

Griffith Medical Research College

Griffith Medical Research College Newsletter No. 1, 2007

The Griffith Medical Research College (GMRC) was established in 2004 as a joint initiative of Griffith University and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research with the aim of encouraging collaboration between researchers of both organisations.

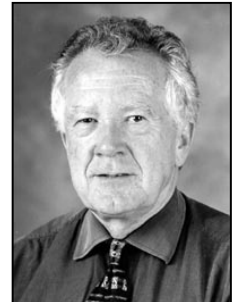
I would like to thank all the GMRC members who attended the annual Retreat at the Ship Inn, South Bank on the 1st December. We heard about some of the exciting research being carried out at both institutes and discussed ways in which the links between GU and QIMR researchers might be strengthened in the future. I hope to be able to implement some of these ideas in 2007 using this News Letter and the GMRC Web page (see below for details) as a vehicle for getting information out to all our members. Please contact me if you require any information regarding the GMRC or if you have news that you would like to share with other GMRC members.



Kathy Andrews, Executive Officer

Researcher Profiles

Professor Ron Quinn, GU: Professor Quinn is Foundation Director of Natural Product Discovery (NPD), a collaborative research program between AstraZeneca and Griffith University that began in 1993. The collaboration has resulted in over AUS \$100 million in investments by AstraZeneca at Griffith University and was the first high throughput screening laboratory for plant and marine extracts in Australia. In 2003, Professor Quinn headed a successful submission to the Queensland Government Smart State Research Facilities Fund, which helped to establish the Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies, of which he is Director. Professor Quinn has over 135 publications. His most significant research contributions have been to develop an understanding of molecular interactions involved in biological processes via: 1) Biodiscovery involving high throughput screening against molecular targets, isolation and structure elucidation of bioactive natural products; 2) Design and synthesis of receptor ligands and enzyme inhibitors; and 3) Understanding of natural product recognition for biosynthetic enzymes and correlation with therapeutic targets as a rational approach to drug discovery. To contact Dr Quinn e-mail R.Quinn@griffith.edu.au



Dr Graham Kay, QIMR

Dr Kay holds a QCF Senior Research Fellowship and heads the QCF Transgenic Laboratory and the Transgenic and Knockout Mouse Facility at QIMR. Dr. Kay's research focuses on using genetically engineered animal models to study basic mammalian developmental biology and disease, particularly cancer. Current research projects involve; (a) studying X chromosome inactivation, an epigenetic mechanism operating in female mammals to achieve dosage equivalence for X-linked genes between males (XY) and females (XX), (b) the role of the pocket protein family (Rb1, p107 and p130) in melanocyte homeostasis and melanoma, and (c) the role of the multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 tumour suppressor (Menin). To contact Dr Kay e-mail Graham.Kay@qimr.edu.au



Griffith Medical Research College

GMRC News:

1. GMRC Web site

The GMRC Web site can now be accessed on at the following address:
<http://www.qimr.edu.au/research/gmrc/index.html>

The site contains information such as the GMRC Committee members, GMRC News Letters, and details of funding opportunities through the GMRC. In the near future the site will also contain details of major equipment and technology platforms from GU and QIMR that are available to GMRC members.

2. GMRC Retreat

The 2006 GMRC Retreat was held on Friday the 1st December 2006 at the Ship Inn, South Bank. Around 35 GMRC members attended the retreat. Speakers included Geoff Hill (QIMR), Alex Loukas (QIMR), Penny Webb (QIMR), Emma Whitelaw (QIMR), Ron Quin (GU), Victoria Korolik (GU), George Mellick (GU), and John Headrick (GU). A full program and photos taken during the post-Retreat drinks can be found on the GMRC Web site (<http://www.qimr.edu.au/research/gmrc/index.html>). Thanks to everyone who attended and made the day such a success!

3. Eligibility of QIMR researchers to be CIs on ARC Discovery Project applications.

The QIMR Grants Office has advised that QIMR complies with section 5.3.2(b) of the DP 2008 Funding Rules. QIMR staff holding GU Adjunct or Credentialed appointments are therefore eligible to apply for ARC Discovery Projects. Please contact the GU Office for Research for more information (<http://www.griffith.edu.au/or/>).

4. How to get a password to access GU protected web sites

Several of the GU sites are password protected (eg Office for Research internal grants etc). To arrange for a password over the phone, call GU InfoServices on 3735 5555 or 07 5552 5555. Note: You will need to know your GU Staff ID (please contact Kathy Andrews if you don't have this).

5. GMRC Author Affiliation on Manuscripts

The GMRC Committee has approved the following wording for author affiliation on manuscripts arising from GMRC funded projects:

“Griffith Medical Research College, a joint program of Griffith University and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QIMR, Herston, QLD, Australia, 4006”

6. Funding Opportunities

Round Two of the Smart State Innovation Funds (Fellowship and Project funding) is now open. Applications close: 2pm Wednesday 7 March 2007. Please see the following link for further information: www.sdi.qld.gov.au/innovationfunds

7. Congratulations

Congratulations to all GMRC members who were successful in obtaining ARC and NHMRC grants and fellowships starting in 2007.

For further information or submissions for the next
GMRC Newsletter please contact
Kathy Andrews, GMRC Executive Officer (part time)
Ph 3845 3725; e-mail kathy.andrews@qimr.edu.au