



www.newcastle.edu.au

## RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

### DATA MANAGEMENT

Research Services is currently implementing a new data management system (InfoEd) that will bring about significant improvements in the management of data relating to animal and human ethics and research grants. The "back office" modules for the ethics components have been implemented, and are now being used to send communications and manage ethical clearance information. The next phase of the project includes modules that enable you to "apply online" for ethical clearances. As part of developing these modules the InfoEd project team would appreciate your thoughts and guidance on how to deliver the best system possible. If you are interested in participating in a user group, or just contributing your thoughts and comments, please contact the InfoEd Project Manager, [Jeanette Hopley](#).

### ANIMAL ETHICS

At the May Policy meeting of the Animal Care and Ethics Committee attention was drawn to the importance of the use of Standard Operating Techniques in the preparation of Animal Ethics Applications. These SOPs are of two types – generic SOPs regarding anaesthesia, aseptic techniques in surgery, euthanasia and blood collection, and individual SOPs written by research groups to cover the particular techniques used in their laboratories. Currently approved SOPs may be accessed at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/animal/animal-secure/approvedsops.html>. Researchers are encouraged to make use of the SOPs to facilitate the writing of applications and as a reminder of currently accepted standards of animal care.

At the Policy meeting a decision was made to review the handling of urgent ethics applications. A letter will be sent to researchers asking for input into this process which will streamline the processing of all applications.

### HUMAN ETHICS

**Questions about human research ethics? See a REA.**

Each Faculty now has a least one Research Ethics Advisor (REA) to help researchers and research students with questions about the design of ethically acceptable human research and the ethics approval process. A recent review of the REA system demonstrates how well it worked in its first year, 2007. This system continues in 2008 with one change: all REAs are now also members of the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This will help ensure current knowledge and reviewing experience.

#### 2008 REAs:

Business and Law:

[Dr Colin James](#) and [Dr Kevin Lyons](#)

Education and Arts:

[Dr Tom Griffiths](#) and [Dr Jean Harkins](#)

Engineering & Built Environment:

[Dr Elham Doroodchi](#)

Health:

[Dr Helen Warren-Forward](#) and [Ms Lorinda Palmer](#)

Science and IT:

[Dr Miles Bore](#) and [Simon](#)

JUNE  
2008  
RESEARCH DIVISION  
NEWSLETTER

---

## RESEARCH SUPPORT UNIT

Welcome to **Tony Rothkirch** who has commenced as a part-time Technical Officer (Mass Spec) in the ABRF Unit. This is an interim appointment, replacing Mitchell Paul.

# GRANTS

## 2009 EQUITY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The 2009 Round for Equity Research Fellowships is now available to assist women and indigenous academics (of levels A, B and C) in developing their research profile.

The Fellowships are funded centrally and provide for a maximum of \$25,000 to allow for time relief from teaching, administrative and other non-research duties for six months.

An additional Equity Research Grant of up to \$10,000 will also be available to cover research expenses, with the condition that the School provides a minimum 25% of the funding requested in support of the researcher's grant.

Applications close 5pm Monday 14 July 2008.

If you are interested in submitting an application, please refer to the [ERF website](#) to obtain a copy of the guidelines and application form.

For further information please contact [Jennifer Saunders](#) in the Research Office on ext 16482.

## 2008 NHMRC REJOINER PROCESS

The NHMRC have advised that applicants who submitted proposals for 2009 NHMRC Project Grant funding can expect to receive external assessment and requests for response between approximately 16 June and 4 July 2008.

It is important for applicants to note that applicants will only be provided with up to seven working days to submit their responses to NHMRC. This is a significant change from last year's process.

The external assessments and questions will be sent directly to the application's CIA and the Research Administration Officer (RAO) in the Research Office.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek a peer review of their response prior to submission to the NHMRC. The Research Office will no longer be providing a review of draft rejoinders as part of this process.

When responding to the NHMRC, please ensure that you cc your email response to [Elianne Renaud](#). This allows the Research Office to keep a record of your submission. Applicant responses not received by the due date will not be accepted.

If you any further information regarding this process please do not hesitate to contact [Elianne Renaud](#) on ext15944.

## 2009 ARC REJOINER PROCESS

The ARC have advised that the rejoinder period for Discovery Projects proposals for funding commencing in 2009 is as follows;

**GAMS OPENS** for rejoinders on Tuesday 1 July 2008  
**GAMS CLOSES** for rejoinders on Monday 14 July 2008

Once you have completed your rejoinder click the 'save' button, then the 'local submit' button. Once your rejoinder has been locally submitted, the Research Office will assume that you are happy for it to be submitted to the ARC.

**REJOINERS NEED TO BE LOCALLY SUBMITTED BY 10.00 am Monday 14 July 2008** to enable the Research Office to 'ARC Submit' your rejoinder by COB 14 July 08. NB: Ensure that you do not leave submission till the last minute as GAMS may experience delays during peak times.

If you any further information regarding this process please do not hesitate to contact [Megan Stephenson](#) or [Jodie Ryan](#) on ext 17188.

## WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

Professor Krishna Sen from the ARC will be delivering 2 seminars for the University of Newcastle at Callaghan Campus, on Friday 20 June 2008;

### 1. Information Session for Academics in Humanities and Creative Arts (10-12pm - Treehouse)

This is an opportunity for academics in the Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA) to meet the new ARC Executive Director responsible for the panel assessing their applications. Professor Sen will present an overview of where HCA academics can apply to the ARC for support, will outline common mistakes and highlight strategies for success. She is also very interested in receiving feedback about the ARC.

### 2. ARC Information Session for Indigenous Researchers, Collaborators and Supervisors (12.30 - 1.30pm - John Lambert Lounge)

Indigenous researchers, supervisors and collaborators are invited to meet Professor Sen, who is the Executive Officer responsible for the Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme (IRDS).

- This is an opportunity to ask questions about the IRDS scheme.
- Discuss why Indigenous Researchers do or do not apply for ARC grants.
- Suggest ways to increase the number of ARC applications and success rates.
- Raise other issues and offer feedback.

Register for the above workshop or seminars via HRonline, or contact [Megan Stephenson](#) or [Jodie Ryan](#) on ext 17188 for further information.

## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### Mid year progress reports

Mid year progress reports have been despatched by email to the following RHD cohorts:

- (i) All international students
- (ii) Domestic students whose RTS entitlement is exhausted
- (iii) Where concerns were raised in the 2007 annual review

The due dates for return of each section of the reports are as follows:

Section A (student section): 27 June  
 Section B (supervisor section): 27 June  
 Section C (joint supervisor and student section): 4 July

Please direct any questions to [research@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:research@newcastle.edu.au) or on ext 16537.

## ANIMAL SERVICES UNIT

The construction work at Australian BioResources for the genetically modified mouse breeding facility at Moss Vale is on target. The first animals are expected to be moved from the University of Newcastle to Moss vale at the end of July. A meeting is being organised between Australian BioResources personnel and interested University of Newcastle researchers to look at the web interfaced database that will be used to allow research groups to track their animals housed in the facility. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please email [Robyn Gentle](mailto:Robyn.Gentle).

The first meeting of the Animal services Unit Advisory Group is to be held on 12 June. This group will be looking at strategic planning for the Animal Services Unit.

OGTR PC2 certification for the David Maddison Building level 1 facility has now been received; the IVC units are scheduled for delivery on 17 June and the autoclave has been delivered and will be installed shortly. There will be a delay of around 3 weeks before steam for the new boilers is piped through to this autoclave.

The Research Support Unit autoclave has been installed and is operational.

Animal Services Unit accounts for April and May are delayed due to problems with the RAMS database that produces these accounts. IT services are working on these problems and these accounts should be forwarded to Financial Services and research groups soon.

## STATISTICS CORNER – May 2008

		May	2008
<b>Animal Ethics</b>	Initial applications managed	15	53
	Renewal applications managed	1	19
	Variation applications managed	11	49
	Facilities/procedures/Animals/Records Inspected	1	4
<b>Human Ethics</b>	Total initial applications processed	44	173
	Expedited	42	159
	Full Review	2	14
	Project variation applications	15	71
	Progress report/renewal applications	5	16
Registration of HNEH approvals	4	23	
<b>Grants</b>	External grant applications processed	22	296
	External grant awards processed	31	109
	Value of external grant awards processed	\$7.64M	\$29.10M
<b>Office of Graduate Studies</b>	RHD completions since January 1 2008:		
	Masters		8
	PhD		35
	Higher doctorates		2
	<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>

### Voluntary register of supervisors

To date, 42 supervisors have been approved for registration. All eligible academic staff are strongly encouraged to apply for registration. For more information, please see [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/supervision/voluntary\\_register.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/supervision/voluntary_register.html)

### FP7 - PROFILE

#### 'Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies (NMP)'

#### Budget: €3.5 billion (2007 - 2013)

ICTs play a crucial role in boosting innovation, creativity and competitiveness of all industry and service sectors. We are entering a new phase of development that will drive growth and sustainable development for the coming decades; however, this growth will only be captured if we invest now in research and innovation for the next generation of technologies.

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

ICTs are opening up many new opportunities for European citizens and consumers. There is a wide range of applications including healthcare provision, transport systems, as well as innovative interactive systems for entertainment and learning. Innovation in ICT can help improve illness prevention and safety of care, facilitate active participation of patients and enable personalisation of care and can also tackle problems associated with the ageing population.

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

Under FP7, ICT research activities will cover strategic priorities in areas of European industrial and technological leadership, such as communication networks, embedded computing, nanoelectronics and technologies for audiovisual content.

#### Research areas will include:

- Network and service infrastructure stability and security;
- Performance and reliability of electronic systems and components;
- Personalised ICT systems;
- Digital content management.

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

ICTs account for nearly half of the productivity gains in our economies today. The gains stem both from the production of innovative high value ICT-based goods and services and from improvements in business processes through the diffusion, adoption and use of ICTs across the economy. ICT-intensive sectors include manufacturing, automotive, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and agro-food, as well as financial services, media and retail. Benefits reported by firms, as a result of increased use of ICTs, include faster product development, cost and overhead reductions, faster and more reliable transactions, better relationships with customers and suppliers, improved levels of customer service and support, and enhanced collaboration opportunities.

**FP7 Calls for Proposals are advertised via What's New to subscribe click [here](#).**

For newsletter enquiries or subscription contact:  
 Rebecca Palmer on ext 17739 or [Rebecca.Palmer@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Rebecca.Palmer@newcastle.edu.au)