MONASH University
Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

# Staff and Alumni Newsletter

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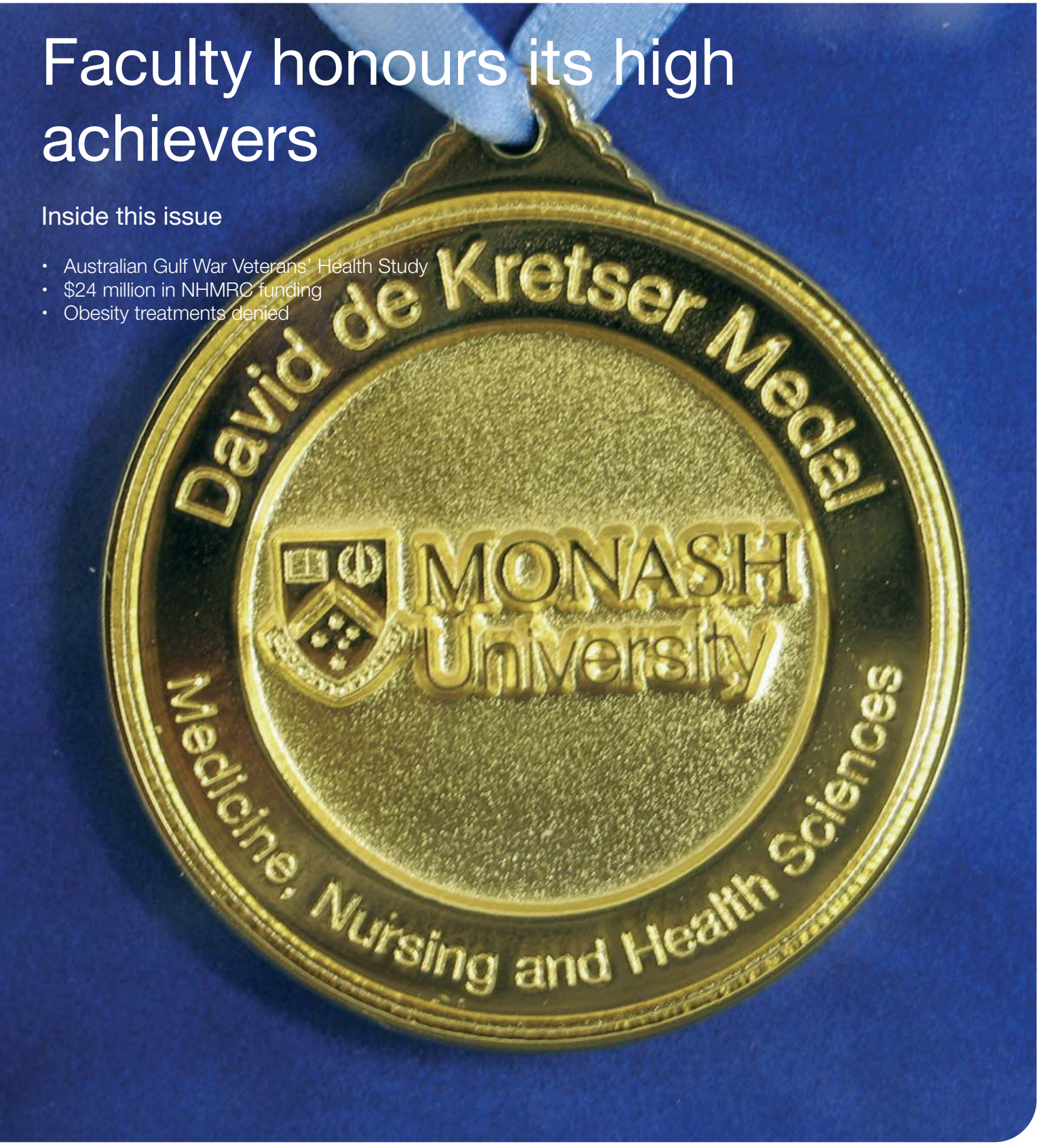
# Faculty honours its high achievers




## Inside this issue

# From the Dean



We welcome readers' contributions to this newsletter. If you have news you'd like to share with your colleagues please forward hard copy to:

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or email: *alumni@med.monash.edu.au*

Contributions should be no more than 200 words and should be relevant 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.

This year has been one of the most challenging and exciting years in the history of the faculty. During the last four decades the faculty has grown from a school of medicine, offering one major degree, the MB BS, to an integrated health sciences activity, offering courses in almost all of the key health science disciplines. There are almost 100 undergraduate and postgraduate degrees or diplomas now offered through our faculty and this year has seen two of the most exciting new initiatives in the teaching area in the faculty's history advance significantly.

Firstly, outstanding progress has been made in the establishment of the departments of physiotherapy, occupational health and health sciences at the Peninsula Health Precinct. An increasingly major activity for the faculty in the years ahead, the Peninsula Health Precinct will give us new opportunities in interdisciplinary education and in new research areas. The Healthy Ageing research plan that is being developed around the Peninsula campus is particularly exciting in that regard. The faculty will take considerable pride in having graduates in these new disciplines who will expand the reputation for excellence that Monash University already has in the health area.

The second major initiative which has been developing for some years but which has seen accelerated progress over the last year is the development of our Malaysian medical school. This has been established as part of our faculty in Melbourne, and will offer Monash University's five-year degree. An outstanding leadership team in Malaysia led by Head of School and Malaysian Dean, Professor Anuar Zaini and Professor of Medicine, Professor Khalid Kadir, has already been set in place, and a number of supporting appointments made. The Australian Medical Council has agreed on a process to take forward accreditation of the Malaysian school, and there will be opportunities for all departments of the faculty to engage closely with colleagues in Malaysia, thereby increasing our opportunities to embed a truly international aspect into both teaching and research. Malaysia is very short of medical graduates, and this new initiative will contribute significantly to the medical workforce in that country and in the region in the years ahead.

The faculty has long had a reputation for research excellence, but over the last decade has become an absolute powerhouse in medical and health research in Australia. We have obtained almost a third of the NHMRC program grants awarded since the scheme began, and this year were successful in obtaining a major ARC Centre of Excellence grant in the Department of Microbiology. The research income of the faculty this year will be over $70 million – most of it from competitive grants. This represents over half of the research income of the university. Major advances over the last year have included the establishment of the Monash Institute of Medical Research, bringing together most university research on the Monash Medical Centre campus, and a decision by the university to move ahead with STRIP 2 and 3 buildings at the main Clayton campus, which will eventually house the Monash University Biomedical Institute. We have also seen exciting developments on the Alfred campus, with further consolidation of the university's involvement in the now well established AMREP development.

We cannot rest on our laurels in research, and will have to continue to work as a faculty to grow research excellence in new departments with the aim that they all reach a top three rank in their discipline within the next five years. We will also have to continue to grow research in our areas of established excellence with more active mentoring and encouragement to ensure that the great majority, if not all academics, become research active; that we will continue to build effective scale and capacity across disciplines; and that we look to recruit new stars, both early in their career and already established. If we continue as we have been, and I see no reason why we should not, there is no doubt that Monash will be regarded as Australia's outstanding biomedical research university within the next five years, and our opportunities of making a significant contribution internationally will be further enhanced.

One of the things that distinguishes the Australian university sector from the American one is that the great American universities have a much better established benevolent funding base, which supports many of their strategic initiatives. In recent times, the faculty has strengthened its Foundation Office with the recruitment of the new Executive Director, John Allen, who will work closely with the university's Vic-President of Advancement, Ron Fairchild, in further developing a benevolent funding base.

All students, staff members and alumni should feel justifiably proud of how well the faculty is doing at the present point in time and not hesitate to bring that to the attention of the world at large!

Finally, I would like to thank our staff, both general and academic, for helping to contribute to an outstanding year. I would like to extend my own best wishes and those of the faculty, to our whole faculty community, students, staff and alumni, for the holiday period. I hope 2005 has been a good year for you all and that 2006 will be an even better one.

Ed Byrne

## Cancer expert to direct Monash Institute of Medical Research

One of the most accomplished cancer experts in the US, Professor Bryan Williams, will take up the directorship of the Monash Institute of Medical Research from January 2006.

Professor Williams (pictured) is chairman of the Department of Cancer Biology at the Lerner Research Institute of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, a position he has held since 1991.

The Monash Institute of Medical Research is an initiative of Monash University and Southern Health. The institute's acting director, Professor Adrian Walker, said Professor Williams was a well-credentialled researcher who would be an exceptional leader and advocate for the institute.

"Bryan's outstanding abilities will enhance the institute's growth and prominence in research," Professor Walker said.

"His extensive skills will aid our partners in the Monash health research precinct and the university to achieve goals in both medical and biotechnology research. He is a worthy successor to the outgoing director and institute founder, Professor David de Kretser."

Professor Williams has a distinguished history in cancer research. He has worked in New Zealand, England, Canada and America, specialising in the molecular biology of tumour suppression, and focusing on the role tumour suppressor genes may play in regulating cell growth, cell maturation and programmed cell death.

He is internationally recognised for his research on Wilms Tumour – a cancer of the kidney that primarily affects children – and for studies on the protein kinase R, an important cellular signalling molecule.

Monash Dean of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Professor Ed Byrne, said Professor Williams' appointment was an exciting development for Monash and Victoria.

"Professor Williams is one of the most outstanding scientists to be recruited to Australia in recent times," Professor Byrne said.

"This institute is already well positioned on the world stage in a number of areas, including reproductive biology. As well as providing outstanding leadership for the institute overall, Professor Williams will bring a new research strength in the field of cancer biology. Undoubtedly, under his direction MIMR will continue to go from strength to strength."

Professor Williams said he was honoured to accept the directorship."The institute already has an enviable world-ranking in research, and I will be privileged to work with the staff to take it forward to the next phase," he said.

Professor Bryan Williams

## Boost for trauma training

Paramedic training at Monash has been boosted with the launch recently of the RACV Trauma Simulation Complex at the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies.

The complex, located on the Peninsula campus, contains a dedicated trauma simulation site with vehicles and high-tech mannequins that can mimic the physical signs of distress people may exhibit during a road accident.

Monash trains about 200 student paramedics in emergency healthcare each year. The head of academic services at the centre, Mr Mark Chilton, said the complex would provide in-depth training to students on site, using the sophisticated mannequins in simulated road trauma scenarios.

"It is vitally important that paramedic students receive training in situations that are as close to real life as possible," Mr Chilton said. "This complex will allow students to experience how a road trauma might progress, providing skills in dealing with multiple medical issues."

The complex will focus on simulated motor vehicle accidents but can include features that might be associated with other accidents such as those involving pedestrians, bicycles, tractors or ladders.

"The mannequins are as close to real life as you can get," Mr Chilton said. "They are designed to facilitate the real-life health complications of road trauma. Students can practise a range of techniques including patient handling, immobilisation, ventilation and administering an IV without causing harm."

The mannequins' features include carotid, radial and brachial pulses, replaceable skin and veins, the ability to set systolic and diastolic blood pressures and to respond to electrical and oxygen therapy. "The key to the complex is that the simulations allow for error and hence provide a valuable teaching and learning tool," Mr Chilton said.

The $50,000 complex has been part-funded by a $20,000 RACV Sir Edmund Herring Memorial Scholarship. The centre has provided the rest.

From left: BEH Student Olivia Mackie-coop, Karen Zaleski (Seconded Officer) and Brad Cummins (SES) practise their skills at the new simulation centre.

## Visiting Windermere Fellow outlines road map for improving cancer care

The School of Nursing and Midwifery was proud to host this year's Windermere Foundation Visiting Fellow, Professor Alison Richardson.

The Windermere Visiting Fellowship, a prestigious award funding projects that add to existing activity to further develop health care in Victoria, was granted to the School in 2004 to "bring to Melbourne a renowned nurse at the cutting edge of cancer and palliative care to contribute to the development of health care in Victoria".

Professor Richardson, who is professor of cancer and palliative care nursing at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery at King's College London, spent the month of November in Melbourne, arriving just in time to see Makybe Diva's historic win in the Melbourne Cup.

As part of her month-long visit talking to palliative care services, government and practitioners, Professor Richardson also delivered the Dean's Special lecture on 2 November, which was titled Creating a Culture of Compassion: Developing supportive care for people with cancer.

Professor Richardson spoke of her research into the landscape of cancer care and, with an emphasis on the role of nurses within it, put forward key areas for improvement.

Professor Richardson said that supportive care could be conceived as an umbrella term for all services, generalist and specialist, that may be required to support people with cancer and their carers. She said that in this atmosphere of super specialisation, she did not consider supportive care to be a distinct speciality, but the responsibility of all care professionals.

At the core of care is the patient, and Professor Richardson identified four key problems which led to failure in provision of supportive care; patients' needs going unrecognised; relevant services not available or not planned for; care professionals not accessing relevant services; and, poor communication and co-ordination failing to bring maximum benefit.

Professor Richardson proposed the road map to better supportive care included five areas of focus: Rigorous and regular assessment; team work; integrated cancer care; partnerships with patients; and, evidenced-based care.

Professor Leon Piterman, deputy dean of the faculty, thanked Professor Richardson for an excellent and thought-provoking presentation, and in doing so, paid tribute to the role played by nurses in delivering domiciliary palliative care to our community.

He said palliative care nurses had "identified a need that no other member of the health professions was prepared to fulfil and with dedication, commitment, humility and kindness they have for the past two decades dispensed care to the dying in our community.

"Let me share a memorable anecdote with you", he said. "Fifteen years ago when I was still in substantially full-time practice, I was looking after a patient who had terminal bowel cancer. She was in and out of hospital with recurrent bowel obstruction. Her wish was to only survive another four weeks to see her grandson turn 21.

"I consulted the palliative care nurse who was visiting her at home, who suggested I might try a regular dose of cortisone tablets. There was no literature on this but she had seen it work before. I started my patient on cortisone. She stayed out of hospital for the next eight weeks, drank champagne at her grandson's 21st and was one of the most grateful patients I have had, despite her ultimate death 12 weeks later.

"Having mastered the craft of palliative care the nursing profession is now turning its attention to research and academic development. If the contribution to scholarship by people such as Alison Richardson is any indication, we take comfort in the knowledge that the future of palliative care is in good hands", he said.

A transcript of Professor Richardson's lecture is available on the website at *www.med.monash/.edu.au/alumni/cancer-care-transcript.html*

## Administration news

This year has been a year of consolidation for administration within the faculty. We leave 2005 with school managers in place in all schools. These are significant administrative roles in this faculty, with managers responsible for annual budgets of up to $50 M. In addition, the following units have either been established or strengthened to provide support to our growing faculty:

- The International Education Implementation Unit, which is supporting the introduction of the medical course into Malaysia and Sharjah
- The Research Project Development Unit which is involved in managing major research project submissions and proposals
- The Foundation Office which has widened its brief in terms of communications and events management

Managers have been appointed at faculty level to oversee marketing of our teaching programs to all prospective students, both local and international, and to manage our undergraduate student administration with a projected teaching load of almost 7000 equivalent full-time students.

A self review and external review of the faculty are planned for early 2006, with the Australian Universities Quality Audit visit scheduled for September 2006. The faculty review follows a number of individual activity reviews already completed or in train which cover our major areas of teaching, research and research training.

The faculty currently has just under 1600 full and part-time staff and is projecting total income of close to $280 M in 2006. We are expecting a busy year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff and our alumni best wishes for the festive season and for 2006.

Janet Kemp

## Leading MS researcher joins stem cell laboratories

Monash's focus on stem cell science has expanded to include multiple sclerosis, following the appointment of prominent immunologist Professor Claude Bernard to the Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL).

Professor Bernard (pictured) and members of his research team joined the laboratories in September, working alongside leading stem cell scientists Professor Alan Trounson and Associate Professor Richard Boyd.

Professor Bernard is internationally renowned for his research into the underpinnings of MS and the development of new therapies for people with the disease. Only a handful of researchers worldwide are looking at the use of stem cells in repairing damage to the brains of people with MS.

Professor Bernard, who is foundation director of the Neuroimmunology Laboratory in the Department of Biochemistry at La Trobe University, said the move to Monash provided a tremendous opportunity to bring his team's knowledge of MS together with the expertise of other groups within the university.

"My focus is to develop MS research in a number of areas, using the many talented scientists at Monash to provide a multidisciplinary response to auto-immune diseases," he said.

Professor Bernard's appointment has attracted supporters from outside the Monash community who are keen to contribute to his research work (see story on page 7). They include a donation of $20,000 from the private human research ethics company Bellberry Ltd. Bellberry is a not-for-profit organisation that provides an independent Human Research Ethics Committee to help process human research trials.

Bellberry director Professor Malcolm Mackinnon said demand for the review of human research through public hospitals was high, placing a large load on public hospital human ethics committees.

At a function at the Science Technology Research and Innovation Precinct recently, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Professor Ed Byrne, welcomed the Bellberry donation and congratulated Professor Bernard on his appointment.

"Multiple sclerosis is the major cause of neurological disability in younger Australians," he said. "Professor Bernard is a world-renowned researcher in this field, and we are grateful that a company that is clearly providing a revolutionary new way to assist innovative research in this country has chosen to support his work."

Vice-chancellor Professor Richard Larkins said it was great to have a neuroimmunologist of Professor Bernard's stature coming to work in the innovative and exciting environment of the laboratories. Professor Larkins also thanked Bellberry for its donation.

## Monash wins $24 M in NHMRC grants

Monash's Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences researchers have been awarded more than $24 M in the latest round of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grants, announced in mid October.

The funding will support 35 projects, 14 research fellowships and four career development awards.

Nationally Monash was fourth behind the universities of Melbourne ($42,704,750), Sydney ($31,313,298) and Western Australia ($27,186,979).

Deputy vice-chancellor (research), Professor Edwina Cornish, said she was pleased with the university's performance, which was an increase of almost $10 M on last year.

"There are some terrific success stories in these results," Professor Cornish said. "Our researchers are to be congratulated on their efforts."

The successful projects are listed in the following table (*right*):

- The impact of Tai Chi in delaying the onset of disability among older people
- Microtubules in nuclear transport
- How brain cells analyse the visual scene
- A network of brain areas involved in the analysis of visual space
- Kisspeptin regulation of reproduction
- Regulation of platelet adhesion by the GPIbalpha cytoplasmic tail
- New signal regulating enzyme
- New assessments of clinically significant sleep disordered breathing in children
- Novel T cell oncogenes derived from a cDNA library screen
- Regulation of insulin signalling and glucose homeostasis
- Regulation of TNF and SFK signalling
- Lipid rafts, amyloid neurotoxicity and Alzheimer's disease
- Identifying the source of oxyradicals in high blood pressure
- Modifying mother's diet to protect baby's brain
- Liver and Angiotensin Converting Enzyme-2
- Signalling to telomeres: mechanisms of action of TGFb
- New therapy for gram-negative superbugs
- Regulation of uterine blood and lymph vessel growth
- Establishing how bacterial toxins cause the disease known as Buruli ulcer
- Lead and cancer
- Factors causing brain injury in sleep
- Exploring the physiological, morphological and molecular bases of renal development programming
- The course of emotional and behavioural problems in young people with intellectual disability
- Adolescent obesity: non-surgical management versus surgical management
- Brain oxygenation in preterm infants
- Health effects of drinking rainwater
- Health effects of using recycled water in domestic laundries and recreational parks
- Identification of novel colonisation factors in Helicobacter pylori
- The effect of weight loss in the risk of knee osteoarthritis and potential modification by biomechanical factors
- Opposing effects of angiotensin in cardiovascular disease and aging
- Eph:ephrin interactions during tumor progression
- Regulation of cleavage of receptor ligands in tumour cells
- Investigation of blood cell interactions involved in vessel wall maintenance
- Study of a new interferon protein that maintains pregnancy and prevents infection
- STAT1 and STAT3 in inflammation and cancer

# Australian Gulf War Veterans' Health Study

A Monash research project, the Australian Gulf War Veterans' Health Study, has been awarded the 2005 Victorian Public Health Award for Research Excellence.

The award was presented to principal investigator, Associate Professor Malcolm Sim, on behalf of the research team, by the Minister for Health the Hon Bronwyn Pyke at a ceremony on 8 November.

The study was funded by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs and was the first comprehensive health study of an entire group of Australian war veterans involved in a single theatre of war.

Awarded in part on the criteria of strategic partnerships, the study involved a large collaborative effort which included colleagues from the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, Health Services Australia, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Public Health at the University of Western Australia and others.

The study investigated the physical and psychological health of 1871 Australian veterans of the 1991 Gulf War compared with a control group of Australian Defence Force personnel who were operational at the time of the Gulf War but who did not deploy to that conflict.

Recruitment and data collection began in 2000 and was completed in 2002, each participant completing a postal questionnaire and submitting to a comprehensive medical assessment at one of ten Health Services Australia clinics around Australia.

Health outcomes investigated through the study included psychological, respiratory and neurological health, symptoms and medical conditions, chronic fatigue syndrome, reproductive health, mortality and cancer.

The study also investigated whether health effects in Gulf War veterans were associated with medical, chemical and environmental exposures or stressful military service experiences that may have occurred during the Gulf War deployment – some exposures being unique to the Gulf War, such as taking pyridostigmine bromide (PB) tablets and exposure to smoke and oil from burning oil wells (SMOIL).

The study found that the most striking and consistent health finding was that the Gulf War veteran group had developed more psychological disorders than the comparison group; including post traumatic stress disorders, anxiety disorders, depression and substance abuse. However, though the impact on psychological health could not be fully explained as representing a "deployment effect", the study concluded that the psychological health, and some aspect of physical health differed significantly from defence force personnel who were not deployed to the Gulf War.

The completed report and recommendations formulated from the results are available from the Department of Veterans' Affairs webpage at *www.dva.gov.au/media/publicat/2003/gulfwarhs/index.htm*

The study findings have also been disseminated through nine published or in press papers in the scientific peer review literature, with more papers submitted or in preparation, and many presentations at national and international public health and military health conferences and forums. The findings have also assisted in developing mental health policy and programs in the Department of Defence.

More information about the Monash study team and its ongoing veteran health epidemiology research program is available at *www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/oeh/veteranshealth.html*

From left: Dr Harry Schwarz, Health Services Australia; Dr Deborah Glass, Monash University; Assoc. Prof Andrew Forbes, Monash University; The Hon. Bronwyn Pike, Victorian Minister for Health; Dr Helen Kelsall, Monash University; Ms Jill Blackman, Monash University; Assoc. Professor Malcolm Sim, Monash University; Mr Dean McKenzie, Monash University.

# City of Darebin / MS Research Fundraising Ball

During an impassioned speech in which the personal tragedy of living with MS was highlighted, Cr Diana Asmar, Mayor of the City of Darebin, vowed to strive to rid the world of this devastating disease.

Speaking at the Cr Diana Asmar, Mayoral Fundraising Ball in Support of MS Research, held on Saturday 19 November, Cr Asmar pledged the proceeds of the evening's event toward finding a cure for MS.

MS or Multiple Sclerosis is a neurological disorder which is most commonly first diagnosed in young people aged between 20 – 25 years. Its symptoms vary in number and severity, but may include muscle weakness, loss of vision, fatigue, pain, cognitive impairment and premature death.

Cr Asmar said that when she was diagnosed five years ago, doctors told her she would be in a wheel chair within two years and in a state of paralysis thereafter. Though she is still active – she works as a full-time health services union industrial officer in addition to her Mayoral duties – she said the unpredictable nature of the disease has had a devastating impact. "Like any MS sufferer I have to live with the uncertainty of when the next attack will occur and how badly it will affect me", she said. "Day to day, I do not know if it will be the last day that I will be able to walk, see or feel properly."

Characteristically optimistic, Cr Asmar said that she would not let MS determine her future and that she was grateful for the love and support of friends, family and work colleagues who made the unknowing bearable. She also said she was proud to use her position and influence as Mayor of Darebin Council to highlight the scourge of MS and ultimately to find a treatment and cure.

Cr Asmar donated the entire proceeds of the $75,000 raised at the Mayoral Fundraising Ball to further the groundbreaking work being conducted by Professor Claude Bernard and his research team at Monash University's Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories.

Professor Bernard, who joined Monash in September (see story on page 5), said he was both impressed and humbled by the commitment shown by Cr Asmar and the 450 guests who attended the Ball. He said his team had made some exciting advancements in the search for a cure for MS, and that the donation would greatly speed up the development of better treatments.


Cr Asmar presents the donation cheque to Professor Bernard

Already, work has begun on a brain protein which may hold the key to unlocking better therapies for MS. Called NOGO, the protein is known to inhibit nerve regeneration and, in animal studies, Professor Bernard's team has been able to generate an immune response against NOGO, thus neutralising its effects and promoting repair of damaged brain tissue.

Professor Bernard said his team was keen to develop this line of research for application in humans.

If you would like to make a donation to the Diana Asmar MS Research Fund at Monash University, please visit the website: *www.monash.edu.au/giving/asmar.html*

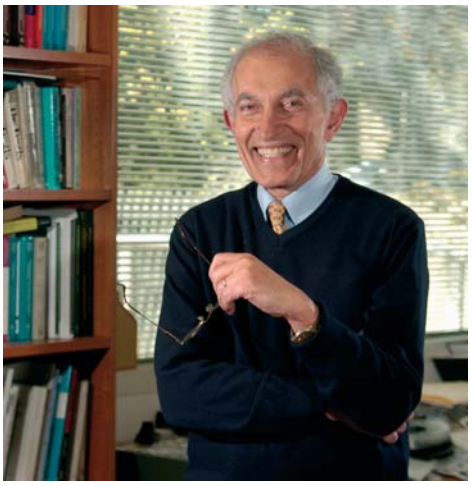
'... his team had made some exciting advancements in the search for a cure for MS...'

Above: Professor Claude Bernard

Below: Medical students help out at the Ball

Professor Fiona Stanley

Professor John Murtagh



Professor David de Kretser

# David de Kretser Medal and Lifetime Achievement Medal presentation

Monash's Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences is pleased to announce the establishment of two awards which acknowledge individual's contributions to the faculty and to medical science generally. The awards, which will be conferred under the auspices of the Monash University Medical Foundation, are designed to honour people at the highest level of achievement.

Named in honour of Professor David de Kretser – whose links with the faculty stretch back to 1969 when he received his MD from Monash – the David de Kretser Medal will be awarded annually to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to any area of the faculty's operation over a significant period of his or her working life.

The Lifetime Achievement Medal will be presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution – nationally and internationally – to human health and well being.

Both the David de Kretser Medal and the Lifetime Achievement Medal were presented at an inaugural function on 6 December at the Monash Conference Centre in Melbourne in the presence of Lady Marigold Southey AM, Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, and many other luminaries from medicine and academia.

Dean of the faculty, Professor Ed Byrne, said he was pleased to be able to acknowledge the dedication of talented people in such an auspicious way, and was delighted that Faculty Board had agreed to name one of the medals in honour of David de Kretser.

"David has been one of the faculty's most significant contributors in a field comprising many talented academics, researchers and practitioners", he said. "He has had a long and productive association with the faculty spanning more than three decades and he has been one of our most prolific, pioneering researchers. His groundbreaking work on human reproduction and development and his tireless efforts as director of the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development, and more recently Monash Institute of Medical Research, have given a special legacy to our faculty community.

"I can think of no more appropriate person, one who so aptly epitomises the spirit expressed by this award than David de Kretser, which is why we are so proud to name the award in his honour".

The inaugural recipient of the David de Kretser Medal is Professor John Murtagh AO, a graduate of the first MB BS class in 1966, and a teacher and mentor to successive generations of students who followed him.

Professor Murtagh's many accomplishments include exceptional contribution to the education of general practitioners and author of the seminal text *General Practice*. Although in retirement, he is still active in the Department of General Practice and continues to deliver the general practitioners update course annually.

Professor Murtagh said it was a wonderful occasion and thanked the faculty and the Medical Foundation for awarding him a "very special honour". He paid tribute to Professor de Kretser whom, he said, "was an outstanding scholar who also happens to be a very nice guy", as well as to the many colleagues who held a special place in his "extraordinary journey".

Recalling the early days of Monash, Professor Murtagh said he and his peers were branded as radicals. Amongst other antics, he recalled marching on parliament and, at one time, turning the hose on in the vice chancellor's foyer. He said he feared that the Monash reputation would jeopardise his medical placements.

Those fears proved unfounded as forty-odd years on, Professor Byrne described Professor Murtagh's achievements as an "absolutely outstanding contribution to Monash University and Australian and international medicine."

The inaugural Lifetime Achievement medallist is Professor Fiona Stanley, whose passion for the health and well-being of children, and her drive for providing children a healthier future, have earned her the distinction of being the first Lifetime Achievement medal recipient. Professor Stanley's many achievements include the foundation directorship of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Western Australia and

From left: Professor Ed Byrne, Dean of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; David de Kretser Medal recipient Professor John Murtagh; Lady Southey, Lieutenant Governor of Victoria; Lifetime Achievement medal recipient Professor Fiona Stanley; and Mr Rod Chadwick, Chairman of the Monash University Medical Foundation.

the discovery of the role of folic acid in preventing spina bifida in babies. Professor Stanley was voted Australian of the Year in 2003 and was made a Companion in the Order of Australia (AC) in 1996.

Professor Stanley said she thought it was "rather gorgeous" that a West Australian was selected for this award. She paid tribute to the many people, some of whom were present at the award ceremony, who had supported her in her career, and who had convinced her of her worth as a researcher, committee member and lobbyist. "You are amazing mentors", she said, "You were all incredibly helpful". She said the medal was a tribute to all the incredibly hard working people who have helped, and who continued to help, in building a world class research facility in Western Australia.

In closing the evening's proceedings, Professor Byrne noted that a little history had been made. He said an honour board would be hung in the faculty to commemorate the recipients. "In one hundred years people will still be adding names to the Board", he said.

The faculty congratulates both worthy medal recipients.

## De-hospitalising psychiatric patients needs rethink: psychiatrist

Australia needs to rethink its policy on dealing with mental illness and introduce more psychiatric hospital beds, Monash University Professor of Psychiatry David Copolov told a symposium on 11 October.

Speaking at the Advances in Mental Health Research symposium at Monash during Mental Health Week, Professor Copolov said there had been many good reasons, including humanitarian reasons, for the reduction of psychiatric hospital beds when Australia and other developed countries started the de-hospitalisation of people with mental illnesses in the 1960s.

However, it was time for Australia to rethink this policy, he said.

In the mid-1960s Australia had 30,000 psychiatric hospital beds. This number dropped to just under 6000 by 2002 as state and territory governments tried to reduce the stigma of mental illness by increasing the availability of community care and integrating psychiatric beds into general hospitals.

But Professor Copolov said evidence now suggested the culling of psychiatric beds had gone too far.

"This evidence includes bed occupancy rates close to 100 per cent with the added difficulty of not admitting patients unless they are a danger to themselves or others and the very high rates of psychiatric illness among the homeless and prisoners," he said.

"This, and the substantial increase in the number of people being imprisoned – a 50 per cent increase since 1985 – or becoming homeless attest to the fact that the policy of radical de-hospitalisation in the public psychiatric sector needs to be seriously revised."

Professor Copolov said there were examples of specialist hospitals in other areas of healthcare, which provided high standards of care, teaching and research that should be used as models for mental health care.

"Modern specialist public sector psychiatric hospitals should be built next to general hospitals in order to deal with the current major psychiatric bed shortages to ensure there is a critical mass of clinicians and researchers and to address the general medical needs of psychiatric patients," he said.

‘This is the only proven method of weight loss for severely obese patients, and yet it is not available to those who need it most.’

‘... the culling of psychiatric beds had gone too far.’

## Public patients denied effective obesity treatment

Public hospital patients are often denied access to one of the most effective forms of weight loss treatment – Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding (LAGB) surgery, a Monash expert says.

In an article published in the latest Medical Journal of Australia, the director of the Centre for Obesity Research and Education, Professor Paul O’Brien says LAGB is the most effective treatment for obesity, resulting in improved health and better quality of life for patients, including the reduction or eradication of hypertension, diabetes and asthma.

However, obese patients are being discriminated against on the grounds of their economic status, with uninsured patients having poor access to treatment, he says.

"This is the only proven method of weight loss for severely obese patients, and yet it is not available to those who need it most," he says. "Our public hospitals are failing to offer appropriate care for the severely obese in the community."

More than 20 per cent of Australian adults – an estimated 2.6 million people – and seven per cent of teenagers are considered obese. Obesity is more prevalent among low socio-economic groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and rural women.

Although prevention is the preferred method for tackling obesity, hospitals and governments need to seriously consider treatments such as LAGB surgery to stem the growing levels of obesity in the community, Professor O’Brien says.

His research team has treated more than 2700 people using LAGB since 1994.

With Associate Professor John Dixon and Ms Wendy Brown, Professor O’Brien has assessed the treatments and interventions for obesity including lifestyle changes, drug therapy, endoscopic procedures and surgery. Although lifestyle changes seem simple to prescribe, the researchers have found it is very unlikely to achieve sustainable outcomes. Bariatric surgery provides the most effective treatment currently available, they say.

Professor O’Brien says the medical community needs to push the public hospitals to recognise the morbidity of obesity, the options for effective management, the impressive health benefits that are achieved by weight loss and the role surgery can play in overcoming obesity.

# Honours, awards and prizes

## College medal for the Dean

Professor Ed Byrne, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, has been awarded the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' John Sands Medal for 2005.

The John Sands Medal is awarded to Fellows of the RACP who have made outstanding contributions to medicine in Australia and New Zealand and contributed to the welfare of the College.

After graduating in medicine from the University of Tasmania in 1974 Professor Byrne undertook physician training, specialising in neurology and obtaining his Fellowship in 1980. After spending four years in London he returned to St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne and was appointed director of the Department of Neurology in 1987. Through successful clinical practice and promotion of research objectives, he contributed significantly to advances in neurosciences and was appointed director of the University of Melbourne Centre for Neuroscience in 2000. In 2001 he led the successful team establishing the National Neuroscience facility supported by Commonwealth and Victorian State Governments. He joined Monash University as Dean of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences in 2003.

In her citation, the President of the RACP, Associate Professor Jill Sewell, encouraged Fellows to "follow Professor Byrne's example of dedication and enthusiasm to provide opportunities for development in the Australian healthcare sector, while delivering a higher standard of service to the community".

Professor Byrne received his award at a ceremony held at the RACP in October 2005.

*Article contributed by:*
*Assoc. Professor John Wilson*
*Chair – RACP Victorian State Committee*

Professor Byrne accepts the medal from Associate Professor Sewell

From left: Ms Janet Kemp, Faculty Manager; Mr Craig Wetjen, Web Development Manager and Professor Richard Larkins, Vice-Chancellor.

## Vice Chancellor's Awards

Two of the faculty's administration staff – Faculty Manager, Ms Janet Kemp and the faculty's Web Development Manager, Mr Craig Wetjen – have been awarded the vice-chancellor's award for exceptional performance.

The awards recognise sustained contributions made by general staff over a three-year period that exceed the normal requirements of their positions.

Ms Kemp, who has been in the faculty for ten years, and in the role of faculty manager for the past six, said she was honoured simply to be nominated for the award. She said as the functions of the faculty had expanded, the number of administration staff had grown significantly, and that the support of the staff contributed greatly to her enjoyment of the job. "I think we now have the best mix of staff, across all areas, at faculty level and in the schools and departments", she said.

Mr Wetjen, whose award recognises the ongoing development of the university's web content management system, said the award belonged to his team that worked together and supported the individual members. "This is what made us stand out", he said.

At the award ceremony on 2 December, vice-chancellor Professor Richard Larkins paid tribute to all award winners saying that the remarkable academic achievements of the university could not have been possible in the absence of exceptional support staff.

## MIMR staff awarded

Eight staff from the Monash Institute of Medical Research have received awards for their research efforts.

- PhD student, Ms Rachael Chan, was awarded a Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Shering 75th Anniversary Research Grant of $15,000, which she will use to investigate endometrial stem cells using technology she has developed in the Centre for Women's Health Research.
- Ms Jacqui Donoghue, also a PhD student in the Centre for Women's Health Research, has won the Australian and New Zealand Microcirculation Society Young Investigator Award for her research into uterine lymphatics in endometrial cancer and abnormal uterine bleeding.
- Associate Professor Richard Kitching, Dr Michael Hickey and PhD student Mr Michael Kuligowski, from the Centre for Inflammatory Diseases, won the ANZ Society of Nephrology Basic Science Award for their research into the movement of white blood cells through the kidney and the role they may play in abnormal kidney function.
- Mr Kuligowki also received the David Garlick Young Investigator Award for his role in kidney disease research.
- Dr Garun Hamilton, a PhD student in the Ritchie Centre for Baby Health Research won the New Investigator Award at the Australasian Sleep Association Meeting, for his discovery that mild infections, causing injury to the heart's blood vessels, could interfere with heart function during sleep apnea.
- PhD students Ms Heidi Richardson and Ms Stephanie Yiallourou, also from the Ritchie Centre, received finalists' awards in the New Investigator Award at the Australasian Sleep Association Meeting.

Congratulations to all.

Congratulations to Professor Paul Zimmet AO FTSE, director of the International Diabetes Institute, who has been elected to the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

# *basically* an innovative venture

Completing postgraduate study can be a juggling act at the best of times, but for ten Monash students, their workload increased even further when they set up their fledgling company, Bio-Ideyas.

Bio-Ideyas was set up through the Young Achievement Australia Biotechnology Entrepreneur Program (YAA BEP). The Monash students involved came from a range of disciplines including biological sciences, stem cell research, IT and education. Pooling their combined skills and knowledge, they developed ***basically STEM CELLS*** - an interactive CD designed to assist VCE teachers and students gain an understanding of stem cells; an area of science which will be introduced into the VCE Biology curriculum for the first time in 2006.

***basically STEM CELLS*** delivers cutting-edge stem cell research into the classroom with information on basic stem cell biology, stem cell biology, ethical considerations and career opportunities available to young science graduates.

As if trying to complete her PhD in MIMR's Centre for Urological Research wasn't enough, Bio-Ideyas Managing Director, Prue Cowin, has had a crash course in all aspects of developing and running a business.

"Setting up Bio-Ideyas and producing ***basically STEM CELLS*** has been an exciting and challenging experience. We wanted to create a company that would be recognised as the leading supplier of stem cell educative resources, with a reputation for relevant, accurate and informative materials that will push the boundaries of development and innovation," Prue said.

"To achieve this, we have elected a Board of Directors, sold shares to raise the capital to produce the CD, learnt how to develop a business plan, carried out market research, and created appropriate marketing and sales strategies.

"As we could only sell shares to the value of $1000, we relied on in-kind support from a wide range of people and groups to generously donate their time and assistance, and in the case of the Monash Medical Faculty, produce the ***basically STEM CELLS*** CD for us. We are also indebted to our mentors, Dr Elane Zelcer, Executive Director, Monash STRIP, and Andrew Fried from interactive media company, ImaHima," said Prue.

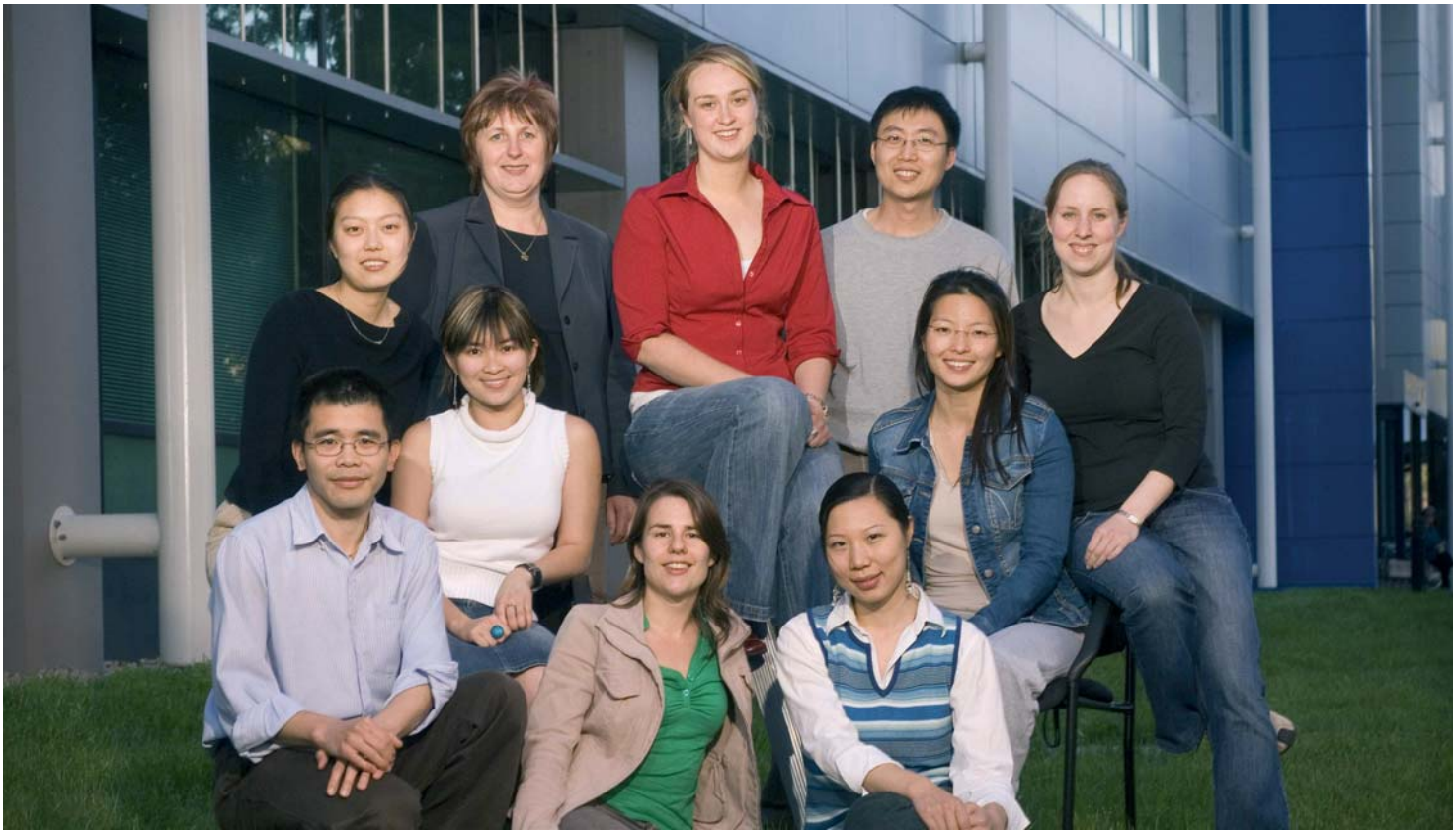
Through Bio-Ideyas extensive market research, the company learnt there were no educational materials on stem cells available in Australia. Their research has paid off, with more than 60 copies of the CD already sold to schools in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and even New Zealand.

In keeping with the YAA BEP guidelines, Bio-Ideyas was liquidated in December 2005. Prue said the team has mixed feelings about winding down their company. "It's sad for the whole team to see it wrap up, as we have collectively put in more than 250 hours to see the CD come to life. While a part of me is relieved I won't have to juggle my time in the lab with directors' meetings and writing Bio-Ideyas' reports, I have loved every minute of this experience.

"We're hoping someone who can see the value in our product may want to buy the intellectual property rights to ***basically STEM CELLS*** and continue to spread the message to schools that science can be fun and interesting," said Prue.

Bio-Ideyas is supported by the Victorian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development, Young Achievement Australia, Monash University, Australian Stem Cell Centre, Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories and Monash STRIP.

For more information about ***basically STEM CELLS*** contact *sales@bioldeyas.com.au*.



Back row: Jia Su (Faculty of IT), Silva Fero (Faculty of Education), Prue Cowin (Monash Institute of Medical Research), Tung-Liang Chung (Australian Stem Cell Centre), Anna Mossman (Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories)

Middle row: Edwin Yan (Department of Physiology), Adelia Lin (Australian Stem Cell Centre), Sue-Mei Lim (MISCL)

Front row: Chelsea Salvado, (MISCL), Michelle Shen (Faculty of Business & Economics)

# Dean's Lecture – "Child Abuse and Child Protection: The silencing of the child"

Professor Chris Goddard, Head of the Department of Social Work, recently delivered the last in the current series of Dean's lectures on 8 November.

In his lecture, which was titled "Child Abuse and Child Protection: The silencing of the child" Professor Goddard asserted that children were largely missing from adult discussions about child abuse, and that children had been - and continued to be – silenced. He said his research indicated that abused children were largely invisible.

"The reader of history with an interest in children and childhood is likely to gain two significant impressions", he said, "firstly, that children do not feature very prominently in historical texts; and, secondly, it is clear that children have a very long history of suffering at the hands of adults."

He said research indicated that several factors conspired to keep children invisible and to minimise the seriousness of child abuse, including the relatively recent "discovery" of child abuse (though the literature indicates children have suffered at the hands of adults for centuries); the inability of adults to accept that child abuse was occurring; the use of language which diminished the seriousness of the crime of child abuse; and a number of myths promulgated by adults, which in effect, laid the blame for child abuse on children themselves.

The lecture, which was punctuated by graphic and often shocking examples of abuse, including the experiences of one victim known as "AB" – who was forced to relive her childhood ordeal when the courts granted her abuser the right to personally cross-examine her many years after he was convicted of raping her – concluded with the launch of Professor Goddard and Neerosh Mudaly's new book *The Truth is Longer Than a Lie: Children's Experiences of Abuse and Professional Interventions*.

For further information about the book or to obtain a copy contact Professor Chris Goddard, on 9903 1120.

Professor Goddard started his career in social services in the UK, where he developed an interest in providing services for children who had been abused.

On arrival in Australia, he was appointed Deputy Director (later Director) of Social Work at the Royal Children's Hospital where he established the first child protection team. During this time he developed an interest in research into child abuse and child protection after discovering all the available research was from overseas.

He joined the Department of Social Work at Monash University as a lecturer and was appointed head of department in 1998. He has become a leading contributor to public debate on child abuse issues, having published three books, more than 40 refereed journal articles, and more than 30 government and non-government reports.

He has contributed many editorials in Australian major newspapers, some 40 in the last five years, including in The Age, Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, Canberra Times, and Courier Mail.

Last year he was recognised by The Bulletin magazine as one of Australia's Smartest 100 Thinkers.

A transcript of Professor Goddard's lecture is available on the website at *www.med.monash.edu.au/alumni/child-abuse-transcript.html*

'... children have a very long history of suffering at the hands of adults.'

## Dean's Public Lecture Series 2006

The Faculty is preparing a bumper series of Dean's lectures in 2006.

Scheduled for 5 pm on the second Tuesday of each month* between February and November, these free public lectures will showcase some of the leading research given by some of the leaders in their fields.

## In the pipeline in 2006

**11 April** **Professor Jennie Ponsford**
Professor of Neuropsychology

**9 May** **Professor Ian Meredith**
**Professor** of Cardiovascular Research
Southern Health

**13 June** **Professor Patrick Sexton**
Professor of Pharmacology
"The Evolving Complexity of Family B G Protein-coupled Receptor Function"

**23 Aug** **Rod Andrew Oration**
Professor Bryan Williams
"The Application of RNA Interference to Fight Cancer and Virus Infections"

**12 Sept** **Professor Claude Bernard**
Head, Neuroimmunology Laboratory
"Toward a Cure for Multiple Sclerosis: Understanding susceptibility, pathogenesis and regeneration"

**10 Oct** **Professor Jenny Keating**
Head of Physiotherapy
"Low Back Pain: specific treatment or one-size-fits-all"

Many more to come. Keep an eye on the website:

*www.med.monash.edu.au/alumni/deans-lectures.html*

* Subject to change. Please check the website at *www.med.monash.edu.au/alumni/deans-lectures.html* for confirmation of dates, times and venue.

## MMADoGS III

All you mad keen MMADoGS, don't forget that the 3rd annual golf day is coming up on 27 March 2006.

Contact Carol Rodgers in Professor David Healy's rooms to make sure you get on the play list.

Read about MMADoGS II at *www.med.monash.edu.au/alumni/mmadogs2.html*

## Memoraball – 1985 20 year reunion

"Overlooking my life so far", a marvellous short piece by Leunig, was the stimulus for a short welcome given by Jenny Downes-Brydon at the Monash Medicine 20-year reunion on 20 August 2005 at South Wharf. The piece, from Michael Leunig's "Wild Figments" describes the accumulation of things, memories, facts, and fears Leunig had in his mind when he decided it was time for a good clean up.

"What a mess! Then suddenly I saw it in silhouette and realized what it was. It was a heap. A simple heap. You don't sort it out, you climb it. You climb it because it is there. Excitedly I clambered to the summit and raised a flag. I was now looking beyond everything that I knew. The view was simply magnificent".

Jenny encouraged the 100 guests there to celebrate 20 years since graduation, to climb right up on their heap and have a great night! And it looked like everyone did (despite the lack of table top dancing).

Networking for nine months to trace as many who had passed through the year as possible was made much easier with email and the help of the Alumni Office who worked tirelessly. Many of those that couldn't come sent a resume and all enjoyed the snippets about the lives (medical, family and social) of guests and others put together in a "Memoraball" booklet. We discovered we created a disproportionate number of anaesthetists in the year (was all that sleeping through lectures forecasting the future?), that the largest number of children created by a 1985 graduate is five (so far), and that one of our year has retired comfortably at the age of 43!

People looked remarkably well preserved - overall though the women aging better than the men (more hair, less girth!). It took some people a few minutes to get the hang of recognizing who everyone was (and the only criticism of the night seemed to be the lack of name tags) but it prompted guests to ask more questions – so many in fact there was little time to dance. It was really warming to see how much we all genuinely seemed to care about each other and how we'd travelled, and how keen people are to meet again in five years. I wonder if the tales we recalled will be even more sensational in another five years.

Thanks to all those who came and to all those who sent emails and best wishes. If you did not receive an invitation, our apologies – we really tried to get everyone. But please forward your details (and regularly update them) to Monash Alumni so we can track you down for the next event.

Jenny Downes-Brydon
(MB BS 1985)

## Reunions coming up in 2006

1986 20 year MBBS reunion – October 2006, Contact Dr Karen Price at

*karenprice@werestreet.com.au*

Gippsland Nursing reunion – April 2006, Contact Vicki Wall at

*vickiw@egipps.vic.gov.au*

## Vicki Wall

HSC Bairnsdale High School (1985),
Dip App Sci (Nurs), Monash (1988),
Graduate Nursing Program RCH (1989),
BNursing (Conversion) RMIT (1993)
GradDip Adv Clin Nurs (Paediatrics)
Melbourne University (1994),
Nurse Immuniser Module LaTrobe (2002)

During final year at school we had to think about our future, what would we "be"? University was not a path all students took 20 years ago and as I didn't really know what to do with my life at age 17, except to get out and live it, with a bit of encouragement from my family I decided on nursing.

Nursing offered job security and a base from which to specialise into a diverse range of jobs. My parents didn't want me too far from home in East Gippsland and Churchill was the obvious choice as the Diploma course was introduced the year after I finished High School.

The three years I spent at the then Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, were great. I got through the course and had a lot of fun along the way. Our group, being the first student nurses to enter local hospitals from a tertiary centre, was offered many opinions on what sort of nurses we'd be. Although some places were tough we felt we had the support of the community and the University generally.

The course has, as I'd hoped, given me a great base to develop from. As it developed from a Diploma course to a Bachelor Degree, I undertook a conversion course which allowed me entry into further education.

Paediatric Nursing was the initial focus of my career and being accepted into the Graduate Program at the Royal Children's Hospital gave me a great foundation for building on this specialty. During the 13 great years I spent at the Children's Hospital, I also managed to travel for a year to mainland Europe and England, where I took some time out from nursing and worked as a nanny.

Later I undertook a Postgraduate Diploma in Paediatric Nursing which was run by the hospital in conjunction with Melbourne University. I married Roger and we settled into domestic life whilst I worked in the Emergency Department until the birth of my first daughter, Megan in 1997. Following a year of maternity leave I returned to work part time in Emergency once again. I have always found nursing to be excellent in offering part time work to those who need it and always very flexible. My second daughter, Grace arrived in 2001 and having lived in East Gippsland with my family, Roger and I made a "sea change" and returned there with our children in early 2002.

I undertook the Nurse Immuniser module at La Trobe University prior to moving from Melbourne which allowed me to work as an accredited immunisation nurse. Thinking that this may provide some casual work in the country, I was delighted to find that the East Gippsland Shire Council had created a new position of Immunisation Co-ordinator, to which I was subsequently appointed. This is my current job and it is great. I work part time, flexible hours and I get to see healthy families and children, which is nice for a change! In this position I undertake administration, education and management of casual staff to deliver an immunisation program to the people of East Gippsland.

I feel my nursing training and years of experience has allowed me flexibility in my skills and most of all the ability to pick up new things quickly and effectively. In general my nursing career has opened up doors I never dreamed I would walk through and has given me that job security and challenge I sought so many years ago.

Postscript

Vicki is currently organising a reunion for nursing graduates from Gippsland campus to be held in April 2006.

For further information contact Melinda Warnecke on 9905 5971 or email *alumni@med.monash.edu.au*

## Emma Warnecke

MB BS (Hons) FRACGP

Emma graduated with honours from Monash in 1995 and after internship at Alfred Hospital commenced three-year general practice training at Frankston Hospital and in clinics in Langwarrin, Foster and Sandringham. At the end of her intern year in 1997, Emma married fellow 1995 graduate, Dr Sean Beggs.

She has been State Representative, National Registrar Association, RACGP and Registrar Representative, Victorian Accreditation

Committee, RACGP. She was awarded the Monty Kent Hughes Memorial Medal (for highest national fellowship exam grading) by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

After general practice training, Emma and Sean explored their passion for travel; initially living in Brunei for 6 months, where Sean worked in the hospital and Emma did volunteer work and spiritual reflection; then for 9 months travelled through China, Tibet, Nepal, India, Myanmar, Thailand, UK and Europe, a highlight of which was a 35 day trek in Nepal and a 10 day silent meditation retreat, before returning to Melbourne in mid 2001.

Since then Emma has been working in General Practice at Bluff Road Medical Centre in Sandringham, with a special interest in nutrition and preventative health, and continues to pursue her travel passion by working at The Travel Doctor in the city. She teaches medical students at Monash, including Health Enhancement Program and PCLs (patient centred learning clinical cases).

On New Year's Day 2003 Emma was blessed with a beautiful daughter Isabelle, who brings constant joy.

Emma has recently organised her 10 year medical reunion, has completed a certificate of solution orientated hypnotherapy and is undergoing further study with Dr Rob McNeilly. She has commenced private hypnotherapy sessions, in addition to her general practice and teaching work. She is also the Chair of the Bayside Women's GP group which was formed this year and serves on the vestry at St Stephen's Anglican Church.

Outside of medicine Emma loves to cycle, meditate, appreciate music, enjoy good meals with friends and mostly spend time with her family.

MONASH University
Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

# Notice board

## Master of Mind and Society: A new interdisciplinary degree

The Master of Mind and Society is a new degree course being offered in 2006 by the Faculty of Arts in conjunction with the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine.

The course explores the interface between medicine, psychodynamics, humanities and the social sciences and is particularly relevant for health care professionals who are interested in how theories of the mind influence contemporary culture and society, and vice versa.

Graduate students may take individual subjects.

Further information is available at:

*www.arts.monash.edu.au/wage/postgraduate/mindandsociety/index.html*

## Royal Society of Victoria Medal for Scientific Research

Nominations are being called for the 43rd awarding of the Royal Society of Victoria's Medal for Scientific Research.

The medal will be given in the category of Human Health or Medical Sciences (Human) for research work published or accepted for publication in refereed international journals between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2004.

Nominations are open to scientific societies, universities, CSIRO and other bodies and a written statement summarising the significance of the work and its breadth and quality will be required.

Nominations close on 31 March 2006.

Further information is available direct from the Royal Society of Victoria on

Phone: 9663 5295 or 9662 3575; or

Email: *admin@sciencevictoria.org.au*

## Calling all Monash medical alumni in general practice

Monash University is keen to recruit GP teachers for 2006.

You can help with teaching Monash students in your clinic by taking a fourth year student for one day per week (for eight or 16 weeks); taking a first year student for a half-day session one or more times per year; or encouraging your GP colleagues to get involved!

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

For further information, please contact:

Dr Carol Lawson
Department of General Practice
Monash University
867 Centre Rd
East Bentleigh, 3165.

Phone: 8575 2208

Email: *carol.lawson@med.monash.edu.au*

## 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 0750, 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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