FACULTY OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

11 May 2013 - 5 July 2013

This document highlights the strategic achievements of the Faculty of Health and Medicine under each of the University strategic priority areas.

EDUCATION

Objective 1

- Bachelor of Medicine student Mohamed Ehsan Ebrahim has been named the New South Wales Higher Education International Student of the Year. This award showcases the initiatives and achievements of NSW based international students across a range of educational programs, including higher education, vocational education and training, and schools programs.

- The Faculty established High Achiever Undergraduate Scholarships in 2013, to recognise high achieving students who enrol in Faculty of Health and Medicine undergraduate degrees. Five outstanding students were awarded scholarships:
  - Tarryn Waller, studying a Bachelor of Biomedical Science
  - Amber Sewell-Green, studying a Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics
  - Daniel Mills, studying a Bachelor of Medicine (JMP)
  - Sally Healy, Indigenous Scholarship, studying a Bachelor of Medicine (JMP)
  - Jessica White, studying a Bachelor of Nursing

- 2012 Emerging Nurse Leader Laurie Bickhoff continued her achievements with a number of awards received at the 2013 School of Nursing and Midwifery awards night, including the University of Newcastle Prize for Nursing for a graduating student with the highest GPA. She recently featured in the My Health Care Website on “Why I wanted to become a nurse”.

- The 2013 University of Newcastle Ourimbah graduations were held on Friday 28 June, with over 130 students graduating within the Faculty of Health and Medicine.
Objective 4

- The Joint Medical Program in Medicine has maintained its position in the world’s top 200 institutions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2013. It is ranked 15th in world rankings an improvement of six places since 2012, and is ranked 9th in Australia.

- Professor Susan Ryan, together with the Centre for Teaching and Learning, has developed a Blended and Online Learning Design (BOLD) lab for occupational therapy students to enable them to assess the homes of people with arthritis, dementia and spinal cord injuries in a virtual environment.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Objective 1

- The 2013 Kiola Neuroscience Colloquium was held in Newcastle, with over 100 neuroscientists from around NSW attending. RhD student Daniel Beard was awarded the best student presentation for “The effect of intracranial pressure elevation in leptomeningeal collateral blood flow during stroke”.

Objective 2

- The Hunter Children’s Research Foundation 16th Annual Awards were held on 16 May, with the following grants awarded:
  - Dr Adam Collinson, a member of the University’s Priority Research Centre for Asthma and Respiratory Diseases, was granted $25,000 for his research investigating the prediction of egg allergy severity in children.
  - Dr Alexis Hure, a Post Doctoral Research Fellow, was granted $25,000 for her study in identifying maternal health factors which represent risk factors for low birth weight.
  - In the C.A.R.E awards, the Research Mentor of the Year went to Professor Diana Keatinge for her role in encouraging nurse clinicians to use research in their clinical practice and to undertake research relevant to nursing practice.
  - Conjoint Paediatric Oncologist Dr Frank Alvaro received the Achievement in Research award.
  - PhD student Luke Hatchwell received the Encouragement for Research award.
Objective 4

- PhD candidate, Namira Williams has won the 2013 NSW Midwife of the Year award. This award is presented by the Australian College of Midwives and will be formally awarded in August 2013. Namira has received the award for her outstanding contribution to her profession and in particular for her work in establishing the Manning Valley’s first public antenatal clinic and young parent’s clinic.

CAMPUS CAPITAL AND IT

Objective 1

- Manning Hospital will join the John Hunter Hospital to deliver life-saving stroke treatment to patients in the Manning Region with new telehealth technology, which will allow the exchange of information and diagnostic test results via videoconferencing and internet technology. This service has been delivered in partnership with local community, Hunter New England Local Health District’s, HMRI and the University of Newcastle.

FUTURE WORKFORCE

Objective 1

- The 2013 Queens Birthday Honours List included the following Faculty of Health and Medicine staff:
  - Professor Nikolai Bogduk, Member (AM) in the General Division. For significant service to medical research and education, particularly in the specialities of anatomy, spinal health and chronic pain management. Professor Bogduk is a Conjoint Professor within the School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy
  - Professor Peter Adrian Leggat, Member (AM) in the General Division. For significant service to medicine as a specialist in the fields of tropical and travel medicine. Professor Leggat is a Conjoint Professor within the School of Health Sciences
  - Richard James Owens OAM, Member (AM) in the General Division. For significant service to the community, particularly in the Hunter. Richard is a past Chair of the Hunter Medical Research Institute
  - Dr Richard Frederick Sheldrake, Member (AM) in the General Division. For significant service to public administration in NSW, and to the community. Dr Sheldrake is an alumnus of the Faculty graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy in 1986.
- **Academic Promotions for Associate Professor and Professor** were announced in July. The Faculty is proud to announce the following promotions:
  - Promotion to Associate Professor – Jane Maguire, Vanessa McDonald, Liz Milward, Jodie Simpson, Lisa Wood.
  - Promotion to Professor – Kypros Kypri, Dirk Van Helden.

**Objective 4**

- **International Nurses Day** is an annual celebration to mark the contributions that nurses make to society. This year students and staff within the School of Nursing and Midwifery raised over $440 in aid of Lampang Hospital, Thailand.

- **Professor Darryl Knight**, Head of School for Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy, delivered his **New Professor Talk** on 26 June on “The promise of stem cells in the treatment of chronic lung diseases. Is it all just hot air?”

- The **Global Consortium for International Family Studies (GCIFS)** held its annual meeting in Shanghai in May. The meeting focussed on final preparations for our first student intake in September 2013. Professor Judith Scott from the Faculty of Health and Medicine, together with Penny Crofts and Deborah Hartman from the Family Action Centre (FAC) were joined by Jodie Davis from Gradschool. Our GCIFS partner the University of Nebraska was recently ranked Number 1 in Family Science by the US Chronicle of Higher Education’s Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index.