

## Message from the Dean



The Faculty of Medicine has a number of highly productive and internationally acclaimed research centres. Such UNSW research centres provide an opportunity for groups of talented researchers to perform focused research in strategically important areas. Whilst there are advantages in groups of researchers operating within the confines of a research centre, there are also potential drawbacks in the establishment of such research units. The Faculty is keen to foster and support a small number of highly productive research centres, although I am concerned that there is not a proliferation of centres that are unsustainable and are not highly productive. Research centres should only be established in areas that are of strategic importance to the Faculty and University. Such centres need to be well funded and self sufficient, they need to have a well constructed business plan as well as evidence of ongoing productivity and adequate external research support to ensure sustainability.

Research centres are not established in perpetuity but are subject to periodic review, have a finite life span and may be disestablished when they are no longer highly productive focused research entities, have lost research funding, or do not have the critical mass necessary to sustain the highest quality of research outputs. Researchers considering the establishment of a UNSW research centre should consult the Head of the School prior to developing a comprehensive proposal. The Head of School should then present this to the Faculty Executive who will carefully assess the proposal before recommending the establishment of such a centre to the Dean and subsequently to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research).

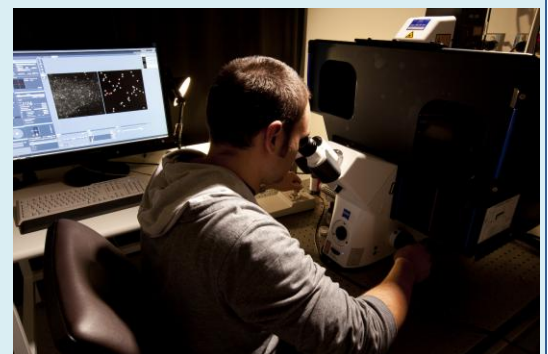
*Professor Peter J Smith, Dean, UNSW Medicine*

## Super Microscope' identifies "molecular switch"

Using the only microscope of its kind in Australia, medical scientists have been able for the first time to see the inner workings of T-cells, the front-line troops that alert our immune system. The discovery overturns prevailing understanding, identifying the exact molecular 'switch' that spurs T-cells into action — a breakthrough that could lead to treatments for a range of conditions from auto-immune diseases to cancer.

The findings, by researchers at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), are reported this week in the high-impact journal *Nature Immunology*. Studying a cell protein important in early immune response, the researchers led by Associate Professor Katharina Gaus from UNSW's Centre for Vascular Research at the Lowy Cancer Research Centre, used Australia's only microscope capable of **super-resolution fluorescence microscopy** to image the protein molecule-by-molecule to reveal the immunity 'switch'.

The technology is a major breakthrough for science, Dr Gaus said. Currently there are only half a dozen of the 'super' microscopes in use around the world. Other research team members were physicist Dr Dylan Owen, cell biologists Dr Jérémie Rossy and Dr Astrid Magenau, from the Centre for Vascular Research, and Professor Justin Gooding and Matthias Wehrmann, from UNSW's School of Chemistry and the Australian Centre for Nanomedicine. The research was supported by funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Human Frontier Science Program.



## ARC Linkage Grant Success & NSi Support - Professor Rakesh Kumar

Researchers in the Faculty of Medicine usually focus on applying to NHMRC, because the "traditional" line has been that the ARC doesn't want to know about medical research. In the last two years, I have ventured into ARC-land, and discovered that the inhabitants are friendly. The first time was as a co-investigator on a Discovery Project application by a colleague from the University of Newcastle. This project had suffered at the hands of NHMRC reviewers and GRPs for a couple of years, but to my surprise it received much more of a fair hearing from the ARC reviewers. Not that they weren't critical, but they certainly weren't unreasonable. My colleague was funded, although the budget was trimmed to the point where my component of the work had to be deleted. The main thing I learnt out of that experience was that the process of lodging an application using the ARC online system known as RMS is relatively painless, and in marked contrast to the diabolical horror that is RGMS. So I wondered about whether I might some day apply to the ARC for funds for myself, but I couldn't see how an opportunity might arise.

Although Denis Wakefield often exhorts us to consider commercialisation of our intellectual property via NSi, my research doesn't seem to lend itself to that. So when Alfredo Martinez-Coll wrote me an email in the middle of last year, advising that he had taken on the role of Commercialisation Manager for the faculty and requesting a meeting to discuss my work, it was with some resignation that I agreed. I expected little to come of it, but I was quite wrong. Alfredo took a broader view of what I was doing, and explained to me how the contract research I was already undertaking for a Korean biotechnology company, as a source of additional funds for the lab, was exactly the kind of relationship with a commercial partner that could provide the basis for an ARC Linkage Project application. Moreover, he pointed out that such applications have a much higher success rate than standard research grant applications. I had never considered this possibility before, but I pursued the idea, first with Alfredo and then with James Walsh in the Research Strategy Office. Because of their help, I managed to negotiate the hurdles faced by a first-time applicant, and was successful. I didn't want to be too greedy, so only sought 2 years of funding, but it's noteworthy that the budget awarded was \$72K/\$76K of the requested \$82K/\$86K. To my mind that's quite a good return for the time and effort invested! The discussion with Alfredo turned out to be valuable for me, and it might be for you too, so I recommend that you have a conversation with him soon.

*Rakesh Kumar*

## ARC Linkage Grant Success - Associate Professor Heather Worth



A typical PNG/Indonesia border crossing

**Mobility and HIV risk across the Papua New Guinea/Indonesia border: ARC Linkage : Associate Professor Heather Worth, Dr Angela Kelly, Dr Patrick Rawstone**

The aim of this project is to examine the relationship between mobility across the border between Indonesia and PNG and HIV risk. Both Papua New Guinea and Papua provinces of Indonesia have generalised HIV epidemics, with around 1% of the adult population in PNG and 2.4% in the Papua provinces in Indonesia infected with HIV. The land boundary between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea stretches for some 750 kilometres, and there has been continuous substantial two-way movement across the border for business and leisure. As well, patterns of mobility at the PNG/Indonesia border are very much influenced by family movement for festivals and funerals and to hunt as they have done traditionally.



Borders are seen as sites of HIV risk because people are more likely to engage in risk behaviours, such as unprotected sex with casual partners and sex workers, and drug use when they are away from home. This project will survey people returning home at six border crossing sites on both sides of the border. The project is a collaboration between the International with the PNG National AIDS Council, The Indonesian AIDS Council (KPA), the University of Cenderawasih and the PNG Institute for Medical Research.

*Heather Worth*

## Gudaga Welcomes the Governor to its Showcase

The Gudaga Study is a NHMRC funded longitudinal birth cohort study describing the health, development and health service use of over 130 Aboriginal infants and children living in the south-west corner of Sydney. The study is the first of its kind to be undertaken on Australia's east coast. Although based within the Faculty's Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity, the study is located in the Macarthur region of south-west Sydney.

Gudaga hosted a two day Aboriginal child health research symposium in early May (Tuesday and Wednesday 10-11 May 2011). The symposium was opened by the state Governor, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir. Professor Bashir spoke glowing of the Gudaga Study and congratulated the research team on its work. She also launched a booklet presenting early results from the Study.

The first day showcased the Study's findings. Professor Peter Smith, Dean, UNSW Faculty of Medicine chaired the morning session which included presentations from a number of the Study's chief investigators (Elizabeth Comino, Rebekah Grace, Elizabeth Harris, Lynn Kemp, and Lisa Jackson Pulver) and staff (Jenny Knight and Vana Webster) as well as others closely associated with the Study including Amanda Larkin (Chief Executive of the newly established South Western Sydney Local Health Network).

A very strong feature of the Gudaga Study is its strong links with the local Aboriginal community and its commitment to incorporate values such as respect and reciprocity into every facet of its work. This commitment was evident in many aspects of the symposium.

The Governor's presence at the symposium brought our study to the attention of SBS-TV. The symposium was on the station's evening news. They contacted us asking if they could feature the study in their Living Black program. One of their photo-journalists came and spent time talking with Elizabeth Comino, Jane Anderson and one of our Gudaga mothers, Kerrie-ann White and her daughter Tahneisha. We anticipate that the program will be aired in September.

Undertaking descriptive longitudinal cohort studies with Aboriginal infants and children living in urban areas was identified in the NHMRC's Roadmap document as essential research in closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health outcomes. Symposia such as this one are just one piece in the very complex jigsaw that will see this gap closed.

Further information on the Gudaga Study can be obtained from A/Prof Elizabeth Comino ([e.comino@unsw.edu.au](mailto:e.comino@unsw.edu.au)). Copies of the booklet can be obtained by contacting the research team at [f.maan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:f.maan@unsw.edu.au).

**Dr Jennifer Knight**



Tharawal's CEO, Darry Wright and Caitlyn Mundt thank the Governor, Prof Marie Bashir for officially opening the Aboriginal child health research symposium



CPHCE staff, A/Prof Elizabeth Comino, Dr Rebekah Grace, A/Prof Lynn Kemp, Elizabeth Harris and Prof Lisa Jackson-Pulver from Murra Muri Unit, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW present at the symposium



Seven year old, Kyiesha Russell, gives the Acknowledgment to Country

## Grants Management Office Support for Researchers

### Current Funding Opportunities:

SCHEME (click on hyperlink below for details)	INTERNAL CLOSE	EXTERNAL CLOSE
<a href="#">ARC Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) 2012</a>	8 June 2011	22 June 2011
<a href="#">NHMRC Development Grants</a>	27 June 2011	18 July 2011
<a href="#">Cancer Institute NSW Round 3, 2011</a>	15 August 2011	26 August 2011

Other current funding opportunities are available on the Research@UNSW Gateway via the Grants and Contracts dropdown menu: <http://research.unsw.edu.au/current-funding-opportunities>

All grant applications must be submitted via the Grants Management Office. The GMO is the responsible unit authorised to submit applications on behalf of the University. We can also undertake a compliance review of individual applications. Some of the common compliance issues the GMO find include applications that do not comply with the scheme funding rules; CI's exceeding the allowable number of applications they are named on for a funding scheme; budgets exceeding the allowable amount; University, Faculty or School submitting more applications than allowed by the funding rules; applications that don't address the selection criteria; applications not adhering to formatting and style requirements; electronic signatures – an issue in cases where only original hand-signed copies are accepted; eligibility of UNSW conjoint appointments for CI or PI roles (varies from scheme to scheme).

### Grants Management Office Team Medicine

The GMO Medicine Team has farewelled Susanne Clark as she takes on her role as Team Leader for Science, Arts and Social Sciences, and COFA. We wish her all the best in her new role and are pleased her expertise is staying within the GMO. **Phyllis Heggie is Acting Team Leader for Medicine** until July when Deirdre McKay returns from her Faculty placement. Phyllis has been providing the Faculty with support and advice for over three years and will continue to support her Schools, Centres and Institutes while leading the Medicine Team.

To contact your Grants Officer visit <https://research.unsw.edu.au/team-medicine> for details.

### NHMRC Response to Assessors

We anticipate the Response to Assessors period will commence in late June/early July ahead of the Grant Review Panels meeting in August. The GMO will provide regular updates, via email and our [ARC Rejoinders & NHMRC Response to Assessors webpage](#), with information about responding through RGMS and how to access support. Please ensure you remain in contact, have access to RGMS and check your UNSW email regularly or forward this to your preferred email throughout this period.

### Enhancing communications with research support staff

Researchers will soon have the option to nominate a research administrator on the GALF form to be included in all emails sent to the researcher from the InfoEd Grants Management System. By doing this we can better apprise administrators and coordinators of significant grant milestones or requirements to enhance research support. This is an opt-in service for all researchers and their support staff. If you would like more information please don't hesitate to contact us at [mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au](mailto:mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au).

### End of Financial Year

With end-of-financial year closing in, some sponsors will have additional monies to divest before 30 June, either as top-ups to ongoing projects or as new funding. As June is a busy time for the GMO please pass any such information on as soon as you have it to your [Grants Officer](#). Please note that the University's financial system (NSF) will be shutdown from the 4th to 11th July for an upgrade. No invoicing, account opening or other finance related activities will be possible throughout this period.

## Library News

### Community of Scholars (COS) Funding Opportunities

*COS Funding Opportunities* is a compiled database of worldwide funding opportunities for grants, fellowships, prizes and other type of funding. More than 11,000 sponsors are represented in the database, both public and private.

Although there may be some overlap with the *SPIN Research Grant Database*, the *COS Funding Opportunities* database may help you find funding from lesser-known sources, niche organisations and funding from abroad.

In addition to a general abstract, each COS Funding Opportunities record includes information on deadlines, amount of award, any eligibility criteria, and contact information for more information from the sponsoring organisation. The advanced search can be used to find opportunities open to Australian researchers – use “Australia or unrestricted” in the citizenship field. It is available through the catalogue on the Library homepage <http://www.library.unsw.edu.au> *Note: zPass authentication required from off-campus*

### SAGE Research Methods Online

*SAGE Research Methods Online (SRMO)* is a research methods tool created to help researchers and students with their research projects. Although it is designed broadly for the social sciences, it focuses on methodology rather than disciplines, so it can also be used across the health sciences. SRMO links to over 100,000 pages of SAGE’s book, journal and reference content. It also includes multimedia content such as videos of key authors talking about the methods they use.

Researchers can explore methods concepts to help them design research projects, understand particular methods or identify a new method, conduct their research, and write up their findings. Visual ‘methods maps’ can be created and methods ‘collections’ can be shared with colleagues and students. It is available through the catalogue on the Library homepage <http://www.library.unsw.edu.au> *Note: zPass authentication required from off-campus*

### Author Identifiers

An ongoing issue in tracking the publication output and impact of researchers is the lack of a uniform and universal scheme for disambiguating author names. A number of issues contribute to the difficulties in identifying the publication profile of an individual. These include common names; name variants; author mobility – change of institution; interpretations of non-English surnames and so on.

In an attempt to circumvent some of these issues, a number of author identifier schemes have emerged in recent years. Some of these are being driven by vendors/publishers and some by the broader research community. These include the [Scopus Author ID](#); ISI’s [ResearcherID](#); [PubMed Author ID](#); the Australian Research Data Commons [Party Infrastructure project](#) run by the National Library of Australia.

### ORCID

ORCID stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID. An independent, not-for-profit, organisation was launched in Aug 2010 to oversee the development of a **central registry of unique identifiers** for individual researchers and an open and transparent linking mechanism between ORCID and other current author ID schemes.

This will pull all the IDs together and link them to the researcher’s output through a single ORCID identifier. There are over 200 organisations participating in this initiative including academic institutions, publishers and scholarly societies. A [beta system](#) may be released later this year.

## Competition: Rare Diseases: a sustainable model for the pharmaceutical industry

**Competition now open! “Rare Diseases: a sustainable model for the pharmaceutical industry”** The competition details: To further understanding of how the pharmaceutical industry can develop and deliver medicines of value for rare diseases, GSK is inviting schools of public health, business schools, students, scholars, health outcome/economics specialists and individuals with an interest, to submit their views and insights on the subject. GSK is opening an international competition inviting external views and strategic perspectives on this theme: “*Rare Diseases: a sustainable model for the pharmaceutical industry*”. For details go to: <http://www.gsk.com/rare-diseases>

## NHMRC Project Grants Workshop - 4 August 2011

*The next workshop is on 4 August, final details and registration will be announced in due course:*

**Date: 4 August 2011**

**Time: 10-12**

**Venue: Old Main Building (G31)**

**Speaker: Professor Andrew Lloyd**

*The last workshop in the series will be:*

**8 December \*: NHMRC Project Grants #2 : Speaker TBA - Venue : TBA**

*\*Date to be confirmed*

*Please note these dates in your diary and check the Faculty website regularly for updates*

## Three Minute Thesis Competition 2011 - Faculty Closing Date 23 June

The closing date for applications for the Faculty 3 minute thesis competition is Thursday 23rd June 2011. Faculty of Medicine students who wish to participate in the Competition must submit an Application to Khanh Vo at [med.rsch@unsw.edu.au](mailto:med.rsch@unsw.edu.au) by this date.

The Faculty of Medicine Competition will be held on Tuesday 26th July 2011 starting at 3 pm in the Lecture Theatre LG03, Lower Ground floor, Wallace Wurth Building. Everyone in the Faculty is welcome to attend. The 3 winners of this Competition will represent the Faculty at the UNSW Competition on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

### Further Information

For information about the Faculty Competition, please contact Khanh Vo at [med.rsch@unsw.edu.au](mailto:med.rsch@unsw.edu.au) or 9385 2457, or see: <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/PGREvents>

For information about the UNSW Competition, see: <http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/resources/threeminutecompetition.html>

### Contact us:

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**Karen Walker : 9385 1664  
Room 514, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lowy Cancer Research Centre**