



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

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

## RESEARCH SUPPORT UNITS

The Research Support Units were created to assist and enhance local research. Located on the Callaghan Campus, the Research Support Units are comprised of 3 units offering unique research services to both University and outside researchers.

The **Biomolecular Research Facility** offers a wide range of protein and DNA analysis services, including protein sequencing, DNA sequencing, flow cytometry and MALDI-TOF analysis. Most of these services are not available elsewhere within the Hunter Valley and surrounding regions. The technologies used complement each other, allowing comprehensive protein analysis. The Facility also contains a BioCore that allows real-time biomolecular interactions to be studied.

The **Advanced Mass Spectrometry Unit** can perform elemental and molecular analyses in almost any sample type using a variety of mass spectrometric equipment. The unit is equipped with a High Resolution ICP-MS, ESI-IT-MS, GC-MS and IR-MS instruments.

The **Electron Microscope/X-ray unit** provides high resolution imaging and elemental analysis facilities including Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) for surface imaging; Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS) for elemental analysis; Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) for internal structure imaging; X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) for crystal structure information and phase identification, and X-Ray Fluorescence for major and trace element analysis. The EM/X-ray unit assists biologists, geologists, chemists, medical researchers, material scientists and engineers in their research.



X-Ray Fluorescence  
Spectrometer

The Research Support Units plan to hold an information session on the 27 June, 2007 in which interested researchers can find out more about how the RSU can assist in their research. A flyer will be circulated with details, and will also be posted on our website.

In the meantime more information can be found about the units on our RSU website at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/support-units.html>

## ANIMAL SERVICES UNIT

Dr Brian Carlton has commenced work as the new Veterinary Officer, Animal Services Unit. He is located at the David Maddison Building animal facility and is working on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. He can be contacted by email on [Brian.Carlton@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Brian.Carlton@newcastle.edu.au) or by telephone on ext. 36844. He is available to provide advice and training on anaesthesia, surgery, blood collection and other techniques, and to provide veterinary clinical advice in relation to research animals.

The policy for Emergency Veterinary Services has been updated and can be found at: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/asu/>

A meeting was held between representatives of the Australian Bioresources Facility for breeding of genetically modified mice and interested researchers on 3 May 2007. The University of Newcastle is committed to using this facility for the breeding of existing and future strains of genetically modified mice required by University of Newcastle researchers from March 2008. Further information can be obtained from the Veterinary Manager, Animal Services - Robyn Gentle.

M A Y  
2007  
RESEARCH DIVISION  
NEWSLETTER

## RESEARCH ETHICS AND SYSTEMS

### Animal Ethics

Statutory reports on animal use and activities of the Animal Care and Ethics Committee have been submitted to NSW Department of Primary Industries and NH&MRC Animal welfare Committee. The Animal Welfare Officer will be meeting with research groups to discuss the additional services that are available (support and assistance to researchers, including advice on the preparation of applications to the ACEC), and any current issues regarding animal ethics. All animal-based researchers, including honours and post-graduate students are strongly encouraged to participate in these meetings. The ACEC applications forms have undergone an extensive review. Notification of the availability of the new versions will be circulated via the "research-animal" email list.

### Human Ethics

#### ***New Release - National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, 2007***

The new *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, 2007* was released in April and replaces the previous *1999 National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans*. The primary purpose of the *National Statement* (co-issued by the NHMRC, the ARC and the AVCC) is the protection of the welfare and rights of participants in research and it is binding on all institutions and organisations that receive research funding from the Australian government.

The *National Statement* is available from <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e72syn.htm> and is now the principal point of reference for both researchers and the Human Research Ethics Committee. Also available from this site is a brief overview document outlining what has been revised and what is new in the current *National Statement*.

### Data Management

Phase 2 of the Portfolio Manager project has been successfully implemented. This phase of the Portfolio Manager project is vital in supporting the groupings and impact activities required for the Research Quality Framework (RQF). Please note the groupings and impact section of the Portfolio Manager System is not yet in operation, as we are awaiting release of the DEST RQF specification so that we can configure the groupings and impact section appropriately.

The Publication Entry System (PES) has closed for the collection of 2006 publications. Thank you to all the Publications Officers, your effort is greatly appreciated. The internal audit is being coordinated by Library staff and commenced Monday 7 May 2007.

## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### Thesis examination

RHD candidates and supervisors are reminded of the importance of submitting the Notification of Intent to Submit form to OGS prior to submission of the thesis. This allows us to contact the School requesting appointment of examiners and ensures that there are no delays with despatch of the theses for examination. The form can be found at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/rhdforms/thesis\\_submit.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/rhdforms/thesis_submit.pdf)

Further information about thesis preparation, submission and examination can be found at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/guide/thesis.html#thesisprep>

and

[http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/rhdforms/thesis\\_prep-submission.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/rhdforms/thesis_prep-submission.pdf)

## WHAT'S ON

### "Lecture and Lunch"

All RHD candidates and supervisors of research candidates are warmly invited to attend what we hope will be a regular social event to promote the research culture and interaction amongst candidates and supervisors.

**Date: Friday 8 June**

**Time: 11.30 – 2.00 pm**

**Place: Nursing Theatre, Callaghan campus**

**Guest speaker: Dr Chris Rawlings**

Dr Rawlings is a PhD graduate of the University of Newcastle who has had a successful career in the mining industry. He currently works with UniQuest Pty Ltd, one of Australia's most highly regarded university technology transfer groups. UniQuest's aim is to identify, package and commercialise university technologies and expertise.

A buffet lunch will be served in the courtyard outside the Nursing Theatre following Dr Rawlings' presentation.

RSVP is essential as we are limited to 400 attendees. Please RSVP by 28 May to [Ali.Norman@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Ali.Norman@newcastle.edu.au)

### "Australian-American Fulbright Commission"

The Fulbright program is one of the largest educational exchange programs in the world. Primary funding in Australia is provided by the Australian and United States governments.

The Commission is currently targeting students and staff of the University of Newcastle for participation in an exchange to the United States.

**Date: Wednesday 30 May**

**Time: 1.00 – 2.00 pm**

**Place: Treehouse**

**Guest speaker: Mr Mark Darby**

Mr Darby is the Executive Director of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission ([www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au)).

## RESEARCH QUALITY ASSURANCE

Many thanks to all those researchers who have entered their data into Portfolio Manager. We know this was a big demand on your time, and we appreciate your patience and professionalism in getting the task done.

All this activity is in preparation for the **RQF Trial Quality Assessment** which we are undertaking in collaboration with Macquarie University. Researchers who are included in the NewMac trial were sent draft trial evidence portfolios last week to check and correct. The data extraction was a major exercise, and we experienced a few problems, particularly with the esteem factors, and (in a small number of cases), with missing publications. The missing data is safely in the system, so there is no need to re-enter it and our colleagues in IT Services are working to fix the errors (many thanks to Shane, Slava, Greg and the others who have put in some very late nights working on the system).

The RQF Support Team will collect all the corrected trial evidence portfolios on Friday 25 May and make the necessary additions and corrections to the data over the coming week or two. We will then run another data extraction and send the corrected portfolios to researchers for a final check before they go to the trial assessors. We expect to be able to provide the trial results during August. Results will not be made public, but will be provided only to the individual researcher and their PVC and Head of School.

Meanwhile, other preparations for the RQF include a small **trial of Research Impact**, using research groups in the areas of health, education and chemical engineering. The University has commissioned an external consultant to conduct workshops with the groups to discuss their research and to explore the best way of describing and quantifying the impact of the research in terms of the benefits produced for the community, industry or other

end-users. Following the workshops researchers have assembled further data for the consultant, who will use it to produce impact statements including case studies of particular examples of research impact. The feedback from the workshops has been positive and the University may use this approach more widely in its RQF preparations.

**Nominations for membership of the RQF Panels** closed on 14 May, and the University submitted 12 nominations from Newcastle researchers. DEST has advised that the outcomes of the nominations should be known by September.

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Research Services circulates many research funding opportunities through our email lists:

- Research-whatsnew - Advertises each Friday new external grants, fellowships, conferences and prizes
- Research-ARC - Is used to disseminate information about all Australian Research Council (ARC) grant opportunities and arising news
- Research-NHMRC - Is used to disseminate information about all National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant opportunities and arising news

Subscription to these valuable email lists can be obtained through:

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

**If a funding body requires an invoice prior to 30 June 2007 (ie end of financial year) for a research grant please ensure that you notify finance by Friday 8 June 2007.**

## STATISTICS CORNER – APRIL 2007

Human Ethics	April	2007	Animal Ethics	During March policy meeting	2007	Grants	April	2007	Graduate Studies	Total
Human Ethics Total Initial Applications Processed	38	95	Animal Ethics Initial Applications Processed	10	18	External grant applications processed	18	247	RHD completions since 1 April 2006	202
Expedited	30	81								
Full Review	8	14								
Human Ethics Project Variation Applications	10	44	Animal Ethics Variation Applications Processed	11	36	External grant awards processed	13	58		
Human Ethics Approval Renewal Applications	0	4	Animal Ethics Application Renewals Processed	7	16	Value of external grant awards processed	\$2.14M	\$8.59M		
Human Ethics Registration of HNEH approvals	6	33	Animal Ethics Variation Applications (Personnel) Processed	3	37					
			Inspections Performed	2	10					

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

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