



Increase in Support for Animal-based Researchers

Recent changes within Research Services will result in increased support for animal-based researchers.

Animal Services Unit:

The need for a qualified person who can assist the Veterinary Manager, Animal Services and act as a deputy was identified many years ago and was reinforced during the review of the Animal Services Unit held in 2005. The University of Newcastle has recently appointed a Veterinary Officer to join the Animal Services Unit staff team. This appointment will allow the provision of improved services to the research community by providing access to another veterinarian with qualifications and experience in the field of laboratory animal research.

Under the existing staffing arrangements the Veterinary Manager manages and provides veterinary services for a total of 10 animal facilities, located on the Callaghan campus, at the David Maddison Building and at the John Hunter Hospital. These facilities have diverse management requirements with a number of them jointly managed with specific research groups. The rapid expansion of animal research in recent years, particularly with genetically modified mice has created a pressing need for additional technical and professional staff within the ASU. The new Veterinary Officer will provide enhanced veterinary services, both within and out of normal business hours, support the Veterinary Manager with management of the breeding and holding areas, support researchers with advice and training in procedures including anaesthesia, surgery and post mortems and oversee the day to day running of the animal holding areas.

Brian Carlton has accepted this position and will start on 17 April 2007. He will be based at the David Maddison building, but will also travel between Animal Services facilities as needed. He will be working on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and comes to the University of Newcastle from a similar position at Oxford University.



Dr Brian Carlton

Animal Ethics:

Administrative support to the Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC), and in the preparation of statutory reports and applications, will now be provided by a part-time Animal Ethics Officer. Nicole Emanuel will act in this role (Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays) and will be the first point of contact for researchers with respect to ACEC applications. This will enable the Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) (Mary Bate) to provide greater support and information to researchers, including advising researchers on the preparation of applications and meeting with researchers and research groups regularly to provide training and advice on the conduct of projects. To facilitate this support, the AWO will be located in relevant areas on and off campus on a

regular basis (eg. David Maddison Building, Life Sciences Building, Psychology, John Hunter Hospital). The AWO will continue to be responsible for inspection and monitoring of animal use and animal facilities, development of policies and guidelines, and provision of the Research Animal Training Scheme (RATS) with the Veterinary Manager, Animal Services Unit. It is anticipated that these changes will result in improved administrative processes supporting the ACEC, and greater liaison between the ACEC and the research community.

Further information on these arrangements will be publicised on the animal ethics website, and provided during forthcoming meetings organised by the AWO with research groups.



Nicole Emanuel (Mon/Tue/Fri)
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Further information:
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/animal/> or phone the team on extension x15353

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Research Quality Framework (RQF) Portfolio Manager, revised closing date **30 April 2007**
- Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC), Publications Entry System (PES) closes **30 April 2007**

- Eligibility exemptions are now due for the following ARC schemes:
 - 2008 Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development, applications due at Research by **23 March 2007**
 - 2008 Linkage Projects (Round 1), applications due at Research by **21 March 2007**Application forms are now available in GAMS

What's happening in the Research Division?

RESEARCH DIVISION Newsletter – March 2007

Highlights

On 1 March 2007 the Research Office submitted 132 ARC Discovery Project applications. Thanks to all those researchers who submitted their final application by the Research Office deadline which ensured a smooth process for the final checks, signature and submission.

69 NHMRC project grants were submitted on 16 March 2007.

Seminars

Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme talk

Where: Wollotuka

When: Tuesday 20 March 2007, 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Early Career Researcher Seminar 'Locating internal & external funding opportunities'

Presenters: Sid Bourke, Jodie Ryan

Where: Video Conference room Callaghan/Ourimbah

When: 27 March 2007, 1.00 - 2.00 pm
Please register through HR Online

Conferences

Australian Regional Economies Conference 2007

Where: Port Panthers, Port Macquarie

When: 3 – 4 May 2007

Full details available at

www.impactenviro.com.au/arec2007
or contact Reah Kay on ext 18762

Graduate Studies

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding RHD candidates

We are delighted to announce the recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding RHD candidates. Warmest congratulations to go Lauren Cottrell (Medical Biochemistry), Jason Kulk (Computer Engineering) and Christopher Donkin (Psychology) who will each receive an Australian Postgraduate Award plus \$10,000 annual supplementation.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Supervision Excellence

In acknowledgement of the vital role that supervisors play in our research achievements and in supporting our talented research higher degree students, each faculty will recognise their most outstanding supervisor with an award for Supervision Excellence. The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Supervision Excellence is then presented to the most outstanding recipient of the faculty awards. Nomination is by staff members and former students. Self nomination is not permitted. Full details of the nomination, application and judging processes are available at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/graduate/supervisionexcellence.html>

RHD Seminar Series

This year we are pleased to advise the continuation of the Seminar Series for RHD students and supervisors. Full details of the program are available at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/skillstraining.html>

Data Management

Phase 2 of the Portfolio Manager project is progressing well, with developers now testing the component that will enable researchers to record research impact. Reports and export features are also underway.

A reminder that the Publications Entry System (PES) is currently open, and researchers are encouraged to ensure their 2006 Newcastle Publications are entered in PES as soon as possible.

The implementation of the new Research Management System, InfoEd, has commenced. The project is initially focussing on the Ethics and Safety modules.

Human Research Ethics

New initiative: Research Ethics Advisors (REAs) have been appointed to be the 'first port of call' for researchers with human research ethics issues or questions. They will also provide advice about applying for ethics approval and conduct ethics education seminars in their Faculties.

The REAs are:

Business and Law
Education and Arts
Engineering & Built Environment
Health
Science and IT

A/Prof Abul Shamsuddin and Dr Colin James
Dr Melissa Monfries and Dr Erik Eklund
A/Prof Kerry London
Dr Helen Warren-Forward and Ms Lorinda Schultz
Dr Miles Bore, Dr Martin Johnson and Simon

Other initiatives currently being developed are a Course Related Ethics Approval process for situations where all students in a course undertake the same or similar low risk minor research project, and a Register of research instruments and procedures approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee.

What's happening in the Research Division?

RESEARCH DIVISION Newsletter – March 2007

Research Support Unit

The Research Support Unit is comprised of the following: Advanced Mass Spectrometry Unit (AMSU); Biomolecular Research Facility (BRF); and Electron Microscope and X-Ray Unit (EMXU). In 2005 and 2006 the RSU was reviewed by an internal panel to examine the operation and processes of these units and how well they meet the needs of researchers and external clients. An outcome of this review was the recommendation to form two Advisory Groups, AMS/BRF and EMXU, to provide advice on strategic directions for these units. These Advisory Groups are currently being formed and a call for expressions of interest for membership from the academic community will shortly be circulated to all staff via email.

Grants

Applications are now open for the ARC Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development scheme (IRDS). To be eligible to apply for an IRDS grant the applicant needs to be of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent (Mentors or Supervisors who are associated with the project do not need to be an Indigenous Australian) and includes research higher degree students as well as staff. The focus of the proposal does not need to be in an Indigenous area of research. If you are considering applying please contact Jodie Ryan on 492 17188 or email Jodie.Ryan@newcastle.edu.au preferably by Friday 23 March.

RQF

For further details on the RQF latest developments please go to:
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/researchperformance/rqflatestdevelopments.html>

RQF Contact: Jenny Kirkby
 Phone: 492 16332
jenny.kirkby@newcastle.edu.au

Staff Changes

Welcome to **Richard Maher** who has commenced as Manager, Research Ethics and Systems, replacing Rod Lewis.

Welcome also to **Peter Farley**, the previous Director, Research & Research Training Services who has returned to replace **Lyn McBriarty** while she is on leave.

Statistics Corner (January - February 2007)

Human Ethics	Feb 07	2007	Animal Ethics	Feb 07	2007	Grants	Feb 07	2007	Graduate Studies	Total
Human Ethics Total Initial Applications Processed	19	19	Animal Ethics Initial Applications Processed	3	8	External grant applications processed	144	148	RHD completions since 1 April 2006	198
Expedited	14	14								
Full Review	5	5								
Human Ethics Project Variation Applications	18	18	Animal Ethics Variation Applications Processed	9	17	External grant awards processed	24	45		
Human Ethics Approval Renewal Applications	2	2	Animal Ethics Application Renewals Processed	2	4	Value of external grant awards processed	\$4.41M	\$6.19M		
Human Ethics Registration of HNEH approvals	22	22	Animal Ethics Variation Applications (Personnel) Processed	3	28					
			Inspections Performed	3	6					

www.newcastle.edu.au/research

For newsletter enquiries, contact:
 Rebecca Palmer on ext 17739 or Rebecca.Palmer@newcastle.edu.au



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