

Griffith Medical Research College

Griffith Medical Research College Newsletter No. 3, 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 congratulate GMRC members Jeffrey Gorman and Peter Visscher who have both been awarded the Credentialed academic title of Professor at Griffith University. You can read about Professor Visscher's research in the Researcher Profile section below. Professor Gorman's research will be featured in an upcoming edition. I would also like to encourage all GMRC researchers to consider submitting an application for seed funding through the GMRC Research Collaboration Scheme. Applications close on the 31st August (details below). 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 Peter Visscher, QIMR: Professor Visscher joined the QIMR in 2005 from the University of Edinburgh, one of the top research universities in the UK. His research is at the interface of quantitative genetics, statistical genetics, population genetics, human genetics, animal genetics, evolution, bioinformatics and genetic epidemiology. He is an honorary professor at the University of Queensland (Institute Molecular Bioscience and School of Medicine) and an adjunct professor at QUT (Mathematical Sciences). Since 2007 he is an NHMRC Principal Research Fellow. Professor Visscher's current research, based at the Genetic Epidemiology laboratory, focuses on the dissection of complex trait variation in human populations, through the development of new statistical genetics methods and applications to endophenotypes and disease in human populations. To contact Peter, e-mail peter.visscher@qimr.edu.au.



Professor Claire Rickard, GU: A recent appointment to the School of Nursing and Midwifery (Nathan), Prof Rickard leads a research program into the care of intravascular catheters and the prevention of catheter infection. Other interests involve intensive/critical care and the clinical research workforce. Current projects include: 1) clinical trial of routine peripheral cannula replacement versus no change; 2) identification of minimum discard volumes for blood sampling from arterial catheters; and 3) the role of biofilm in catheter colonisation. Prof Rickard collaborates with a range of clinicians including those at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospitals. Prof Rickard is well published and has been awarded grants and prizes from bodies including the World Federation of Societies of Intensive & Critical Care Medicine, and the Australian Council on Health Care Standards. In 2008, Prof Rickard will be Director of Griffith's Research Centre for Clinical and Community Practice Innovation (RCCCPI), a university level research centre with over 60 multi-disciplinary researchers, whilst Prof Wendy Chaboyer is on leave. RCCCPI creates evidence for innovative clinical practices that promote excellence in health, community care and client outcomes. To contact Professor Rickard email: c.rickard@griffith.edu.au



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GMRC News:

1. GMRC RESEARCH COLLABORATION SCHEME

The Griffith Medical Research College (GMRC) Research Collaboration Scheme was established to foster collaboration between credentialed staff of the QIMR and Griffith University. The aim of the scheme is to provide seed funding for a research project that will both develop the collaborative relationship between the QIMR and Griffith University researchers and improve the competitiveness of the project when seeking external research support funds.

Number: Up to three (3) projects with a budget of up to \$35,000 each will be funded in 2008

Closing date: Friday 31st August 2007

Application Details: Application Details can be found on the following Web sites:
<http://www.griffith.edu.au/or/>
<http://www.qimr.edu.au/research/gmrc/index.html>

2. Enrolling PhD students through the GMRC

- PhD Students with a GU Staff member (or Credentialed Staff member) as Primary Supervisor can enrol through the GMRC.
- PhD candidates enrolling through the GMRC were eligible to apply for, and be awarded on a competitive basis, an APA through the Health Faculty.
- GU has agreed to provide support money for students enrolled through the GMRC (currently ~\$10,000 p.a.) to Primary Supervisors after each year of completion.
- Scholarship applications are due on **Tuesday 31 October 2006**. Information can be found on the following web address: <http://www.gu.edu.au/postgraduate/>

3. Events and Funding Opportunities

- **ASMR Professional Development Program**

August 29th at the Marriott Hotel, 515 Queen Street Brisbane

Cost: ASMR Members \$250, Non Members \$300

Speakers: Professor Julie Campbell, Professor Peter Koopman, Professor Ranjeny Thomas and Professor Lyn Griffiths.

Details: <http://www.asmr.org.au/news/Careers/RC.html>

- **Humboldt Research Fellowships** (www.avh.de)

- **Growing the Smart State PhD Funding Program**

(<http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/policy/research/phdfund/>)

- **CASS Post-doctoral travel grants for early career researchers (ECR) (Due 31st August)** (<http://www.cassfoundation.org/>)

4. GMRC Web site:

The GMRC Web site can 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, details of major equipment and technology platforms from GU and QIMR, and details of funding opportunities through the GMRC.

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5. 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 (contact Kathy Andrews if you don't have this).

6. 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”*

7. Congratulations:

Congratulations to the following QIMR staff that have been successful in obtaining Griffith University Credentialed staff appointments (appointment level indicated in brackets):

Peter Visscher (Professor)
Jeffrey Gorman (Professor)

Congratulations to all the GU and QIMR Queensland Premiers Awards for Medical Research Winners and Finalists:

Dr Christine Wells - Griffith University (Winner, Post-Doctoral Award)
Dr Suyinn Chong - QIMR (Winner, Senior Post-Doctoral Award)
Dr Kevin Spring -QIMR (Finalist, Senior Post-Doctoral Award)
Dr Suyinn Chong - QIMR (Finalist, Post-Doctoral Award)
Dr Mai Tran - QIMR (Finalist, Post-Doctoral Award)
Dr Stuart Macgregor - QIMR (Finalist, Post-Doctoral Award)
Ms Alyson Ashe - QIMR (Finalist, Student Award)
Mr Stephen Earl - QIMR (Finalist, Student Award)

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