded to any other research facility in the country.

The success of the Monash bids means that nearly $27m will flow into the faculty over the next five years, to support a range of projects in line with the NH&MRC’s research priorities.

A summary of the successful Monash projects appears below:

The remaining four Victorian grants were shared between the University of Melbourne, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, St Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research and the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute.

The faculty conveys its congratulations to the project teams and wishes them every success in their research efforts.

The interface between innate and adaptive immunity

This program aims to understand the molecular and cellular mechanisms controlling airway inflammation, focussing on the cross-talk between scavenger cells at airway surfaces and circulating cells of the immune system. Understanding these processes will translate into better treatments for patients suffering from life threatening allergy and asthma.

Professor Robyn O’Hehir, Associate Professor Gary Anderson, Professor John Hamilton, Associate Professor Jennifer Rolland

Control mechanisms of reproductive processes

This program will investigate reproductive problems that affect the fertility of men, prostate cancer and the way the mother nurtures and protects the baby during pregnancy. It will investigate the way in which sperm are produced, the genes that are needed to control their development and the way sperm propel themselves and fertilise the egg: how sperm are protected from infection and immunological rejection during their development and the processes involved in the development of prostate cancer.

The work will provide new knowledge that may assist in the development of tests to identify whether a prostate cancer is slow or fast growing.

The grant will investigate how a group of proteins, that are also involved in the control of processes discussed above, assist the mother in protecting her baby during pregnancy. The outcomes will assist in the management of disturbances of pregnancy that may put the foetus at risk.

Professor David de Kretser, Professor Gail Risbridger, Professor Milton Hearn, Associate Professor Graham Jenkin, Dr Mark Hedger, Associate Professor Euan Wallace, Dr Kate Loveland, Dr David Phillips, Dr Moira O’Bryan

Malaria: from target identification and therapeutics

A project which aims to develop new therapeutic approaches to control one of the world’s major infectious diseases. Recent developments such as the complete sequence of every malaria gene provide an unparalleled opportunity to use a number of powerful new techniques in biology to identify vulnerabilities in the parasite that may be targeted.

Success in this program has the capacity to save millions of lives by preventing the deadly toll of this human scourge.

Professor Ross Copple, Dr Brian Cooke, Associate Professor Magdalena Piebianski, Professor Mark von Itzstein

Novel therapeutic strategies to reduce the burden of chronic heart failure

This project aims to develop novel strategies for the prevention and treatment of chronic heart failure. It will investigate new targets for pharmacological therapies, evaluating whether common co-morbid disease states such as diabetes alter the efficacy of these therapies, and the role of stem-cell therapy in this setting. The program will also evaluate the contribution of non-heart failure drugs to the burden of heart failure, determine the impact of rurality on prescribing for this condition and explore systems of optimising delivery of best practice in the community.

Professor Henry Krum, Professor Richard Gilbert, Associate Professor Sylvia Itescu

Pathogenic mechanisms of inflammatory diseases

This program will investigate the molecular and cellular events that are responsible for inflammation in the kidneys, joints and blood vessels that lead to diseases such as glomerulonephritis, arthritis and atherosclerosis. It aims to find new therapeutic targets that may be specific to certain organs or disease processes, in order to develop more effective and selective treatments of chronic inflammatory disease in humans.

Professor Stephen Holdsworth, Associate Professor Peter Tipping, Associate Professor Eric Morand, Dr A Richard Kitsoning, Dr Michael Hickey


Research News

Accolades for faculty alumni, students and staff

It has been a highly auspicious year for the faculty community, with many alumni, staff and students receiving highest praise and public distinction for contributions in their chosen fields. Although it isn’t possible to acknowledge every achievement individually, the faculty extends its congratulations to everyone who received highly-deserved recognition for their endeavours. In recent times, the following distinctions were conferred:

Professor Paul Zimmet AO MD PhD FRACP FRCP, received the UNESCO Helmut Mehrnert Award for outstanding contribution to the world’s knowledge of diabetes.

Professor Alan Truonson MSc PhD, was awarded the Bertarelli Foundation Award in Reproductive Health for outstanding contribution to the field of assisted reproductive technologies.

Professor Jock Findlay was awarded the U. K. Society for Endocrinology Dale Medal, which recognises his contribution to reproductive endocrinology.

Dr Jamie Rossjohn was awarded the Science Minister’s Prize for Life Scientist of the Year. (Read the Monash Memo article on Dr Rossjohn’s award at http://www.monash.edu/news/monashmemo/stories/20040908/award.html)

Sixth year MBBS student Ms Farnaz Sabet was named Victorian Rhodes Scholar for 2005 - the fourth consecutive Monash student to receive the scholarship and the third Medicine student to receive it in the past four years. (Further details at http://www.monash.edu.au/news/releases/nov04-rhodes.html)

Final year Bachelor of Radiography and Medical Imaging student, Ms Elissa Griffiths (2003), won the Shimadzu 21st Century Prize for the most outstanding radiography graduate in Australia.

We intend to make recognition of outstanding effort by faculty staff, alumni and students a regular feature of this newsletter. If you’d like to share your achievements, or you’d like to nominate someone you know whose efforts deserve recognition, email a brief description to alumni@mmed.monash.edu.au and include your contact details.
New faces, fresh approach for Monash Medical Foundation

The Monash University Medical Foundation was established in 2001 to be the vehicle that co-ordinates and supports fundraising activity in the faculty. Although the Foundation has been hard at it determining priorities and initiating a suite of worthy projects, its achievements have tended to stay out of the spotlight. That is about to change however following the recent appointment of the Foundation Board’s first external chair, Mr Rod Chadwick.

Mr Chadwick believes that action, creativity and sustained effort will raise the Board’s profile and ultimately determine the Foundation’s success.

A long time director and chief executive officer for Pacific Dunlop Ltd before retiring earlier this year, Mr Chadwick has enjoyed a very successful business career. “I am not a medical man”, he said, “so I am enormously grateful for the warm welcome, support and guidance of the Dean and the other Board members. Having been in the corporate world, I can hopefully contribute an understanding of fundraising from the other side of the fence”.

Mr Chadwick is quick to pay tribute to the previous Board, its subcommittees and working groups. He said an enormous amount of work had been done in the past three years establishing the Foundation and managing the current projects, which, amongst others, included the Vivian Bullwinkel Memorial Fund, the Eric Glasgow Memorial Fund and the Prevention of Child Abuse campaign.

“One of the reasons I decided to accept the chairmanship”, he said, “was the energy and passion the existing members had for the Foundation”.

Mr Chadwick was formally appointed to the chair at the Board meeting of 18 August 2004, where a number of new members were also inducted. They include Mr John Dammery, who is a leading identity in the pharmaceutical industry and who will take on the role of vice chair of the Board, Dr Jack Hansky, Mr Lionel Krongold and Professor David Copolov.

Mr Chadwick believes the Board has established a good balance between academic, medical, business and media representation. He said the goal now was to harness all that expertise and target a sustained fundraising effort toward achieving its potential. “The challenge for the Board” he said, “is to think creatively about what might encourage big business to give to the Foundation.”

Although philanthropy, by definition, is rooted in altruism, Mr Chadwick is mindful that the “what’s in it for me” way of thinking still influences corporate donors to a large extent, particularly as boards of directors have to justify their actions to their shareholders. “That’s where creativity comes in”, he said.

“On the surface, you wouldn’t think an oil company, might be all that interested in donating to medical research. But oil companies operate in many different parts of the world, including in underdeveloped countries where a variety of diseases are not well managed or understood. In that light oil companies may well have a big interest in supporting a healthy, productive, and therefore profitable workforce.”

“The challenge for the Board is to find the ‘hook’ that will appeal to donors and use it to get a foot in the door”. Though details are confidential for the time being, Mr Chadwick said that already some exciting initiatives where being pursued, which, if successful, would ensure that the faculty remained in the forefront of medical education.

Whilst Mr Chadwick is eager to focus on action and outcomes, the new Board has also spent time reflecting on its roles. With a body as large and complex as the faculty, and with the breadth of research being undertaken, inevitably the lines between philanthropy and commerce will become blurred. That’s why Mr Chadwick believes it is important that the Board becomes a close relationship with the faculty’s commercialisation unit and develops a thorough appreciation for its activities. Though the two bodies may have different functions, there is considerable potential for the activities of each to complement the other.

“Ultimately”, he said “both groups keeping an eye out for opportunities that may be of interest to the other can only be of benefit to the faculty”.

In addition to a busy ‘retirement’ - he is still a consultant to, and director of various businesses here and overseas - Mr Chadwick also manages to indulge in a number of passions involving family and sport. He is a keen gardener and enjoys jogging, tennis and swimming, he says, “when time permits”.

It bodes well then, for the Foundation, that its new chair is an energetic man, who is fuelled by creativity and intent on action.

Read more about the Monash Medical Foundation, its projects and its people. Visit: www.med.monash.edu.au/foundation

The Development and Alumni Office farewells Ms Janine Barrett, who left the faculty recently to pursue a career in television production and event management. Thanks Janine, for all your efforts supporting the Foundation Board and its project committees. We welcome Ms Meredith Cameron, who is an experienced public relations practitioner, on secondment to the Office from elsewhere within the faculty. Meredith has ‘hit the ground running’, supporting the newly refreshed and revitalised Board.
Jenny Downes-Brydon, MBBS 1985

What drives a person to give up their time, resources and energy to help others? Clearly, the motivator behind Jenny Downes-Brydon, is a basic desire to make the world a better place.

A quintessential quiet achiever - she lists mum to two teenaged children, general practitioner, mentor, educator, consultant and even footy trainer amongst her many activities - Jenny recently returned from a stint as a volunteer medic o in Awala Village, a remote community of around 27,000, not far off the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea’s Oro Province.

In living conditions she describes as “unimaginable by western standards”, Jenny and son Greg, then 11, joined in a Mentone Grammar School field trip designed to broaden students’ views on life and community.

Although commodity poor, existing with no fresh water; no power; lighting by kerosene lamp, and only when essential, the people of Awala Village have astonished scores of Mentone Grammar students with their generosity, orientation toward family and community spirit.

For the past two years Jenny has given advanced first aid training to the teachers attending the field trip. In early 2004 however, when Greg had reached year 7, Jenny went along as a participant and witnessed first hand how a large proportion of the world’s population lives.

Jenny recalls the medical services in the village were virtually non-existent and the hygiene conditions appalling. There had been no doctor in the community for over 2 years. The average weight of an adult woman was 47kg and the average weight of newborns just 2kg. The maternal death rate was as high as 55 in 1000 live births and, whilst nobody could say exactly how old they were, life expectancy didn’t seem to stretch much beyond 60.

According to Jenny, the “medical centre” in which she worked made a public toilet look like a luxury hotel, complete with stained walls, unkempt since independence in the mid 70’s; no running water, light, or medicines (except a few old vials of chloramphenicol); “no bedding; in fact nothing except the spirit of the community health officers who kept the doors open without funding”.

Some pretty crude medicine was practised in those conditions and the case that overwhelmed Jenny most was the 19 year-old who’d delivered her third baby, at home, 60km from the medical centre.

“The breech delivery had taken place at 5 am. She had been unable to deliver the placenta by traction on the cord held between her toes. She had bled heavily and the family correctly decided she needed help. She presented to us at midnight after a trip across a river in a tyre, and a 40km journey in a wheelbarrow pushed by her family. She was unconscious, unrecordable BP. By the light of the moon, we got a drip running (I had taken some limited supplies with me). She survived till morning when we finally got a PMV (public motor vehicle) to stop. The last I saw of her, she was clinging to fellow passengers on the PMV, one holding the IV bag. I don’t know whether she survived the two-hour journey to town. I wondered if they had more resources than I did.”

In conditions like these it would have been easy to become disheartened, yet Jenny also found “a place where people tolerate discomfort and work on despite conditions; who support each other, their families and their community, sharing the few resources they have.”

“Whilst in PNG”, she said “I at last felt as though the efforts I made did make a difference. I just did what I could because the something I did was better than the nothing that would have been done if I hadn’t been there.”

Inspired by the experience, Jenny returned to Melbourne determined to do what she could to help improve conditions in Awala Village.

Already, Mentone Grammar has awarded a four-year scholarship to an Awala villager, who will be trained in skills desperately needed in the village. His living expenses whilst in Melbourne will be met by parents of Mentone Grammar students.

Jenny said there were at least three other youths in the village who had shown leadership potential and for whom a scholarship could be awarded if funding were available.

As well as the scholarship program, Jenny is involved with a number of projects for which she hopes to gain general community support. She said plans to provide culturally sensitive aid included: training “nurses” (locals who have time to care for others) in sterilising, personal hygiene, public health and up skilling in obstetrics and gynaecology; taking over condoms and providing education in safe sex; delivering female-health information - sanitary products, safe handling, hygiene, diet etc; teaching and assisting in the development of safe disposal strategies; educating about safe water supply, run off and collection; assisting with farming, especially with tools for vegetable and rice production, and methods for growing high nutrition crops; helping to develop sustainable protein sources; and; organising medical specialists willing to do occasional visits to get the “hospital” functioning - gynaecologists to insert Mirena IUD, paediatricians, infectious disease specialists, ophthalmologists, surgeons, and so on.

Jenny would love to hear from anyone in medicine, or more broadly involved in health care, or, who may just have an interest in making the world a slightly better place, to help get these projects started. Contact Jenny on 03 9783 2111.

“It is true”, she said, “that 80% of the world’s population live like this.” But rather than see the problem as insurmountable, Jenny feels that a difference made for even a handful of people, and a bit of hope given to a few more, will ensure that no effort is wasted.
Alumni News

News, Events, Reunions, Activities

From the Chair: A Monash Medical Alumni Update

Most medical graduates of Monash University will be aware of the recent demise of the Association of Monash Medical Graduates (AMMG).

With the passing of the AMMG, which was an independent, formally incorporated, fee based, member's body, a gap was created in the opportunities for medical alumni to get together, interact and participate in social and professional activities.

This gap has been filled by a voluntary committee of medical graduates, known as the Monash Medical Alumni Group (MMAG), which is working closely with the medical faculty to ensure that the Monash medical fraternity remains engaged and strong. Thanks to initiatives of the group membership becomes automatic for all medical graduates without the need to register and submit fees.

The group is considering ways to further promote our alumni and recently has helped organise a number of reunions and other activities. The very gifted graduates of 1984 celebrated their 20th anniversary this year with nearly 80 people attending. Earlier in the year the inaugural medical alumni golf day was held successfully, thanks to the efforts of Professor David Healy.

Two further tangible initiatives have been the organisation of the Deans’ Alumni Lecture Series and the production of this newsletter. Our recently appointed dean, Professor Ed Byrne, is very supportive of the alumni and has encouraged the regular production of the newsletter which is edited by George Petrides, the Alumni Development Officer, who can be contacted at the Faculty Office on (03) 9905 9329.

The lecture series has been initiated by two very distinguished presentations, namely the Rod Andrew Oration which was titled Big lessons from smallpox: Bioterrorism and emerging infections and was given by Emeritus Professor Frank Fenner at the Clayton campus; and Genetics of Male Infertility: Errors transmissible to the next generation which was given by Professor David de Kretser at Monash Medical Centre.

A driving force behind the planning, supervision and chairing of these lectures has been Medical Precinct: the old haunts of long-lost colleagues. It seems that 20 years - 2005

To view the old haunts from Jill Robertson at alumni@med.monash.edu.au or fax 03 9387 8331.

1984 reunion

After 20 years, there was still no difficulty in recognising and enjoying the company of long-lost colleagues. It seems that 20 years has treated the 1984 graduates kindly. Our table voted itself the “most unchanged”, however, I think every other table did the same.

The reunion took place at the old haunts back on campus at Clayton. Dinner was preceded by a tour of Medical Precinct: the Anatomy Museum where the aroma remains evocatively unchanged, we marvelled at tales of just how much - or how little - anatomy the new course requires; the old lecture theatres, and the toilets (severe disappointment to find the art of graffiti has really hit rock bottom). A few graduates had a snooze in Padua Theatre just to relive past scenes; and then to the Biomed Library, now conveniently minus any sign of books but wonderfully redecorated as a learning centre.

Dinner was at Wellington’s in the Union Building. Fortunately everyone seemed to remember where that was! Chunnie had collated a wonderful photographic series, which rolled on throughout the evening, reminding us that perhaps we all had matured somewhat over the past two decades.

It’s such a great way to spend an evening. Perhaps we need to celebrate again at 25 years?

Sally Middleton

Upcoming Reunions:

1970, 35 years - May 14, 2005

The 35th anniversary reunion of the 1970 MBBS graduating class is planned for Saturday 14 May 2005 at the Windsor Hotel, Melbourne. Reunion organising committee Jill Robertson, Peter Nottle and Philip Sturrock would like to invite all 1970 graduates to come and celebrate 35 glorious years. Further details forwarded closer to the date, but please mark 14th May 2005 off in your diary now! Further information available from Jill Robertson at lintonpi@netspace.net.au or fax 03 9387 8331.

1985, 20 years - 2005

Jenny Downes-Brydon will soon begin contacting 1985 graduates, with a view to organising next year’s 20 year reunion. Graduates from the 1985 class who would like to be part of the organising committee can contact Jenny at mudandchicken@netspace.net.au or fax 03 9783 2766.

1986, 20 years - October 2006

Karen Pice and Chris McCormack are organising the 1986, 20 year reunion, for 7 October 2006. They propose a formal night out with/without partners on the Saturday night in Melbourne, followed possibly by a recovery BBQ in the physiology courtyard at Monash with partners and children. A tour of the new medical buildings is also proposed.

Chris has the nod from Adam Janz for reuniting the (in)famous med band “The Blunt Probes”, although auditioning might be necessary!

Stay tuned for further information, and any alumni willing to offer technical assistance and contact tracing, please contact Karen at karenprice@werestreet.com.au and/or Chris at chris@mydermatologist.biz.

Don’t miss out - update your details.

Graduates who have changed address, or who simply want to confirm that the alumni office has your current contact details, can fax the contact details form at the back of this newsletter to the alumni office on fax (03) 9905 4302, or can telephone (03) 9905 9329, or email alumni@med.monash.edu.au.
**Name this Newsletter Competition**

Thank you everyone who submitted entries in our Name this Newsletter competition. We will be announcing the winner in the next edition.

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**Great Deals on Acer Notebooks**

Need a new notebook? Want to get it at a great price?

The Faculty, in conjunction with Acer and Volante has come up with a great deal on new notebook computers.

The deal includes: Discounted price on Acer notebooks (due to Acer's education subsidy)

A 3-year extended warranty on some models (nearly all retail shops offer a 1-year warranty and charge between $180 and $300 for extended warranties) Optional insurance against accidental damage/loss or theft.

The deal is available to all Faculty students, staff and alumni.

For notebook specifications, further information and an order form, go to http://notebook.med.monash.edu.au/acer.cfm

**Note** Although this arrangement is endorsed by Monash University, the purchase agreement is between the purchaser, manufacturer (Acer) and reseller (Volante). All purchase and service enquiries should be directed to Acer/Volante and not to the University.

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**Calling all Monash Medical Alumni in General Practice**

Monash University is keen to recruit GP teachers for 2005.

Teaching allows you to:

- review basic knowledge and skills,
- hear about the latest developments in medical practice,
- give something back to the profession,
- gain CME points for the new triennium.

Students who are provided with positive experiences in General Practice may be more likely to consider it as a career - important given current GP shortages. They gain a more realistic view of community illness than they do in hospitals.

Most GPs make good teachers, despite lacking formal teaching skills – after all, we teach patients every day. Patients are usually pleased to have a student present.

Remuneration through the Practice Incentive Program has recently increased to $100 per student per ½ day session. CME points are awarded at the rate of 1 point per ½ day teaching session.

Having a student in your practice takes time, but there are a number of strategies GPs can use to deliver beneficial learning experiences while minimizing disruption to the consultation schedule.

In 2005 you can help with teaching Monash students by:

1. Taking a 4th year student, 1 day per week for 8 or 16 weeks
2. Taking a 6th year student for 4 days over a 2 week period, one or more times for the year.
3. Taking a 1st year student for a ½ day session, one or more times for the year.
4. Encouraging your GP colleagues to get involved!

For further information, please contact

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867 Centre Rd, East Bentleigh 3165.
Ph: 8575 2208
E: carol.lawson@med.monash.edu.au

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**Keep Us Informed**

Have you moved, or are you about to move? Keep us informed of your new contact details so we can continue to deliver this newsletter.

Simply photocopy this page, fill in the information and fax to (private fax) 03 9905 4302, or go to www.monash.edu.au/alumni/faq/address.html to update your details online.

Title ___________________________ Given Name ___________________________ Surname ___________________________

Year of graduation ___________________________

Preferred Contact Address __________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________ P/Code ___________________________

Is this your home or business address? _______________________________________________

Preferred contact telephone number ___________________________ Preferred contact mobile number ___________________________

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