Welcome to the first issue of Inspiring Research for the year. 2016 promises to be an exciting and busy year with a number of significant developments flowing from recommendations of the Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements (Watt Review) and the initiatives proposed by the National Innovation and Science Agenda. Together these documents stress the need for universities to develop strategies for collaboration with research end users ensuring research translates into economic and social benefits.

The Watt Review sets out a new model, to commence in 2017, which substantially simplifies Research Block Grant (RBG) funding by combining six schemes (the APA, IPRS, RTS, RIBG, SRE and JRE) into two:

- A Research Support (RS) program combining Research Infrastructure Block Grants, Sustainable Research Excellence and Joint Research Engagement to provide a block grant based on an equal weighting between Category 1 income and the sum of income from Categories 2-4, and
- A Research Training (RT) program which combines the current Research Training Scheme, Australian Postgraduate Awards and the International Postgraduate Research Scheme to provide funding based on an equal weighting of student completions and research income, the latter again being equally weighted between Category 1 income and the sum of income from Categories 2-4.

Significantly, publications as a measure would be dropped from the funding allocation calculations, but they remain enormously significant as the primary means by which we disseminate our research and because of their impact on ERA assessments and international rankings schemes, on which much of our reputation is based.

The Federal Government’s National Innovation and Science Agenda is backed by substantial new investment in research, including to research infrastructure through the NCRIS scheme, support for commercialisation activities, and incentives for investors in early stage companies.

Of direct relevance to universities is the Collaboration pillar, which will have the greatest impact and provide the most opportunities with incentives to drive research in partnership with industry.

Significantly, the Agenda seeks to put in place the revised block grant funding model described above. In response, we will need to increase our focus on external earnings and end-user engagement in general. The new University Strategic Plan, now well into its development, will reflect the thrust of these initiatives.

I look forward to working with you in achieving the University’s research goals in the light of the opportunities presented in these important statements from the Federal Government.

Professor Rob Saint
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

NEWS FROM THE RSO

REVIEWING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NHMRC GRANT PROGRAM

The NHMRC CEO, Professor Anne Kelso, has announced a review of the structure of NHMRC’s grant program. NHMRC awards grants...
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worth around $800 million each year from the Medical Research Endowment Account (MREA). In recent years, rising application numbers to NHMRC schemes and rising costs of research have presented new challenges as support excellence across all research sectors has been sought – from knowledge creation to translation into better healthcare – and provide opportunities for researchers at different stages of their careers.

“We have a vibrant, highly productive and internationally competitive research community. However, we are also aware that the increasing number of applications places a heavy burden on applicants and on the many members of the research community who peer-review applications,” NHMRC CEO Professor Anne Kelso said. “Concerns have also been raised that opportunities for early and mid-career researchers and for exploration of new areas of research are being affected.”

“We are therefore commencing an over-arching review of the structure of NHMRC’s grant programme to determine whether we can streamline the current suite of funding schemes, while continuing to support the best Australian research and researchers for the benefit of human health.”

Professor Steve Wesselingh will chair the Expert Advisory Group, who will assist Professor Kelso during the review. In addition, external consultation will be undertaken through institutional round-tables and a period of public consultation. It is expected this will occur around the middle of 2016.

It is anticipated that the review will take most of 2016. Further information is available on the NHMRC website.

Article information sourced from the NHMRC

RESEARCH NEWS AND SUCCESSES

FLINDERS PROFESSOR JOINS INTERNATIONAL LINE-UP

The international Association for Psychological Science has selected Professor Neil Brewer, School of Psychology, as a Fellow in recognition of his “sustained outstanding contributions” to the discipline. The association’s US-based president said Professor Brewer would join a distinguished group of scientists who continue to contribute to advancing psychological science.

For more than 15 years, Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor Brewer's research has focused on the accuracy of eyewitness line-up procedures in the criminal justice system. A revised approach to conducting police line-ups has resulted in improved accuracy rates which decrease the chance of a wrong conviction. Factors considered include how long a witness looked at the perpetrator when the crime was committed; how close they were; whether they are the same race as the witness; and whether the witness is an adult or a child.

In 2013 Professor Brewer was appointed editor of the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied, the first Australian to be made Editor-in-Chief of one of an American Psychology Association journal.

He also has branched into assessing the judicial system’s treatment of adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in collaboration with Flinders autism expert Professor Robyn Young. Their book Crime and Autism Disorder Spectrum: Myths and Mechanisms (Jessica Kingsley Publishers) was published last year.

“While there is limited scientific research on adults with ASD in the criminal justice system, it is clear that there is a need for greater awareness among judges, police, clinical psychologists and others,” Professor Brewer says. “For example, individuals with ASD might not understand the way their actions or words can incriminate them, or they might overreact due to sensory overload or obsessive behaviours in a new or unfamiliar environment.”

Professor Young says the research available does not show people with ASD are disproportionately represented in prison populations or psychiatric hospitals. In fact, some features of the disorder may protect them from criminal activity.

“However, some features of the disorder may combine with environmental risk factors that for a minority may lead to criminal activity,” she says.

The Flinders’ experts call for further research to investigate ways to reduce these risks, “if we are to protect some people with ASD who may be more vulnerable”.

Article sourced from Office of Communication and Engagement
Inspiring research

HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH WINS ACCOLADES

Research into eating, eye, sleep and autoimmune disorders were among the nine outstanding papers awarded the Flinders Best Research Higher Degree Student publications for 2015. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Robert Saint said the awards highlight two of the University’s key drivers – to offer students high-level learning and training opportunities to go on and excel in research and knowledge which impacts in their field and contributes to real-world applications.

He congratulated all of the recipients and their supervisors for the strength of the papers, with many published either last year or this year in prestigious journals.

Doctoral candidate Eva Vall, whose paper “Predictors of treatment outcome in individuals with eating disorders: A systematic review and meta-analysis” appeared in the International Journal of Eating Disorders (IJED), has also received a US award for Best Paper by an Early Career Researcher from the IJED publisher John Wiley and Sons.

The winning papers and supervisors were:


Co-author and PhD supervisor Professor Tracey Wade joined other supervisors in congratulating their students.

DIgITAL Identity and EVERYDAY ActivISM

Flinders digital media lecturer and researcher, Dr Sonja Vivienne, has recently published her first monograph, Digital Identity and Everyday Activism with Palgrave Macmillan.

If you’ve ever wondered about the balance between over-sharing and complete digital disconnection, this book offers an alternate path beyond dystopian/utopian dualisms. Vivienne describes the numerous obstacles stigmatized storytellers confront when sharing in networked public places, and the creative self-representation strategies they use to overcome them. It’s now available in the library or can be ordered here: http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137500731.

Building on this work, Vivienne is currently facilitating a series of social media storytelling workshops with the trans* and gender-diverse community in Adelaide, funded by...
Inspiring research

A recent study by Dr Yvonne Parry, Senior Lecturer in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, has found that children living in areas of deprivation are six times more likely to use Emergency Department (ED) for non-urgent care. The research explored several aspects of ED use and primary health provision. It found that there is limited access to primary health care services in areas with higher levels of deprivation and this impacts on children’s access to appropriate care. The increasing use of ED for non-urgent care is concerning as it can lead to overcrowding, misdiagnosis and mistreatment.

Additionally, for vulnerable population groups such as children there is a need for continuity of care and this is often beyond the remit of ED service. This study has important implications for clinicians, researchers, and policy makers in understanding the use of ED for non-urgent care.

This research highlighted that the lack of community-based services for children impacts on the use of ED for non-urgent care. Furthermore, research that fails to determine the extent to which structural factors impact on service delivery does not address non-urgent use of paediatric ED access. Focusing on the behaviour of parents can blur the issues of service provision in areas of deprivation.

Article provided by Dr Yvonne Parry, School of Nursing and Midwifery

NEW SPLINT TO BE LAUNCHED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

An innovative, light-weight splint to immobilise broken limbs has been developed with support from the Medical Device Partnership Program (MDPP) at Flinders at Tonsley. The manufacturer, Fluoro Medical, will this year use an Accelerating Commercialisation grant from the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science to ramp up production of the splint in South Australia.

State Manufacturing and Innovation Minister Kyam Maher says the ‘CAS Splint’, made by local company Fluoro Medical Pty Ltd, will be manufactured in large quantities in SA.

The company says the project could create up to 25 jobs during the next three to five years. “The State Government funding – through the Medical Technologies Program – will provide 250 hours of research and development assistance from the Flinders MDPP, together with 30 hours of market intelligence which can be utilised by Fluoro Medical to craft a business case and commercialisation strategy at a later stage,” Mr Maher says.

Fluoro Medical managing director Scott Blackburn says the CAS Splint was developed to create a low-cost alternative to stabilise and support injured limbs. It is waterproof and compact enough to fit into regular first-aid kits.

Research undertaken by the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare indicates 65% of falls result in the fracture of limbs, and currently the most common way to secure a limb is by using sling bandages with cardboard splints not found in most first-aid kits. Because of the nature of the materials used in that process, the resulting support can easily succumb to moisture damage and, if applied incorrectly, even exacerbate the injury.

LACK OF ALTERNATIVES INCREASE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT USE

A grant from Community Benefits SA. Some of the groups’ creative work can be viewed at www.storiesbeyondgender.com

“Something has taken flight in this book. Arriving at ‘intimate citizenship (3.0)’ is not just an intellectual, personal and civic achievement” it’s a fine bit of storytelling too.”

- From the Foreword by John Hartley, Curtin University, Australia and Cardiff University, UK

The project has also been supported by an EHL Faculty Grant to explore the obstacles and opportunities at the heart of online advocacy and support for gender-diverse people, as perceived by educators and social service providers.

Article submitted by Dr Sonja Vivienne, School of Humanities and Creative Arts
Inspiring research

Professor Karen Reynolds, director of the State Government-funded MDPP, says Flinders medical device experts will run trials of the splint, which will help Fluoro Medical through the final development phase.

“The MDPP will undertake an end-user trial and survey to validate the current design of the splint and make recommendations for design modifications as required,” says Professor Reynolds.

Article sourced from Office of Communication and Engagement

RECENT GRANT SUCCESSES

OFFICE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS - SEED GRANTS
Flinders University is one of only three institutions to receive multiple grants. Both of the following projects will receive funding of $40,000 and be undertaken in 2016:

Ms Fiona Salmon, Flinders University Art Museum, will lead the project The power of things: enhancing employability in higher education through object-based learning, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and TAFE SA.

Dr Antonella Stramb and Dr Ann Luzechkyj will lead the project Helping first year students flourish through languages: Integrating positive psychology, transition pedagogy and CLIL principles in collaboration with the University of Sydney.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES LOOKING FOR FRESH, YOUNG RESEARCHERS WITH A STORY TO TELL - FRESH SCIENCE 2016

Fresh Science is looking for the best and brightest early-career researchers who have made a peer-reviewed discovery and received little or no media attention. Fresh Science is a national competition that selects researchers with research results, an invention, or a discovery, trains them in how to tell their story, and helps them share their findings with the media and the public.

What they are looking for:
• early-career researchers (from honours students to no more than five years’ post-PhD)
• a peer-reviewed discovery that has had little or no media coverage
• some ability to present ideas in everyday English.

Successful applicants will participate in Fresh Science 2016: First, a day of media and communication training, learning how to find the key, compelling story in their research, and how to tell that story. Then, at the following pub night, the challenge of explaining their research in the time it takes a party sparkler to burn out. Short, media-friendly profiles on each Freshie will be published, and South Australia’s best Fresh Science stories will be pitched to the media.

Nominations are now open, and close 9 March 2016. Fresh Science SA will run 14 and 15 June at the SA Museum (training) and Lion Hotel (public challenge).

Read more and nominate online at freshscience.org.au. Any questions? Contact Errol Hunt on (03) 9398 1416 or errol@scienceinpublic.com.au.

Fresh Science South Australia is supported by the South Australian Museum, Flinders University, the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia.

ARE YOU AUSTRALIA’S NEXT SCIENCE STAR?

Entries for the 2016 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are now open! There are 16 prizes on offer rewarding excellence in the fields of research & innovation; leadership; science communication; and school science, including two Eureka Prizes new to the line-up – Innovation in Medical Research and Innovation in Citizen Science.

To view the complete list, go to https://eureka-entry.australianmuseum.net.au/. Entries close 7pm AEST Friday 6 May.

Have a question? Check out the FAQs (http://australianmuseum.net.au/FAQs-eureka), or contact the Eureka Prizes team at eureka@austrmus.gov.au or on (02) 9320 6483.

Application support provided by the RSO via brodie.beales@flinders.edu.au

RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL

Flinders University has recently renewed their site licence to Research Professional. This is a powerful funding opportunities search engine and database, which allows users to create and save their own custom searches for national and worldwide funding opportunities. Searches can be filtered by funder, funder type, deadline, discipline, keyword etc. Users also have the ability to set up and receive regular email alerts of new funding opportunities or news in specific areas of interest. All opportunities listed on the system have been eligibility verified for Australian researchers.

All Flinders staff can have access to Research Professional using an ‘@flinders’ email address once they have been set up on the system. If you do not already have a Research Professional login and password, and would like to have access to the system, please contact your appropriate Faculty contact who are listed on the Searching for Funding page.
**Inspiring research**

**SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**
The Research Services Office has a calendar of upcoming seminars and workshops applicable for Academic staff and Research Higher Degree students on the [Upcoming Workshops and Presentations page](#).

**BIOSAFETY TRAINING DAY**
For all personnel conducting activities requiring IBC approval, both training at a local level and attendance at a Flinders Biosafety Training Day are compulsory.

Participants are required to pass a short test held at the completion of the session with a mark of 80% or greater in order to qualify for the Training Day Certificate of Completion.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**
All students and research staff, including senior investigators and supervisors, who work in a PC facility, or work with or intend to work with genetically modified organisms, genome editing technologies (e.g. CRISPR/Cas9), microbial pathogens or viruses, if:

- You have never attended
- It has been more than 3 years since you have last attended

**WHEN:** Wednesday 16 March 9 AM - 1:00 PM
**WHERE:** Flinders Medical Centre, Lecture Theatre 3
**RSVP:** Please send RSVP to ibcadmin@flinders.edu.au

Morning tea will be provided.

Further information is available on the [Flinders Biosafety Training page](#).

**RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND MISCONDUCT**
**Dr Peter Wigley**, Manager, Research Ethics and Integrity - Research Service Office, will present to interested attendees on Research Integrity and Misconduct.

Research integrity involves the responsible conduct of research, and the handling of research misconduct. In this country, the prevailing guideline for research integrity is the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (“the Code”), published in 2007 by the ARC, NHMRC and Universities Australia (the national Vice-Chancellor’s organisation).

In addition to the general requirement for all researchers to conduct and report their research responsibly, it is a condition of funding from the ARC and NHMRC that institutions comply with the Code. Therefore, the University must ensure that all researchers (staff and students), and relevant research support staff, understand their responsibilities under the Code.

This seminar will provide an overview of the Code and the relevant policies, procedures and support within Flinders University.

**Where:** Health Sciences Lecture Theatre 1.09
**When:** Thursday, 31 March 2016
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
**RSVP:** via [Enrol](#)

For enquiries please phone Dr Peter Wigley, extension 15466.

**CALL FOR PAPERS - AIN’T LOVE GRAND**
Flinders University is partnering with the Romance Writers of Australia to deliver two peer-reviewed academic streams at the Romance Writers of Australia national conference in August 2016, Ain’t Love Grand. One stream will be focussed on Historical Representations of Love; the second will be for Popular Romance Studies. The Love Research Cluster for the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions and the International Association for the Study of Popular Romance Studies are partners for these streams and we aim to bring together a diverse and dynamic community of researchers on love and romance.

Love is central in the personal, social, and political construction of how we understand, organise, categorise, and measure our relationships. For historians, cultural theorists, sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, archaeologists, and literary scholars it is not possible to understand our areas without some understanding of the role of love. For Romance writers, it is the centre of their narratives. This is an increasingly reciprocal relationship.

writers use the work of scholars to give their work immediacy and accuracy, while scholars use popular depictions to explain cultural difference or illustrate cultural paradigms both in their work and their teaching.

This conference aims to bring together those who create representations of love, sex, and romance with those who study them through its transdisciplinary academic stream, Historical Representations of Love and its popular romance specific stream Popular Romance Studies.

The Deadline for Submission of Papers has been extended until Friday 18 March 2016 and should be sent to amy.f.matthews@flinders.edu.au. Further information, including more information on the call for papers is available [here](#).

Share your research successes and/or information regarding upcoming research related events in your area. Contact Nikki Johnson for article submissions or further information.