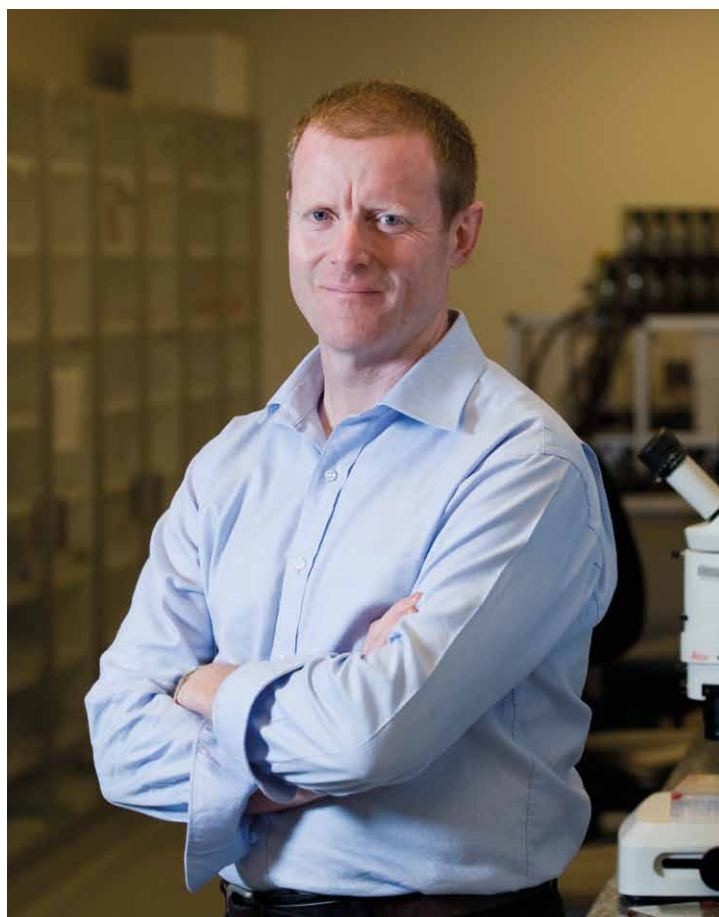


Insight into the body's defences



Professor Jamie Rossjohn

An Australian team of scientists has uncovered a quality control mechanism that must take place for our immune system to effectively destroy harmful viruses and bacteria. Their findings were published in the prestigious international journal *Nature*.

The team solved a 15-year puzzle by working out the structure and function of a protein called pre T alpha that is essential in guiding the correct expression of receptors expressed by T lymphocytes, white blood cells of the immune system. These receptors, known as T cell receptors, recognise unique components of microbial pathogens.

Joint team leader, ARC Federation Fellow Professor Jamie Rossjohn, from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, said that understanding the structure of pre-T alpha explains a fundamental step in T cell development and anti-microbial immunity.

"We showed that the pre-T alpha molecule not only assists in the expression of functional T cell receptors but it also allows two molecules to bind together, which alerts the T cell that this receptor is constructed properly, allowing the T cell to move to the next step in its development," Professor Rossjohn said.

Co-leader of the project Professor Jim McCluskey from the University of Melbourne said without T cell receptors we would be profoundly immunodeficient and therefore pre-T alpha plays an essential role in ensuring proper immunity.

"Additionally, there is some evidence that pre-T alpha may also be involved in some childhood leukaemias, so this new knowledge of how it functions may be important in diagnosis and treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia," Professor McCluskey said.

The research findings were a culmination of a six-year project that involved collaborative support from Australian scientists, use of the Australian Synchrotron, and funding from the NHMRC and the ARC.

2010 Premier's Award for Medical Research

Structural biologist, Dr Julia Archibald received the 2010 Premier's Award for Medical Research for her research into organ transplants. She was awarded \$16,000 to further her research career. Her host department, the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology also received the \$30,000 Jack and Robert Smorgon Families Award at a ceremony at Government House on 7 June.

Dr Archibald's prize-winning research focussed on the role of immune system proteins in organ transplantation and helps explain why patients, who receive donor-recipient matched organs, reject these tissues.

Dr Julia Archibald (centre) with Victorian Premier John Brumby (left) and Governor of Victoria Professor David de Kretser (right). Photo: Peter Glenane





Professor Gail Risbridger

Prostate Cancer Research

One in six men develop prostate cancer, and one in 32 die from the disease, so it is no wonder that prostate cancer research is the main research focus of Professor Gail Risbridger and her team. Prostate cancer can be treated when the tumour is confined to the prostate gland, but when the tumour spreads and advanced disease emerges, it is incurable.

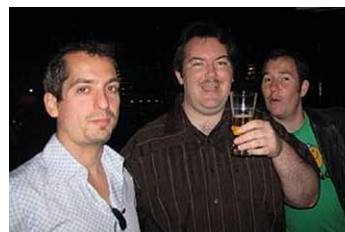
“Our research is aimed at understanding how advanced prostate cancer develops and the mechanisms that enable the tumour to spread. We identify the cells that remain or resist treatment, and test drugs that target these cells in the prostate tumours. We are particularly interested in new hormone-based therapies because prostate cancer is a hormone dependent disease,” said Professor Risbridger.

This process of identifying cell targets and testing potential therapeutics involves basic biomedical research and

partnerships with clinical collaborators and with industry. Here at the School of Biomedical Sciences, Professor Risbridger has access to world-class laboratory facilities and resources that compliment those partnerships, and will enable the translation of her research discoveries.

“Recently, there have been tremendous advances in our understanding of hormone action and in the development of new hormone drugs. Some of the new drugs are already in clinical trials at the Department of Urology at Southern Health,” she said.

Professor Risbridger’s group is world renowned for its work investigating how oestrogen hormones can be used as treatments for prostate cancer. In a paper published earlier in the year in the prestigious journal *PNAS*, she showed how oestrogen therapies selectively target lethal components of prostate cancer.



Scientist Gordon Lloyd (centre)

Movember is a moustache-growing charity event held during November each year that raises funds and awareness for men’s health.

Gordon Lloyd

Why did you participate in Movember last year?

I participated because I enjoyed the opportunity to grow a moustache and change my appearance, while also helping to improve the awareness of men’s health issues, particularly prostate cancer. I have a relative who is currently undergoing prostate cancer treatment and is suffering a great deal, so I would like to encourage all men to go for early screening tests.

Do you think being a scientist makes you more aware of the need to raise money for research into prostate cancer?

As a scientist I am conscious of how hard it is to secure funding for research. The funding you obtain gives the opportunity for research groups into prostate cancer to hire more staff, undertake more

experiments, and also conduct clinical trials. Hopefully all this can lead to better treatments, and in the future an eventual cure.

How much money do you hope to raise this year?

I hope to raise more money this year and I am encouraging more men in our department to participate. You can make a donation at <http://au.movember.com/?home>, join in the fun by starting your own Movember team, or by joining an existing team.

Do you think Movember has raised the profile of men’s health issues?

It has definitely raised the profile of prostate cancer and depression. Movember receives lots of good publicity in the press, with many photos of celebrities sporting moustaches. Movember also raises a lot of discussion regarding men’s health issues.

Do you have a mo’ role model? Someone from history who sported a mo’ who you look up to?

Well I do enjoy watching sport and I would probably have to say Merv Hughes has to have the most famous sporting moustache of all time. As you can see from my photo however, my pencil thin moustache has a long way to go.

International Research Award



Professor Iain Clarke

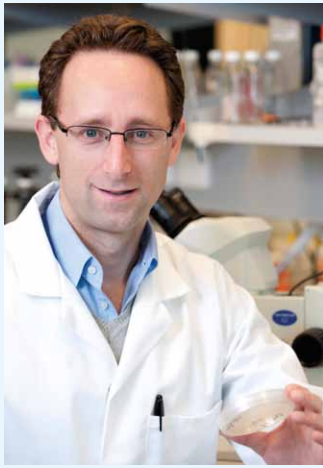
Eminent neuroendocrinology researcher, Professor Iain Clarke, has been awarded the Geoffrey Harris Memorial Lectureship, the highest honour of the International Neuroendocrine Federation (INF).

Professor Clarke gave a lecture called *Control of GnRH secretion* and was presented with the award. The lectureship award is presented to a researcher every four years, and recognises major contributions to the advancement of knowledge in neuroendocrinology.

The INF also provides an honorarium for Professor Clarke.

The INF Federation was established to promote the development of research and education in basic and clinical neuroendocrinology. The society facilitates the exchange of scientific information between researchers. The INF, with a membership approaching 2000, is currently comprised of six national societies, one transnational society and seven regional groups.

Head of the Department of Physiology, Professor Clarke investigates brain control of the endocrine (or hormonal) system as well as factors underlying or associated with obesity. He studies how the brain controls food intake and energy expenditure. His work also extends to how obesity impacts on reproduction, stress and other functions. This work is carried out with both national and international collaborators.



Dr Anton Peleg

Infectious diseases physician, Dr Anton Peleg is researching a bacterium that causes infection and sometimes death in hospital patients.

Intensive care should be a safe place, but surprisingly there are germs that survive hospital disinfectant and live on medical equipment, putting those already at risk, at even greater risk. The bacterium is known as

Scrubbing Out Hospital Germs

Acinetobacter baumannii and it is passed between patients through medical equipment such as cathodes or the hands of healthcare workers. It is a major concern for patient welfare because it is one of the bacteria that can develop resistance to all currently available antibiotics and spreads very easily from patient to patient. *Acinetobacter* doesn't only survive in the tough hospital environment – it thrives.

Dr Peleg's research is working towards understanding how this bacteria is able to survive so well in the hospital environment and how it makes humans sick. His research is also aiming towards identifying new targets for antibiotic development that will help fight the infection.

"Recently there has been a concerning reduction in the discovery and development of new antibiotics. Unfortunately, with the emergence of highly

drug-resistant bacteria, this has created a perfect storm in regards to these infections," said Dr Peleg.

To understand how patients develop the infection, Dr Peleg is investigating how *Acinetobacter* interacts with the most common human fungus – *Candida albicans*. History has shown that the development of the drug penicillin was largely due to the findings from a bacterial-fungal interaction. By understanding how *Acinetobacter* and *Candida* interact and fight one another, researchers are hoping that it will shed light on how *Acinetobacter* attacks other types of eukaryotic cells, such as those of mammals, and provide insights into novel pathways for drug development.

In a review published in the prestigious journal *Nature Reviews Microbiology* (May 2010), Dr Peleg describes a unique model developed by his laboratory.

His group infected a worm with both *Acinetobacter* and *Candida*. They found that the *Acinetobacter* killed the *Candida*, and by doing so, reduced the ability of the *Candida* to cause disease in the worm. They also found that *Acinetobacter* could prevent the *Candida* from producing a biofilm on plastic surfaces, which is known to be a key factor in the disease process of *Candida*.

"The fact that these diverse human pathogens interact with each other in an antagonistic relationship and affect each other's ability to cause disease indicates that there is great benefit in understanding the mechanisms of their interaction. Secondly, these mechanisms could be exploited to develop new drugs," he said.

Dr Peleg is a new Senior Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology and is also an infectious diseases physician at the Alfred Hospital.

Research Matters Award

Associate Professor Kate Loveland was awarded the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Award for Postgraduate Supervision at a Research Matters event on 18 August. The award recognises excellence in postgraduate supervision in relation to teaching, mentoring and leadership.

Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Chancellor Dr Alan Finkel, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ed Byrne and Professor Edwina Cornish, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), presented Associate Professor Loveland with the award. The award gives Associate Professor Loveland a permanent citation on the Records and Archives website and a grant

to benefit her postgraduate supervisory activities.

In an address to Monash researchers, industry partners and government representatives, Senator Carr commended all award recipients.

"Quality research, quality research training, quality research engagement – are the things we are here to celebrate this evening," Senator Carr said.

Associate Professor Loveland is an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow who is investigating how sperm develop to understand what events and factors reduce fertility and cause testicular cancer in humans.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Honours Supervision

Associate Professor Jane Black has been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Honours Supervision. The award recognises the support, advice, guidance and encouragement she gives to her students. Associate Professor Black currently supervises five PhD students and one Honours student. Throughout her career she has supervised 22 Honours projects. She has been the Anatomy and Developmental Biology Honours Coordinator since 2001. The award includes a grant of \$5000, used to benefit her Honours students.

The students work on a variety of projects related to Associate Professor Black's research which investigates how factors such as malnutrition, maternal alcohol consumption and vitamin D deficiency influence the growth of the baby whilst in the mother's womb. She is also interested in how these factors influence the long-term renal and cardiovascular health of the individual.



Associate Professor Kate Loveland



Vice-Chancellor Professor Ed Byrne (left) Associate Professor Jane Black (centre) and Professor Adam Shoemaker (right)

Student Wins Bodysnatchers Award



Natalya Roujeinikova and Dr David Piedrafito

Natalya Roujeinikova, a student from the John Monash Science School (JMSS), won the national Bodysnatchers Award from The Australian Society for Parasitology, who hosted the International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA) in Australia this year.

Natalya was among competitors around Australia who drew, painted,

designed or computer generated their version of a parasite. Her entry was chosen based on her artistic merit, originality and demonstrated research of her parasite.

Dr David Piedrafito, Senior Researcher from the School of Biomedical Sciences and Deputy Chairperson of the ICOPA XII Congress, presented Natalya with

a \$1000 prize. Natalya's winning entry will appear on the front cover of the prestigious scientific publication, the *International Journal for Parasitology*.

"Combine science and worms and other gooey things that live inside us, and you have an amazing world of intrigue and mystery. We held this competition to spark interest and showcase parasitology as a wonderful area of research to the next generation of scientists," said Dr Piedrafito.

The School of Biomedical Sciences is committed to building positive interactions with JMSS students through a number of initiatives, including work experience, biomedical science electives, research projects and guest lectures.

"High school students, when you engage them on an exciting topic, have lots of offbeat ideas and enthusiasm. They want to explore, touch and discover new things. They are also the future scientists who will potentially develop solutions to the parasite problems we have in the world," he said.

Three Minute Thesis Competition

Girls dominated the Three Minute Thesis Competition, taking out 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, in a competitive battle to explain their complex PhD research projects in a mere 180 seconds.

Winner, Dana Briggs from the Department of Physiology, explained how diet-induced obesity alters the action of a hormone called ghrelin. Ghrelin is produced during periods of hunger and drives food intake and body weight gain. Titled, *The future is fat*, Dana engaged School staff and also John Monash Science School students. She explained her research in an interesting way that was appropriate for a non-scientific audience.

The competition encouraged postgraduate students to communicate their research at a professional level to a range of audiences. The competition was organised by the MBio Graduate School which aims to provide graduate students with a broadened student experience and equip them with skills for their careers.

1st place: Dana Briggs, Physiology – \$1000 travel grant

2nd place: Kate Mackin, Microbiology – \$400 conference grant

3rd place: Sarah Wilkinson, Anatomy and Developmental Biology – \$100 book voucher



1st place winner Dana Briggs.

Awards In Brief

Applied Biosystems Edman Award

The Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology awarded Dr Natalie Borg the 2010 The Applied Biosystems Edman Award. It was awarded in recognition of Dr Borg's outstanding research work.

Dr Borg studies the proteins involved in viral infection, including immune system proteins and viral proteins that evade immune detection and promote viral replication.

Dr Borg will use the award to visit Professor Vishva Dixit at Genentech, in California.

Dean's Award for Excellence in Research 2009

Associate Professor Moira O'Bryan was awarded the Dean's Award for Excellence in Research (Distinguished Research Career) for 2009. Associate Professor Moira O'Bryan is the Deputy Head of Research, Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, and studies sperm development and function and the causes of human male infertility.

Dean's Award for Excellence in Research (Early Career)

Structural biologist, Dr Sheena McGowan was awarded the Dean's Award for Excellence in Research (Early Career). Dr McGowan is a post-doctoral researcher who uses structural biology to design novel antimalarial drugs. Currently, malaria remains the world's most parasitic disease and due to the rapid spread of drug-resistant parasites there is an urgent need to develop new antimalarial drugs.

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Teaching, students and staff

New Professor and Faculty appointments:

Wayne Hodgson



In keeping with the School of Biomedical Sciences efforts to promote the importance of teaching amidst an often researched focused university environment, the Monash Department of Pharmacology has divided its Head of Department duties into separate teaching and research focused positions. Taking up the 'Teaching and Research Training' half of these responsibilities is Professor Wayne Hodgson who, courtesy of his unique career

“ You have to give students a reason to turn up because nowadays they have access to information on the web, audio streamed lectures, so we're putting in place more and more student directed learning, to give them a bit of ownership of what they're doing.”

path, has a personal insight into the demands of each academic position under his direction.

“There's no way of checking this but I would suspect I'm one of the few people in Monash who's actually been promoted from every level, from junior lecturer up to Professor,” says Professor Hodgson.

Given his experience within the Department, Professor Hodgson identifies the publication of the innovative teaching techniques existing within SOBS as a priority for improving the status of teaching within the school.

“We're very quick to publish things we've done in an experiment in the lab but we don't acknowledge and publish our work in teaching as much as we should.

Our SOBS departments are proud of the quality of their teaching and the feedback we get from it is very positive so we should take advantage and publish what we do well.”

Another challenge Professor Hodgson sees facing the university community on the whole, is enticing students to engage with on campus learning.

“You have to give students a reason to turn up because nowadays they have access to information on the web, audio streamed lectures, so we're putting in place more and more student directed learning, to give them a bit of ownership of what they're doing.”

In addition to his Head of Department appointment, Professor Hodgson also has

to find time for his own laboratory research into animal anti-venoms and his duties as the Faculty Director for Medical Admissions. For the remainder of this year, this Faculty role will consist of changing the medical admission interviews into a mini interview system with a series of short stations rather than a single long 30-minute interview. Speaking on his overall vision for the faculty, Professor Hodgson says:

“I think it's not necessary to teach into a lot of different programs but to ensure wherever Pharmacology's being taught, that the quality of teaching is something we'd be happy with.”

Mibel Aguilar



As the Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences new Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research Degrees, Professor Mibel Aguilar is intimately acquainted with the administrative side of University life.

“It's a mix of small, medium and large responsibilities, but it's a strategic process. This sort of role is dependent on you being an active researcher because you

“ In our Faculty we're lucky because we have such a broad range of disciplines, including social sciences, occupational and physical therapy, nursing, surgery, psychology, psychiatry. So, there's a great pool of potential supervisors to take students and the strategic aspect is creating pathways for people to go through.”

have to understand what the issues are underpinning having a good supervisor, and the problems PhD students run into,” says Professor Aguilar.

One of the central responsibilities for the Associate Dean of Postgraduate Research Degrees is to determine and put in place the criteria by which students become eligible to begin and continue, in postgraduate research work. While most of the issues which arise with specific student cases are dealt with at the departmental level, Professor Aguilar often has to mediate when there are disputes in the examination and marking of postgraduate theses.

“Most theses are examined and come through without any issues, but a small percentage have different opinions from examiners, so I have to convene an advisory panel to work through the issue, which is often: one examiner says this is nonsense and the other says it's fantastic.”

In addition to the management responsibilities, Professor Aguilar hopes to facilitate an expansion of the Faculty of Medicine's postgraduate student cohort, while ensuring that academic standards are maintained.

“In our Faculty we're lucky because we have such a broad range of disciplines, including social sciences, occupational and

physical therapy, nursing, surgery, psychology, psychiatry. So, there's a great pool of potential supervisors to take students and the strategic aspect is creating pathways for people to go through.”

Professor Aguilar will also be serving as a faculty representative on the Monash Research Graduate School Committee which oversees the entire University's postgraduate program. Speaking on her plans for the future in the position Professor Aguilar says:

The position is initially two years and the challenge is to balance my research and teaching. But so far it has been very enjoyable and rewarding as we have a really vibrant faculty.

Staff Profiles:

Dena Lyras



Like many working mothers, Dr Dena Lyras's career has been an interrupted journey. While the conflict of juggling work and family commitments has been difficult, it has also made Dr Lyras's recent appointment as senior lecturer in the Department of Microbiology all the more gratifying.

“ Monash has offered me lots of opportunities to develop my research so I think it's important that I strive to teach new students as well as I can.”

“You get to a certain point in science and there aren't many senior women. Part of the reason for this is that having very little children is a really difficult time. Having been through that, things definitely get better, so hopefully my experiences might be useful to other women in similar situations in the department,” says Dr Lyras.

Dr Lyras has been part of the Monash Department of Microbiology since 1993 when she started as a junior post doc in Professor Julian Rood's research lab. Since then Dr Lyras has focused her research on the causes of anaerobic infections caused by bacteria in the gut.

“The main thing that I work on is a bacterium called *Clostridium difficile* which causes a lot of gut infections around the world. This bacterium doesn't normally cause disease but when people are taking antibiotics and their normal gut microbes are disrupted by those antibiotics this bacterium can come in, take over and make the body a little factory for making more copies of itself.”

For Dr Lyras, one of the benefits of her new position as senior lecturer is the greater involvement in teaching it allows.

“Taking an academic position is really a commitment to teaching, and I think teaching is an important

part of research, one bounces off the other. Having undergraduate and postgraduate students around really builds momentum with the research.”

Recently, Dr Lyras has had considerable success with her research, receiving a publication in *Nature* and obtaining NHMRC and ARC grants. Speaking on her future as an academic Dr Lyras says:

“I hope it all works out, I think it will, I've been in this long enough I know exactly what's involved. Monash has offered me lots of opportunities to develop my research so I think it's important that I strive to teach new students as well as I can.”

Ramesh Rajan



Despite the unwritten rule that modern scientific research should be medically relevant, Associate Professor Ramesh Rajan has built his own successful career by pursuing his intellectual curiosity. This natural approach to his research has ensured Associate Professor Rajan's enthusiasm for his work is still strong after 11 years in the Monash Department of Physiology:

“My research has always followed the path of 'I wonder why it does that.' It's never been from an attempt to cure disease, maybe it should have been, there's more money in it, but I just like to play with ideas.”

“ My research has always followed the path of I wonder why it does that.”

However, Associate Professor Rajan's current research, investigating the processing of sensory information in the brain actually demonstrates how science motivated by theoretical interest is never really distinct from therapeutic benefits.

“Initially I was just interested in hearing damage and how it is often characterised by an inability to hear speech in the presence of other noise, such as crowds, T.V. During this process it became clear that this problem incorporated a broader question about the brain, because when we process sensory information, it's always amidst other competing information.”

This realisation has led Associate Professor Rajan's current research to a practical application in the condition of autism, a symptom of which is hypersensitivity to sensation. Associate Professor Rajan's lab is now looking at how people with autism process competing signals in the brain differently.

In contrast to his approach to research, Associate Professor Rajan's teaching philosophy is focused on practicality.

“ When I did my PhD academics had to do research and had to teach well. Teaching now, I enjoy the interaction with students, so I think the best learning occurs in tutorials. Unfortunately, that's now a very cost intensive activity and hard to justify compared to lectures. But I'm still very focused on being really well prepared for lectures.”

Outside of Monash, Associate Professor Rajan conducts a community radio program a few times each month called *Vision Australia Radio*. In addition to other programs, his great athleticism and dedication to the motto “*Corpora sana in mens sana*” means he is appropriately involved in broadcast of a sports program. He also works with *Sanctuary Victoria*, an organisation which funds the immigration of approved refugees from around the world to Australia.

Speaking on the future, Associate Professor Rajan says:

“The problem with doing the sort of research I do is that it's not highly productive in terms of papers, a good year will give you one, one and a half, papers. Hopefully nothing is going to change and the university creates an environment where I can still do this. I do it for pleasure, and get paid, so why would I want to stop that.”

Liz Davis



How exactly university students learn and assimilate information is a question which consumes much of Dr Elizabeth Davis's working life. As a senior lecturer in the Monash Department of Pharmacology, Dr Davis's research, attempts to identify the most effective methods of conveying scientific concepts to students.

Her research has an obvious direct application in her teaching duties, particularly as convener of second year Pharmacology unit 'Drugs and Society'.

Although Dr Davis has always held an interest in teaching, her move towards educational research was not necessarily planned. After returning from maternity leave Dr Davis wanted a balance between work and family commitments.

"Going part time in a teaching position doesn't give you a lot of opportunities to continue a lab based research profile, so I took on more teaching commitments because it seemed appropriate. After getting more involved in teaching you start to wonder whether what we're doing has been effective," says Dr Davis.

This initial curiosity has ultimately led to Dr Davis's position on the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT). Within ASCEPT, Dr Davis is the chair of the Education special interest group which organises nationwide pharmacology education workshops. These workshops try and determine the varying needs of pharmacology students across different courses, from science to medical degrees. Through ASCEPT, Dr Davis is also looking at developing a minimum standard of knowledge for graduates of all pharmacology courses across Australia.

Dr Davis also has an academic mentoring role to the Singaporean Republic Polytechnic students, who have an intake into the third year of Monash's Bachelor of

Biomedical Science. "It's often a bit of a culture shock for our RP students so I organise some tutorials for them to deal with any learning difficulties they might be having in particular units, plus just general support."

In terms of her aspirations for the future, Dr Davis views the quality of education in Monash Pharmacology as coinciding with the progress of her own research career:

"I'd like to develop a profile in pharmacology education nationally and internationally but ultimately that is so that we can continue to achieve the best for our students. I'd like the research that we're doing to be reinforcing or driving changes that we make in our own teaching, the research shouldn't be a separate thing."

Talented Students Program

The Bachelor of Biomedical Science Talented Students Program was introduced this year to high achieving VCE and IB students with an expressed interest in laboratory research. Conceived by Dr Helen Abud, Dr Peter Boag, Dr Shae-Lee Cox and Dr Yvonne Hodgson, the program is designed to provide greater exposure to the facilities and professional working environment of scientific researchers for students with aspirations to pursue a career in this field.

"These are very bright students and we're trying to entice their enthusiasm in science and research, show them a little bit more than they're going to get in the stock standard undergraduate lectures, because these students are very capable of accessing more detailed scientific components," says Dr Boag.

Students accepted into the program are assigned a personal academic mentor from amongst SOBS senior researchers and academics. This mentor is matched with each student's particular area of interest and meets with them a number of times throughout the year to discuss their plans and expose them to various research events. Each year students will be assigned a new mentor to provide them with

a broad perspective of the different departments, and accumulate a network of connections.

Another component of the Talented Students Program is a series of symposiums, each revolving around a particular theme.

"One of the themes so far has been imaging, so the students had a tour of the Monash Micro Imaging Facility. The informal feedback we got from this was quite promising in that most students didn't even know that Monash had this imaging facility or understood the methodology behind it," says Dr Abud.

Being in its first year, the structure and content of the Talented Students Program is being trialled and reassessed as it progresses.

"We've only just started, but when we have talked to students I think there is a mixture of people who have already decided that they want to do research and others that have an interest but are undecided where their future lies," says Dr Abud.

"A lot of that is because they don't really know what research is, they're just used to undergraduate labs, and from anecdotally talking with them they're seeing it in a whole different perspective through the program," says Dr Boag.



From left to right: Penelope Ward, Daniel Buckley, Jae Yeun Jung, Rebecca Brandt, Kristy Mansour, Dr Helen Abud, Anita Chen, Maggie Quach, Associate Professor Matthew Wilce, Dr Peter Boag.

PAL fellowship awarded to Yvonne Hodgson



Yvonne Hodgson

Dr Yvonne Hodgson is one of four recipients of Teaching Fellowships in the Monash Education Portfolio project in Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) in 2010 valued at ~\$30,000. PAL involves students teaching and learning from each other. It can include same-level peer tutoring or higher-level peer tutoring. Yvonne has implemented same level PAL in a 12point multidisciplinary second year Radiologic Biology unit (RAD2061).

PAL has been associated with improved academic outcomes, as well as with the development of advanced communication and independent learning skills. Yvonne's study examined the student perceptions and experiences of PAL in a tutorial setting. The incorporation of peer and self assessment into the weekly tutorials promoted student engagement and provided an opportunity for students to develop

valuable self and peer appraisal skills. Yvonne and the other PAL fellows presented some of the results of their work to staff at the Peninsula Campus on September 19, as part of "Education Matters 2010". Research results of the PAL study will be presented by Yvonne at national and international conferences at the end of this year and next year.

Open Day

Open Day took place on the 1st of August this year. For the School of Biomedical Science this was an opportunity to inform prospective students about the courses and careers available in Biomedical Science and in Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences. Information sessions and advice pertaining to these courses was delivered from Lecture Theatre M2 and Building 64, respectively. (see photos). The popularity and demand for courses was apparent

from the crowds that attended the scheduled information sessions throughout the day.

On the day, the main base for the School's activities was on the ground floor of building 77. Each Department displayed posters, brochures and computer presentations outlining their specific area of focus. Prospective students were able to speak to staff and postgraduate and undergraduate students.



Crowd



Lecture theatre



Advice

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