



## GRANTS

### 2009 ARC DISCOVERY PROJECTS AND NHMRC APPLICATIONS

The Research Office submitted 135 ARC Discovery Project and 66 NHMRC Project applications. Thank you to all those researchers who submitted applications.

Faculty	ARC Discovery Project				NHMRC Project			
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
Business and Law	11	12	6	10	1	1	1	0
Education and Arts	18	490	24	26	0	0	1	1
Engineering and Built Environment	46	48	52	44	0	0	1	1
Health	7	9	6	4	53	55	53	56
Science and Information Technology	33	34	44	49	62	78	66	69

A summary of applications submitted, by Faculty, for the past four years.

### NEW STAFF GRANTS

New Staff Grants are aimed at assisting new academic staff (within 12 months of appointment) to establish their research at the University of Newcastle. New Staff Grants are negotiated between the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Head of School prior to the commencement of appointment. No application form is required and the Head of School is to contact the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) directly in relation to funding allocation.

Specific details about eligibility, funding, duration and information on requirements for completion of the application form are contained in the guidelines and should be read carefully. Guidelines can be found on the Research Services website at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/grants/int/new-staff-grants.html>.

For further information please contact [Rebecca Palmer](#) (Wed, Thurs, Fri) on ext 17739.

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

### NHMRC Research Forum – Monday 21 April

Professor Warwick Anderson, CEO of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) will be visiting the University of Newcastle on Monday 21 April to facilitate a Forum with key health and medical researchers.

The Research Forum will cover a wide range of issues including success rates in the 2007 funding rounds, improving the peer review process, support of our health and medical researchers, the rising costs of research, supporting biomedical, clinical, public health and health services research, the commercialisation of research and an analysis of NHMRC-supported research achievements.

This is an opportunity to hear and discuss NHMRC's current research support outcomes, and the NHMRC's consideration of addressing the forthcoming challenges in health and medical research in the 21st century.

The details of this Research Forum are as follows:

**Date:** Monday 21 April, 2008  
**Time:** 3.00pm – 5.00pm  
**Venue:** GP2.1 Lecture Theatre

All researchers and interested persons are welcome to attend. Please RSVP your attendance to [Trudi Wynne](#) by Friday 18 April.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact [Elianne Renaud](#) on ext 15944.

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE STRATEGIC PILOT GRANTS

The University Pilot Research scheme aims to assist researchers in developing a new research area and to build collaboration between research groups to the point of submitting an application for an ARC - Discovery Grant or other external research funding. The funding awarded will be at a sufficient level to fund a pilot project and will be awarded in the range \$5,000 to \$20,000. In 2008 \$60,000, per Faculty has been allocated to the Strategic Pilot grant round from the RGIC budget.

The funding guidelines and application process documentation are available from the Research Services website at

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/grants/pilotresearch.html>.

Applications must be submitted to the Research Office by 5.00 pm Monday 28 April.

For further information please contact [Jodie Ryan](#) (Mon, Tues, Wed) or [Megan Stephenson](#) (Wed, Thu, Fri), Senior Grants Officers, Research Services on ext 17188

## NHMRC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

This is the second round of grants to be funded under the NHMRC Development Grant Scheme in 2008. Applications opened on 5 April and were advertised in the Tenders Section of the Weekend Australian on Saturday 5 April. Closing date for applications will be 2 June.

The Scheme supports the development of health or medical research that has commercial potential and that may benefit the Australian community by providing funding for research commercialisation at the early proof-of-concept stage.

The Funding Policy and application process documentation are available from the NHMRC website at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/apply/granttype/development/index.htm>.

Applicants who would like the Research Office to conduct a Full Review of their application should forward a paper copy to the Research Office no later than Friday 22 May. Please note that final applications are due in the Research Office by 5.00pm Wednesday 28 May.

For further information please contact [Elianne Renaud](#) on ext 15944.

## EMBL - GROUP LEADERS

In accordance with Australia's Associate Membership of EMBL, up to 2 fully funded research groups are able to be located at an EMBL site in Europe for a maximum period of 5 years, candidates will continue as Group Leaders at an Australian institution for a further 4 years.

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) is an international research organisation offering a highly collaborative, uniquely international culture. It fosters top quality, interdisciplinary research by promoting a vibrant environment consisting of young independent research groups composed of outstanding graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The Scientific Programme of EMBL emphasises experimental analysis at multiple levels of biological organisation, from the molecule to the organism, as well as Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology. In addition to exciting colleagues, the laboratory provides excellent shared facilities for a variety of advanced experimental approaches. High-level expertise is also available in Computational Biology, diverse aspects of experimental Molecular Biology as well as Physics, Biophysics, Chemical Biology and instrument development.

Funding from Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is available to support the placement of one group, subject to approval.

NHMRC and EMBL are seeking applications from talented molecular and cell biologists for the NHMRC-supported Group Leader position. This is an opportunity for a researcher of outstanding ability to further their career at EMBL in Europe and develop into an internationally recognised research leader.

Applications close Friday 16 May. For further information and details of how to apply are available from the EMBL website at <http://www-db.embl.de/jss/servlet/de.embl.bk.emblGroups.JobsPage/08006.html>.

# RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

## HUMAN ETHICS

**Staff changes:** There have been recent staff changes in the Human Ethics unit. Genevieve Farrell and Timothy Dean have been appointed as Human Research Ethics Officers to cover periods of absence by Ruth Gibbins (maternity leave) and Sue O'Connor (secondment). Denise Lee has also returned to her role providing administrative support to both Animal and Human Ethics. For general enquiries please contact [Denise Lee](#) on ext 18999. [Genevieve Farrell](#) can be contacted on ext 16333 and [Timothy Dean](#) on ext 15151. For assistance with the preparation and submission of ethics applications please contact your local [Research Ethics Advisor](#) (REA).

**Are you using the right form?:** Human Ethics application forms and guidelines undergo continuous refinement. For this reason researchers must refer to the Human Ethics website and download the appropriate form each time they are required to submit an application. **Please note that from 1 May 2008 any application submitted on the old version of the form will be returned to the applicant who will be required to resubmit using the current form.**

## ANIMAL ETHICS

Representatives of the Animal Care and Ethics Committee have conducted an inspection of the new facility on Level One David Maddison Building, which is being converted to a PC2 level holding facility for research animals. This renovation will extend the animal holding capacity of David Maddison Building and allow separation of "clean" animals from those which are carrying infectious organisms.

The animal training program for researchers ("Research Animal Training Scheme") is currently underway, good attendance by honours and post-graduate students. Appropriate workplace training in specific procedures, as a follow-up to the practical training sessions, is strongly recommended so that skills in these procedures can be reinforced and improved.

## DATA MANAGEMENT

### Publications Collection - 2007

**IMPORTANT:** The collection of 2007 publications is progressing, with over 1,450 publications entered into the research database. If you have already sent your publications details, they will be entered by library staff over the coming weeks. If you have not yet sent through your publications, please refer to the guidelines for data collection (<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/researchperformance/researchpublications.html>) prior to forwarding the required information, **as a matter of urgency**, to [publications@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:publications@newcastle.edu.au) or Attention to Debbie Booth, Room L319, Auchmuty Library.

To ensure that all publications by our researchers are reported, you are asked to check your publications records on-line, in the following way:

-Portfolio Manager:

[http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/researchperformance/rqf/portfolio\\_manager.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/researchperformance/rqf/portfolio_manager.html)

Log in using your usual username ID and password, then click on 'Research Outputs' in the left-hand pane. Your audited publications will be displayed first. **Do not enter any 2007 University of Newcastle affiliated publications into Portfolio Manager.**

-Alternatively, you can check your audited publications using WARP:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/warp/level1/directory.html>

Please note that publications submitted for years other than 2007 will be added after the 2007 HERDC Collection has been completed

If you have any questions, please contact Ros Nyman on 12 098, or [research-is@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:research-is@newcastle.edu.au).

## RESEARCH SUPPORT UNIT

During the next few months level 1 of the Medical Sciences Building is being refurbished and this will include relocation of equipment and offices of the Electron Microscope Unit. There will be periods where EM facilities will be unavailable. Clients will be kept up to date of closures via the list server.

The X-Ray Unit in Aviation will not be affected.

## ANIMAL SERVICES UNIT

The practical modules of the Research Animal Training Scheme (RATS program) are currently underway and will be completed by mid April. The online modules for this program continue to be available throughout the year. Details of the program and information about registration can be found at: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/animal/training.html>.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator has granted PC2 certification for the Medical Sciences Animal Facility (east) and the Research Support Unit located at the John Hunter Hospital allowing the ASU to expand its holding facilities for genetically modified animals, and open a "dirty quarantine" area for animals of a lower microbiological status than those held within ASU facilities.

Robyn Gentle recently visited the Australian BioResources facility at Moss Vale and can report that the construction of the facility is on target to open in July 2008 with breeding animals from the University of Newcastle moving into the facility from August 2008. A survey from Jenny Kingham, Director of Animal Facilities at the Garvan Institute has been circulated to researchers. This survey seeks to gauge the level of interest in production of standard mouse strains at Moss vale and in the provision of genotyping facilities. If you did not receive a copy of this survey and would like one, please contact [Robyn Gentle](#) by email.

## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### Awards for Research Higher Degree Excellence

This new Faculty award recognises excellence in research and its aim is to encourage, reward and celebrate outstanding achievement in research by candidates in any area of research within the University. The award is made by the Faculty upon the recommendation of the examiners of the thesis and provides the recipient with \$1000 (shared for joint recipients) and a certificate.

Awards have been made to the following recipients:

Faculty of Health: *Dr David MacIntyre and Dr Bente Talseth-Palmer*  
Faculty of Engineering: *Dr Jose Mare and Dr Geoffrey Knagge*  
Faculty of Science and Information Technology: *Dr Michael Sheahan*  
Faculty of Education and Arts: *Dr Patricia Blundell*  
The Faculty of Business and Law elected not to make an award.

Presentation of the awards will take place at the April graduation ceremonies. Sincere congratulations to all the recipients and their supervisors on their outstanding success!

### Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding RHD Candidates for 2008

Up to 3 of these prestigious awards are offered each year. Recipients are chosen from the top ranked applicants during the scholarship round. We would like to congratulate the following recipients:

**Skye McIver** - PhD Biological Sciences  
Supervisors: Eileen McLaughlin, Shaun Roman and Brett Nixon.  
Topic: *Chemokines and Spermatogenesis*

**Elise Mansfield** - PhD Psychology  
Supervisors: Frini Karayanidis and Pat Michie.  
Topic: *Cognition and Decision Making*

**Rebecca Forbes** - PhD Medicine  
Supervisors: Vanessa Murphy, Peter Wark and Peter Gibson.  
Topic: *Mechanisms of Susceptibility to Respiratory Viral Infection in Pregnant Women with Asthma*

The awards will be presented by the Vice-Chancellor at an afternoon tea to be held at Syracuse on Monday 31 March to which all commencing scholarship recipients for 2008 have been invited.

## FP7 - PROFILE

### 'Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology'

**Budget: €1.9 billion (2007 - 2013)**

The advancement of knowledge in the sustainable management, production and use of biological resources (microbial, plant and animal) will provide the basis for safer, eco-efficient and competitive products and services for agriculture, fisheries, feed, food, health, forest-based and related industries. Important contributions to the implementation of existing and prospective policies and regulations in the area of public, animal and plant health and consumer protection are anticipated. New renewable energy sources will be supported under the concept of a European knowledge-based bio-economy.

#### *What's the benefit for citizens:*

Science, industry and society will come together to address the social, economic and environmental challenges of sustainable management of biological resources. They will also exploit advances in microbial, plant and animal biotechnologies to develop new, healthier, ecoefficient and competitive products and services. Rural and coastal development will be addressed by boosting local economies whilst preserving our heritage and variety of cultures.

#### *What's the benefit for researchers:*

Research will be carried out on the safety of food and feed chains, diet-related diseases, consumer food choices and the impact of food and nutrition on health.

#### **Research activities will include:**

Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest, and aquatic environments; enabling research on sustainable production systems; plant and animal production and health; animal welfare; fisheries and aquaculture, including exploitation and sustainable use of their biodiversity. • Tools to implement relevant strategies, policies and legislation supporting the European knowledge based bio-economy. • The integrity and control of the food chain ("fork to farm") will be subject to research, addressing food, health and well-being. • Life sciences and biotechnology for sustainable non-food products and processes will develop improved crops and forest resources, feed-stocks, marine products and biomass technologies for energy, environment, and high added value products such as materials and chemicals. Several European Technology Platforms contribute to setting common research priorities in various fields, like food technologies and processes, plant genomics, forestry and forest-based industries, global animal health, and animal farm breeding.

#### *What's the benefit for industry and SMEs:*

The creation of a European Bio-Economy is expected to open the way for innovations and effective technology transfer, aiming to include all industries and economic sectors that produce, manage and otherwise exploit biological resources as well as related services from the supply or consumer industries. These activities are in line with the European strategy on life sciences and biotechnology and is expected to promote competitiveness of European agriculture and biotechnology, seed and food companies and in particular high-tech SMEs, while improving social welfare and well-being.

## STATISTICS CORNER – MARCH 2008

Human Ethics	March	2008	Animal Ethics	March	2008	Grants	March	2008
Total initial applications processed	42	77	Initial applications managed	8	30	External grant applications processed	230	263
Expedited	39	68						
Full Review	3	9						
Project variation applications	7	31	Renewal applications managed	3	14	External grant awards processed	11	59
Progress report/renewal applications	-	-	Variation applications managed	14	28	Value of external grant awards processed	\$2.2M	\$19.72M
Registration of HNEH approvals	1	15	Facilities/ procedures/Animals/ Records inspected	1	1			

### Office of Graduate Studies

RHD completions since January 1 2008:	Masters	7
	PhD	30
	DSc	2
	DEng	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

[www.newcastle.edu.au/research](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research)

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