

Newsletter (Spring 2011)

Centre for Human Anatomy Education (CHAE)



MONASH University



It is now just over 18 months since I took on the role as Director of the Centre and this is the second CHAE Newsletter. It is timely that we update the Newsletter to coincide with the 50th Anniversary celebration of the *Department of Anatomy & Developmental Biology* which is to be held on Nov 10th.

Staff News:

New Senior Lecturer/Assoc Prof position in 2012

As described in the last newsletter we were approximately 1.6 staff down from 2010 levels. However, the department has now been given the go ahead to advertise for a new Senior Lecturer/Assoc Prof. We will be looking for a 'Teaching and Research' academic and hope to attract someone able to augment what is already a diverse and talented team. Several research areas have been highlighted as ones that we would like to boost.

2012 'Demonstrators' (Assistant Lecturers). Interviews for these positions have been held and a short list of the eight best candidates from a very competitive list of applicants has been drawn up. Several of the 2011 demonstrators have expressed a strong desire to continue to work in 2012 and several others who are continuing to interact in a research capacity with the Centre even although their contracts have now expired is an encouraging sign of the good working environment.

Assoc Prof Norm Eizenberg joins an elite of named 'Education focused' academics at Monash University. Norm has recently been successful in his application to join this special restricted classification which to date has only around 100 academics at Monash. This is recognition of Norm's continued focus on matters relating to anatomy education and it is excellent recognition of his work in the Centre since 2009.

New PhD Students

It is anticipated that the Centre may be joined by 4-5 new PhD/Masters candidates in 2012. These will be joining Dr Colin McHenry's group and working in the very exciting area of computational biomorphology as applied to humans and other vertebrates.

Facilities/Infrastructure

Prosections

Prosectors will be employed again over the summer break to continue our program of prosection renewal. We will also be commencing several new schemes where professional trainees (plastic surgery, ENT) will be spending time preparing prosections.

Plastination

We are experiencing multiple problems with having a laboratory equipped to house our planned plastination facility. Regulations regarding Health and Safety are slowing progress and may make this venture much more costly than originally envisaged. I hope that we can stick to our goal of having the best plastination lab in the country as it will allow us to teach more effectively and supply material to our other campuses such as Peninsula and Gippsland.

Coolroom/Refrigeration

We have ordered 6 large refrigerated cabinets to house prosections. Currently there is no refrigeration for prosections or cadavers. We hope to upgrade our cadaver storage system in due course.

Centre Review

The Centre underwent its first review in August 2011. The panel consisted of both internal Monash Academics and an external reviewer. They met with CHAE staff, members of the CHAE Advisory Board, various other stakeholders and student groups. The resulting report was a strong endorsement of the CHAE and its recent progress. This report is now progressing through the various levels of Monash University committees to eventually be considered by Academic Council. The report will be on the updated CHAE website: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/anatomy/info/centre.html>

Recent Grants/Publications:

There will be a full update of these in the next Newsletter in 2012 as many grants in the 2011 round have still to be announced but to date there has been some good news.

Wall of Fame

A tableau or montage of previous demonstrators in the Department will be on display at the 50th Anniversary celebrations. It has taken some time to uncover, digitize and revitalize the photographs of previous generations of demonstrators dating back to the early 60s. We hope the new tableau will fill the corridor adjacent to Glasgow rooms 6 to 9.

Teaching in Practice

Below are a series of photographs taken during an anatomy class where body painting was used to teach year 1 medical students the size, position, relations, shape and borders of the heart. As you can see the 'Glasgow Courtyard' provided an excellent venue on a rare Melbourne spring afternoon.

