

CURTIN HEALTH

Highlights and Happenings - March 2010



From the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jill Downie

Welcome to the first edition of Curtin Health – Highlights and Happenings for 2010. As we commence the new academic year and welcome new and continuing staff and students, I would just like to take a moment to reflect on the successes of 2009.

We have recently received our Course Experience Questionnaire results for 2009 and they are looking very strong. The data was collected from students who completed their course at the end of 2008. Congratulations to all staff in the Faculty for the improvement in results, particularly in relation to the number of responses (1,238 compared with 856 in 2008), and overall satisfaction up two per cent. This is due to the very real effort by all staff involved in improving our ratings and I would like to thank everyone for their contribution. It's an excellent result for the Faculty.

We've also had a great year in the research sector. Key successes in 2009 include participation in the Population Health Research Network, funded by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme, through Professor James Semmens, Chair of Population Health. This multi-million dollar project involves

the provision of state-of-the-art health data linkage facilities and services, which will enable data from a diverse and rich range of health data sets to be linked nationally and internationally. Professor Moyez Jiwa, Chair of Chronic Disease, secured more than \$500,000 for research into palliative care and the role of the community pharmacist. At a ceremony held in December last year, our Researcher of the Year Award was presented to Professor Samar Aoun, Director of the WA Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care, School of Nursing and Midwifery and a Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Prof Colin Binns Professor, School of Public Health.

I would like to congratulate Professor Robin Watts, who has become a Member (AM) in the General Division in the recent Australia Day Honours. Robin was recognised for her service to nursing through the development of nurse education, promotion of evidence-based health care and the establishment of ethical research standards. She was instrumental in the establishment of teaching Australian nurses at university level and subsequently became Curtin's first Professor of Nursing. Robin also served as Executive Director of University Planning for many years. This honour is fitting recognition for Robin's many achievements.

Another notable achievement in the Faculty is the election of Professor Clare Pollock to the University Council and to the position of Chair of the Academic Board. Claire will take on the roles from 1 April 2010 until 31 March 2012.

Clare is a strong leader who will ensure that the university's academic standards are upheld and who brings to this position nearly eight years experience as an elected member on Academic Board, including two years as Deputy Chair. We wish Clare every success in her new role. I would also

“The year ahead will be an extremely busy one as we undertake further work on the proposed medical school, the first year core curriculum and CHIRI.”

like to take this opportunity to thank Clare for her outstanding work as acting Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor over the past six months as she returns to her role as Head of the School of Psychology and Speech Pathology.

Work on the development of the Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute (CHIRI) is progressing well with two recent appointments. Professor Barbara Horner has commenced a 12-month appointment as CHIRI Clinical Director to foster our clinical research partnerships with the Alzheimer's Association, Silver Chain, the Autism group and the Department of Health and others to grow the CHIRI vision. Her work includes oversight of the project establishing the governance, infrastructure and strategy of the CHIRI Health Clinics. Barbara is also leading the CHIRI, Centre for Research in Ageing, which has been successful in renewing the CRC Dementia and the Dementia Study Training Centre funding.

Donelle Rivett has joined us as Executive Officer for CHIRI and the proposed Medical School. Donelle, who previously was manager of Research, Review and Development at the Bethanie Group, has health and business qualifications and is a very welcome addition to the team.

Dr Neale Fong's consultancy to establish the governance, strategy and organisation of CHIRI and assist in the selection of a Director, is underway and expected to conclude in June. All staff are located on the fourth floor of Building 400 and would welcome discussion regarding their portfolios.

The year ahead will be an extremely busy one as we undertake further work on the proposed medical school, the first year core curriculum and CHIRI. I look forward to working with you on these key projects and receiving your valuable input.

NURSING LEADERSHIP FUNCTION CELEBRATES INTERCULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS LINKS

Indigenous and intercultural practice and education was the theme of the annual School of Nursing and Midwifery Leadership Celebration in November.

More than 50 guests from government, industry and other tertiary institutions attended the event with guest speaker Department of Health Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Cath Stoddart sharing insight into the global health alliance.

Nursing and Midwifery School Head Professor Phillip Della was master of ceremonies for the evening and said the leadership celebration was always a much anticipated event for the school.

“Events such as this one provide Curtin University with unique opportunities to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders, while showcasing the many achievements of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing and Midwifery,” Professor Della said.

The event also recognised Madam Lim of Sing Health based in Singapore with an International Nursing Leadership Award, presented as a joint award between Curtin University and the Office of the Chief Nurse and Midwife.

Respected health professional Margaret Quartermaine of Aboriginal Training College Marr Mooditj and Professor Cath Stoddart were acknowledged with Adjunct Associate

Professorships, and Melanie Robinson of Marr Mooditj received a Senior Teaching Fellowship.

School of Nursing and Midwifery Deputy Head Pamela Roberts received the prestigious Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer’s Leadership Award for her long-standing dedication and commitment to the nursing profession. Pam is currently enrolled in a PhD looking at the international experience of students.



Professor Phillip Della, Pamela Roberts, Professor Jill Downie, Melanie Robinson, Cath Stoddart, Professor Lim and Margaret Quartermaine (front)

DATA FAIR HIGHLIGHTS WOUNDSWEST’S INNOVATION AND INTEGRATED APPROACH

The work of WoundsWest was under the spotlight recently when Health Minister Kim Hames visited the Wound West Data Fair at Curtin.

The WoundsWest program, which was launched in 2006 in partnership between the Department of Health, Silver Chain and Curtin University’s School of Nursing and Midwifery, has been recognised internationally and nationally for its innovation, integrated approach in wound prevalence, evidenced based on-line education and remote referral and consultation.

The WoundsWest partnership has seen the integration of research into education and clinical practice. The research component has been led by Associate Professor Keryln Carville and Professor Nick Santamaria.

WoundsWest has received \$3 million funding over the past three years and further funding has been provided for 2010.

Key elements of WoundsWest include:

- the introduction of wounds prevalence surveys in 2007, 2008 and 2009 which assessed the skin integrity of almost 9,000 patients.
- the development of an interactive website for health professionals to undertake professional development in wound management.
- the establishment of a Wound Management Consultancy Service using research findings to establish clinical protocols.

A major outcome of the WoundsWest project has been a six per cent reduction in hospital acquired pressure ulcers, which has resulted in a saving of 4,236 bed days at a projected cost of \$3.8 million to the Western Australian health system.

WoundsWest has also established programs to address wound management in Indigenous communities, including the establishment of wound management education for Aboriginal Health Workers.

While at the WoundsWest Data Fair, Health Minister Dr Kim Hames presented certificates to graduates from the Aboriginal Health Workers Wound Management Course.

EXCELLENCE HONoured AT HEALTH SCIENCES MORNING TEA



Award Recipients at the Health Sciences morning tea.



Research and Graduate Studies Dean Professor Garry Allison and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Jill Downie with Researcher of the Year Professor Samar Aoun.

Excellence in the areas of teaching and research in the Faculty of Health Sciences was recognised at a morning tea celebration in late 2009.

Those recognised in the area of teaching included:

Excellence in Teaching Awards (Individual)

Dr Paul Murray (School of Pharmacy) for his outstanding individual teaching, coordination of a large number of undergraduate units and his leadership of the pharmaceutical chemistry program within the Bachelor of Pharmacy.

Dr David Stanley (School of Nursing and Midwifery) for his work in developing, leading and teaching in clinical leadership in nursing postgraduate nursing programs.

Early Career Academic Awards

Ms Kerryন Butler-Henderson (School of Public Health) for her scholarly teaching and learning in the area of health information management and informatics and her strong linkages with industry.

Ms Kate Fischer (School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work) for her exemplary student-centred learning approach in foundation units in the Bachelor and Master of Occupational Therapy and the use of positive learning experiences with an emphasis on the triple-i curriculum.

Highly Commended - Dr Kevin Runions (School of Psychology and Speech Pathology) for his capacity to motivate students through the use

of popular culture and scaffold their understanding of new concepts to integrate new perspectives on their understandings.

Innovation in Curricula, Learning and Teaching Award

Professor Robin Watts, Mr Alan Tulloch, Ms Maria Chilvers and Ms Margie Lane (School of Nursing and Midwifery) for a scholarly approach to the use and implementation of high fidelity simulation in teaching clinical skills.

Honours, Postgraduate or HDR Supervision Award

Associate Professor Kathy Briffa (School of Physiotherapy) for her sustained support and development of honours, masters and PhD students to achieve research success through publications, prizes, winning grants and employment.

Programs that Enhance Learning - Educational Partnerships Award

Associate Professor Vicky Solah and Dr Hannah Williams (School of Public Health) for facilitating transition through developing a high school food science and technology course and building teacher capacity.

Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Ms Karen Glaister (School of Nursing and Midwifery) for sustained commitment to the development of quality, innovative and engaging curriculum for multidisciplinary postgraduate students to enhance collaborative, client-centred diabetes-related practice.

Those recognised in the area of research included:

Researcher of the Year Award

Professor Samar Aoun, Director of the WA Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Lifetime Achievement Award

Prof Colin Binns Professor, School of Public Health

Early Career Fellows

Dr Danielle Dye (Biomedical Sciences) - The maintenance and regeneration of ageing and damaged skeletal muscle: the critical role of extracellular matrix components in bioscaffold composition.

Dr Anne Smith (Physiotherapy) - A longitudinal and multi-dimensional approach to the prevention and management of low back pain from childhood to adulthood.

Dr Georgia Halkett (CHIRI, WA Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care) - Effective mechanisms for delivering radiotherapy: a focus on patient-health professional's interactions.

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Lynn Meuleners (CHIRI, Centre for Population Health Research) - Does cataract surgery reduce crash risk and improve quality of life and driving performance for older drivers? A prospective cohort study.

Dr Jonathan Foster (Psychology and Speech Pathology) - The relationship between head injury and changes in cognition, brain and biomarkers associated with prodromal Alzheimer's disease.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR CURTIN-MONASH ACCIDENT RESEARCH CENTRE

A new director, Brett Hughes, has been appointed to the Curtin-Monash Accident Research Centre (C-MARC).

Associate Professor Hughes, who previously was Australasian Railways Association Director of Transport Policy, took over from Interim Director Professor Ian Johnston in January this year.

C-MARC is a collaboration between Curtin University of Technology and Monash University, with support from the Office of Road Safety, and provides independent support to WA's road safety efforts.

The centre, which opened in July 2009, conducts research into road crashes and injury in WA and makes recommendations to the State Government on road safety.

C-MARC Board Chairman Paul Nicholls congratulated Associate Professor Hughes on his appointment and said he looked forward to his contributions in developing the Centre.

"Associate Professor Hughes has

nearly 30 years of experience in the transport industry in a variety of roles within government, research and private organisations," he said.

"I am very confident he will be a great asset to C-MARC as we endeavour to advance our objectives in preventing road crashes and the injuries they cause, as well as influencing the development of road safety strategies nationally and internationally."

Mr Nicholls also acknowledged the work of Interim Director, Professor Ian Johnston.

"The Board has greatly appreciated the support and direction of Professor Johnston in guiding the centre through its start-up phase," he said.

"Professor Johnston has created a strong basis from which the centre will be able to develop and grow in the future."

Prior to his role at the Australasian Railways Association where he was also the CRC for Rail Innovation's Chair of the Economic Social and Environmental Sustainability research program, Associate Professor Hughes was the Director Transport Industry Policy at the Department for Planning

and Infrastructure.

He has a Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics), a Master of Engineering Science (Traffic and Transport), and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management.

C-MARC is located at Curtin's Bentley Campus. Further information is available at www.c-marc.curtin.edu.au



C-MARC Director Associate Professor
Brett Hughes

TOP STUDENT AWARDED COVETED RESEARCH SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP

Thomas Iosifidis, a Medical Science student from the School of Biomedical Sciences, was selected as one of four high-achieving medical and science undergraduate students to undertake a research scholarship in the field of lung disease during the summer holidays.

The Lung Institute of Western Australia (LIWA) summer cadetships enable the successful recipients to

spend 10 weeks working on a full-time basis alongside world-leading lung researchers.

The awardees received a tax exempt allowance of \$400 per week throughout the duration of the summer cadetship enabling them to complete their research project.

Thomas Iosifidis said: "I was elated to receive the scholarship. My research project is related to pulmonary fibrosis, and as a result I have had the

opportunity to work alongside the dedicated tissue repair team at LIWA.

"My experience so far has been both informative and engaging, and I am definitely considering a long-term career in respiratory medicine and research. I'd also like to thank LIWA for providing me with this terrific opportunity."

PROFESSOR ROBIN WATTS RECOGNISED FOR SERVICE TO NURSE EDUCATION

Professor Robin Watts, who became a Member (AM) in the General Division in the recent Australia Day Honours for her service to nursing through the development of nurse education, promotion of evidence-based health care and the establishment of ethical research standards, shares her thoughts about nursing and her career.

What was the impetus for you to enter the nursing field?

I had always wanted to be a nurse since I was 5 years old - and I was not to be swayed from that decision although a number of people tried to convince me to go straight from school to university and do something else. I have never regretted that decision – the profession has provided me with some wonderful experiences and opportunities – and I have seen a lot of the world!

You've been recognised for your services to nursing through education, promotion of evidenced-based health care and establishment of ethical standards. What kept the passion alive for all those years in your career?

The short answer is 'people'. People for whom you have been able to make a difference in their lives either directly or indirectly - children and families you are caring for, people you are teaching. Plus those you work with and for – the very skilled practitioners; people who are very willing to share their knowledge and skills; the committed, enthusiastic ones – people you learn from and who support and encourage you.

What has been the highlight for you in your career so far?

There have been so many – it is hard to select just one. One of the most rewarding experiences was returning to Honduras a few years ago for a reunion with former students we (a CARE-MEDICO team) had taught 40 years ago in several practical nurse courses. What remains with me from that reunion

was the former students' constant reiteration of thanks for the difference the course had made to their lives. Most had come from very poor families with few prospects for the future and this course had opened up all sorts of opportunities for them which they had grasped with both hands. They had all gone on to make a positive contribution in a country that desperately needed their skills and had grown so much in the process.

What was your motivation for venturing beyond practical nursing and into other fields such as serving on numerous boards etc?

I think this just happened – I certainly can't claim to have had a plan. People must have decided I would be able to make a contribution in some way to a committee or group and invited me on board – and the challenge excited me so I said "Yes, thank you very much" to their invitation. You always need new challenges. I must say I have been surprised by some of the invitations as they weren't things I had ever imagined myself doing but I said 'yes' anyway.

Being assigned a teaching role in Honduras led me to realise how rewarding I found teaching (although my Spanish was never that great!) so I pursued that combined role – nursing and education - from then on.

What has been the biggest lesson you have had to learn over time, and what is the greatest lesson you have had to teach?

You are always learning – right now as I head into retirement from full-time paid employment I'm learning how to let go. Probably the two lessons I've needed most to learn are to say 'no' to more work and 'patience' but I can't claim I've managed to learn those yet!

The most important lesson to teach is "do the very best you can - but don't beat yourself up for not being perfect".

Have you had any bad experiences? How have you managed to disengage those negative experiences and keep going?



Professor Robin Watts

We all have had bad experiences and I'm no exception – that's life. Some of course have been much harder to deal with than others. How did I get through those? Licked my wounds for a while, then took a reality check (my problems are minor compared to what many other people go through) and then got on with life. My mother reminded me that when one door closes, another opens – and she was right – I just had to recognise the 'open door'. Often these led me to far more interesting and satisfying paths than the one I was on before. But overall I have been very fortunate in both my life and my career.

What advice would you provide astute students wanting to get into the profession?

Go for it!

Do you live by any motto?

Not consciously but implicitly probably "Work hard and do the very best job you can."

EARLY SPEECH THERAPY FOR STROKE PATIENTS HAS LONG-TERM BENEFITS

In an Australian first, a joint project between Curtin University of Technology and the State Health Research Advisory Council (SHRAC) has shown that early intense therapy can significantly benefit the communication recovery of stroke patients.

Dr Erin Godecke, from Curtin's School of Psychology and Speech Pathology, who completed this research for her PhD, said intense early stage therapy could also reduce the need for future health services.

"Stroke survivors often suffer a breakdown in their communication

abilities, known as aphasia, and receive very limited therapy for this condition," she said.

"Aphasia affects a person's speech production, comprehension, and reading and writing abilities which can be extremely frustrating.

"Usual care intervention for aphasia in the early recovery phase involves an average of only 11 minutes of therapy per week. Rehabilitation for this condition is ad-hoc and usually takes place later in the recovery process, losing valuable time in the neurorecovery process.

This research has found that patients who receive intense therapy at an early stage after a stroke use more words and have a better vocabulary in addition to having improved comprehension scores and verbal output."

Dr Godecke's PhD research was the pilot study that led to the early intervention program funded by SHRAC.

"Our goal is to improve stroke services in WA and provide stroke survivors with the right intervention, in the right place, at the right time," she said.

CURTIN PROGRAM EMPOWERS COMMUNITY TO FIGHT OBESITY

Australia's only community-based program targeting middle-aged men – The Waist Disposal Challenge (WDC) – has helped participants adopt healthier lifestyles and as a result lose weight and reduce their risk of developing chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Professor Samar Aoun said the program had proved extremely successful.

"We successfully trialled the WDC with about 750 men from 23 Rotary Clubs across WA," she said.

"Most clubs had 50 per cent or more of their members lose weight and reduce their body mass index (BMI). It was also pleasing to see that at three clubs 70 per cent of their members lost weight."

Professor Aoun said there were three key aspects of the program that helped with weight loss.

"All participants were advised on nutrition, exercise and other healthy lifestyle habits through educational presentations at club meetings," she said.

"Clubs also competed against each other to see which had the largest reduction in BMI to win the Waist Disposal Trophy. This ongoing competition was recorded on a

leader board which helped spur on participants.

"Two volunteers from each club, called 'champions', were also trained to encourage their peers to adopt a healthier lifestyle and take charge of the competition.

"Lifestyle coaching by telephone was another part of the program that proved crucial to its success."

A Federal Government research grant has now helped to expand the program to 51 additional clubs across WA involving about 1,500 members, with benefits of the program flowing on to members' partners, families and work associates as well.

Professor Aoun said the study showed the power of social networks in motivating change.

"The role and influence of champions as lay leaders in the program was also particularly effective," she said.

"We are now training champions to be able to implement the WDC in their own clubs without health professionals having to deliver the education component.

"By training the champions this will decrease reliance on health professionals and reduce the burden on the health system as more and more

people live with chronic diseases and live longer.

"To date there are already 93 Rotary champions from 51 WA clubs participating in the training program.

"We want to empower communities so that they can lead the fight against obesity."

A number of organisations have been supportive of the earlier stages of the program, including Australian Rotary Health, Edith Cowan University, Telstra, Rotary Clubs of Melville and South Bunbury, WA Country Health Services, Glaxo Smith Kline and NovoNordisk.

Professor Aoun is currently seeking funding to expand the WDC program to a national level.



Participants line up after weighing to enter their weight on a spreadsheet.

FIRST YEAR COURSE TO MOVE TO COMMON CORE CURRICULUM

The Faculty of Health Sciences is currently revising the structure of its first year courses. This will include common core curriculum in response to a number of changes in the professional and academic environments which are foreshadowed to impact on universities and the health professions.

These changes include:

- the international drivers changing the future nature of health workforce to allow greater flexibility in our health professionals
- the increased expectation of capacity of health professionals to work in interprofessional teams
- government higher education changes which will increase competition
- expectation of increased access to university for students from

- non-traditional backgrounds
- the need for the university to improve its first year retention rate with the likely funding implications coming through from the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Authority (TEQSA)
- the public commitment by the Faculty to Indigenous health through the introduction of a unit on Indigenous health and culture for all health science students
- the need to reduce the administrative complexity and workload associated with teaching 88 first year units across 18 health science courses.

The overall principles which guide the re-design of first year are that it will:

- be an excellent transition year
- have high quality teaching and learning which is contextualised to the discipline
- support articulation/alternate entry/mobility

- be at least financially neutral
- support staff to increase time for research
- support development of health graduate attributes, including inter-professional skills
- involve significant support for staff involved in teaching core units
- provide a foundation to enable the Faculty to graduate the health science professionals of the future
- enable our graduates to address complex health problems, working with new models of care in line with the objectives of CHIRI.

Staff from across the Faculty are involved in working parties to develop core and optional units.

The project is being led by A/Prof Sue Jones (sue.jones@curtin.edu.au) and Prof Clare Pollock (c.pollock@curtin.edu.au), who welcome any input or feedback to the process.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PAY A VISIT TO HEALTH SCIENCES

Health Science courses are proving to be a popular choice for international students who graduate from Canning College.

To encourage this trend, 100 Year 12 international students from Canning College were given an introduction to what Health Sciences at Curtin can offer them.

Health Sciences Dean International Associate Professor Simon Ridings provided an overview at the event in January followed by tours of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Biomedical Sciences.



Associate Professor Simon Ridings speaks to Canning College students

CURTIN GRADUATE WINS GENERAL SIR JOHN MONASH FOUNDATION AWARD

Curtin University of Technology nursing graduate Sylvia Lockyer has been awarded a prestigious General Sir John Monash Award in recognition of her excellent academic achievement and future leadership potential.

Sylvia, who has a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) degree from Curtin and is an advocate and leader in Indigenous mental health in the Pilbara, was one of only eight people to receive the award in 2009.

She is the first Curtin graduate to receive this prestigious award and also the first Indigenous person to receive the award.

An artist with language and cultural connections in the Pilbara and the Kimberley, Sylvia plans to undertake a three-year Masters in Public Health at Otago University in New Zealand. With the help of the \$50,000-a-year

scholarship, she will focus her studies on tobacco control issues in Indigenous communities in Australia, British Columbia, and New Zealand.

The General Sir John Monash Awards, named in honour of the World War I general, were established in 2002. They are Australia's answer to the Rhodes and Fulbright scholarships but differ in that they are for study anywhere in the world.

They are awarded to outstanding graduates who display leadership and altruism, enabling them to study overseas and return to contribute to Australia. For the 2009 awards, 130 applications were received from all parts of the country and across most disciplines. Around 55 interviews were conducted at state level, and 18 were re-interviewed by the national panel, resulting in eight awards.

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and



Curtin University of Technology nursing graduate Sylvia Lockyer

Patron in Chief of The General Sir John Monash Foundation presented the awards at a special ceremony at Government House, Canberra.

CURTIN'S DEMENTIA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM GIVEN FUNDING BOOST

Curtin University of Technology has received Federal Government funding to advance its dementia education and research programs through its Centre for Research on Ageing.

Under the Australian Government's National Dementia initiative, the Centre for Research on Ageing has received \$1.2 million to run its WA Dementia Training Study Centre until 2013.

Professor Barbara Horner, Director of Curtin's Centre for Research on Ageing, said the additional funds would allow the centre's successful dementia training program to be expanded.

"We will consolidate previous initiatives in existing undergraduate and postgraduate courses and we can now develop new initiatives," she said.

"They will feature a range of teaching and learning methods and different delivery models. Our goal is to build career pathways and help evolve the roles of health professionals, like nurse practitioners, by building their knowledge and skills to better care for people with dementia.

"We will do this by harnessing the knowledge and experience of expert practitioners across the health professions involved in the care of people with dementia."

The Australian Government also announced continuing funding for the three Collaborative Research Centres (CRCs). Curtin's Centre for Research on Ageing is a partner with Queensland University of Technology in one of the

CRCs which has received \$4.1million in funding.

Curtin will contribute to future research in the broad conceptual domains of quality of life and quality of care.

Professor Horner said the additional funding would allow the Centre for Research on Ageing to build on the successes of the past three years and also further consolidates its partnership with Alzheimer's Australia WA.

"We are very pleased to receive this funding as it establishes Curtin as a leader in dementia education and research in WA," she said.

FACULTY APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF PRACTICE EDUCATION

Dr Rose Chapman is the new Director of Practice Education in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Dr Chapman has a wealth of experience in clinical education, having been the Director of Clinical Education in the School of Nursing and Midwifery from 2005-2008.

She provided strategic direction and ensured the integrity of clinical education within the school, in addition to implementing simulation into the laboratories as an adjunct to clinical practice.

Dr Chapman has also been a research consultant to Joondalup Health Campus since 2004, where her role has been promoting research and evidence-based practice and collaboration between Curtin and industry to bridge the theory-practice gap.

The 12-month half-time appointment is in response to the forthcoming changes in clinical education being driven through Health Workforce Australia and will involve working in partnership with fieldwork coordinators. The role is to work in partnership with Fieldwork Coordinators to:

- provide an effective and collective voice for the Faculty on Fieldwork Education
- develop faculty-based supervision workshops to improve training and support for educators in the field around coaching, supervision and fair and equitable assessment of students
- develop a Faculty Fieldwork Partnership plan using a sound model of community engagement which recognises and rewards industry partners to ensure Curtin is a partner of choice
- respond to issues arising from Health Workforce Australia and prepare funding proposals as required

- contribute to the development of CHIRI IPE Clinics (with the Director of CHIRI Clinics, Professor Barbara Horner)
- develop and implement effective fieldwork moderation processes
- consider development of a Faculty system to manage student fieldwork placements (which is aligned with HWA requirements)
- ensure fieldwork risk and legal issues for the Faculty are managed effectively
- ensure the Faculty has pedagogically defensible fieldwork education practices
- review the costs of fieldwork education across the Faculty and develop innovative models to reduce costs based on benchmarking
- determine innovative and new approaches to models of fieldwork education through Faculty-wide brokerage with agencies
- develop systems to monitor and continuously improve the quality of fieldwork, for example, placement

numbers, monitoring trends in numbers, placement availability, online systems for collecting student and fieldwork educator feedback on fieldwork experiences, placement quality, evaluating the fieldwork program and models of education, moderation of fieldwork assessment and ensuring inter-rater reliability and understanding competency-based evaluation

- improve alignment of assessment practices of student learning on placements between university and industry.

Associate Professor Sue Jones said: “Margo Brewer continues in the position of Director of Interprofessional Practice where her role is the development and management of interprofessional education and fieldwork opportunities.

“Both Rose and Margo will work closely together, although their roles are very different.”



Dr Rose Chapman

FACULTY WORK ON INTEGRATED HEALTH CLINICS GAINS MOMENTUM

Health clinics provided by the Faculty of Health Sciences are about to undergo a transformation to offer greater opportunities for the development of collaborative practice delivered by interprofessional teams that will benefit students and clients.

The Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute's Integrated Health Clinics will be housed in building 404 and offer treatments in a number of areas with a focus on the prevention and management of complex and chronic conditions.

The project to integrate the clinics is being led by CHIRI Clinical Director Professor Barbara Horner with assistance from external consultants.

"While we have been operating clinics for many years in Building 404, it is time to adapt the existing

environment, operations and practice to provide more inter professional clinical placements for students on campus and integrated health services for the community," Professor Horner said.

"Central to achieving the goals of CHIRI is the development of an interprofessional research, education and practice environment on campus. This core component of CHIRI will provide clinical learning opportunities for students and clinical practice settings for staff in collaboration with industry partners and practitioners. It will reach out to the community and attract clients who will receive interprofessional health care."

The CHIRI Integrated Health Clinics will showcase:

- interprofessional clinical experience for students on campus
- interprofessional teaching and

learning environments for staff

- research opportunities opportunity for external health practitioners to combine practice with supervision and research
- consumer-focussed, integrated treatment and preventive health services.

"Committed Faculty representatives from all schools are working together to articulate the model of practice that will underpin this exciting initiative to identify new opportunities for collaboration," she said.

"Working groups will be formed to focus on particular aspects of the project, like refurbishment of the physical environment, common appointment processes and protocols, new reception areas, signage and much more."

STUDENT TRAINING WARD

Through an initiative between the Faculty of Health Sciences and Royal Perth Hospital, an interprofessional training ward is being developed for students.

Interprofessional Practice Director Margo Brewer travelled late last year to the highly successful student wards at Linkoping University and the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden with Royal Perth Hospital Acting Director of Clinical Service Ted Stewart-Wynne to review these best practice models.

Students from Curtin University and other universities in Western Australia will be placed in the ward where they will be responsible for planning and delivering patient-centred care under the supervision of an interprofessional health care team.

The placement will provide students from a range of health



Interprofessional Practice Director Margo Brewer (centre) with Margaretha Forsberg Larm (left) and Marie Sjöstedt from the Karolinska Institutet.

professions with an authentic learning experience designed to develop their interprofessional practice knowledge, skills and attitudes. Student learning experiences will include those specific

to their profession, along with those that enable efficient and effective team function.

IPE FIELDWORK

Throughout 2009, the Faculty of Health Sciences collaborated with a variety of industry partners to develop and pilot a series of interprofessional fieldwork placements.

Key placements of students from a variety of disciplines, such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, nursing, dietetics and pharmacy, were conducted at Therapy Focus, Brightwater Care Group, North Metropolitan Chronic Disease Management Team, Go Global and the Curtin Activity, Food and Attitudes Program.

These innovative placements delivered important outcomes in the key areas of capacity building, provision of new models of care, an approach to better meeting health demands and needs, and improved client safety.

Student feedback

“I look at files and case notes now and notice things such as symptoms or illnesses, or medications that I know will have a direct impact on the performance of my patient. Before, I would just look at my profession’s aspects and pretty much ignore everything else. My new knowledge of other professions allows me to make sense of their notes, assessment results and objectives, and what impact it has on my goals.”

“I feel I have a greater ability to think about different aspects of that individual because I have had team exposure. I feel I can be far more responsive to my clients’ health care needs and am able to build respect and trust with other disciplines. I feel more empowered to cope with situations outside my discipline. I am now able to consider a patient holistically and feel far more confident to discuss them with other professions. It’s a true patient-centred approach. I definitely feel this

placement has given me an edge over other students when applying for jobs.”

Supervisor feedback

“The student team worked effectively together to problem solve issues, develop integrated care plans, support each other and share resources, rather than relying completely on the supervisor as would be the case in a traditional placement.”

“The IPE placement really prepared students for future employment, especially in this setting. Working as a team typically takes time to develop for the new employee. These students are now equipped with basic skills and understanding of working as a team and of each profession’s responsibilities and roles.”

“Students were approaching clients with a much broader perspective. They incorporated other profession’s goals when appropriate, providing clients with more opportunities to practice their intervention tasks. This in turn resulted in faster achievement of outcomes and recovery.”



STAFF IN FOCUS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHIRI AND THE PROPOSED MEDICAL SCHOOL DONELLE RIVETT



What was your previous role and where did you come from?

Manager Research, Review and Development - Bethanie Group Inc.

What do you see as the major challenges facing the Faculty of Health Sciences and the University as a whole for 2009 and beyond?

One challenge is the desire to strive for research excellence while maintaining practical and industry-focused programs.

You have found an old lamp and rubbed it. The genie that appears grants you three wishes for Curtin. What do you wish for?

1. Research Grants for CHIRI and the Faculty
2. More office space for all
3. Travelators to get from one side of campus to the other.

What did your Mum always tell you?

Eat your pumpkin – it's good for you!

If you could invite any three people to dinner, who would you invite and why?

Jamie Oliver - to cook the meal

Bill Gates - for the conversation

Robin Williams - to provide the comic relief.

If you weren't doing this, what would you be doing?

Writing travel books.

What is your dream holiday?

Anywhere that has sun, beach, food and shopping.

SHORT COURSE BUILDS HEALTH ECONOMICS KNOWLEDGE

A short course on the Economics of Health Financing organised by the Centre for International Health has helped build the health economics knowledge of participants representing 13 different countries.

The course was facilitated by Professor Sandra Hopkins, Ian Anderson, Delia Hendrie and Dr Judy Katzenellenbogen, and was very well received by the participants who gave excellent feedback.

The short course enabled attendees to develop and build skills to describe and critically analyse health systems in high, middle and low income countries



in terms of financing, structure, functions and performance, and to examine how this performance can be influenced by alternative financing policies and reform strategies.

Due to the success of the short course, CIH plans to offer the course again in 2011.

To register interest in this course, please email cih@curtin.edu.au

BIG THANKYOU TO STAFF INVOLVED IN ENROL NOW

Pro Vice-Chancellor Jill Downie has congratulated the FSSO team and others in Student Central and CITS for their hard work in getting the EnrolNow project up and running.

“The FSSO staff and the OASIS Team in Student Central have worked tirelessly and put in long hours

to get this project up in very short timeframes,” she said.

“This is a huge step forward that was aided by our academic staff who provided information for EnrolNow.”

EnrolNow is an interface built at Curtin which makes eStudent a little more user friendly. It provides

students with just in time information (for example, tips for enrolment) that guides them through their online enrolment process as well as providing other important information to the student that is specific to their course.

GUILD EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Congratulations to Health Sciences winners of Guild Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2009:

Undergraduate Winner:

- Dr Lisa Tee, School of Pharmacy
- Postgraduate Lecturer/Tutor Winner:
- Ms Kate Fischer, School of Occupational Therapy and

Social Work

Honourable mentions are awarded to:

- Dr Lynne Roberts, School of Psychology and Speech Pathology
- Dr Natalie Ciccone, School of Psychology and Speech Pathology

The Guild recognised the achievements

of all recipients of nominations for the Awards:

- Dr Ranil Coorey, School of Public Health
- Ms Alma Dender, School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work
- Mr Leo Ng, School of Physiotherapy
- Dr Suzie Leitao, School of Psychology and Speech Pathology

PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS

Staff from CHIRI, Centre for Behavioural Research into Cancer Control (CBRCC) and the School of Public Health took out three awards at the Public Health Association of Australia (WA Branch) annual awards in November.

The awards, which acknowledge outstanding contributions to public health, were made to:

- Professor Rob Donovan - **Individual Community Award**
- The Cancer Council of WA - **Group Community Award**
- Mr Jonathan Hallett - **Early Career Award**

Congratulations to Rob, Jonathan, and colleagues at CCWA and to the new 2009-2010 PHAA committee, which includes Faculty of Health Sciences staff Laura Bond, Mike Daube, Satvinder Dhaliwal, Peter Howat, Jonine Jancey, Ginny Monteiro, Myra Robinson and Melissa Stoneham.

VIN WILLIAMS ANNOUNCED AS SAAL-FOLEY LECTURER

Associate Professor Vin Williams from the School of Biomedical Sciences has been offered the prestigious position as the Saal-Foley Lecturer for the 2010 National Meeting of the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS) to be held in Perth in October.

The Saal-Foley Lecturer is an AIMS appointment that allows the institute to acknowledge an individual's effort in the field of laboratory medicine as a leader in his/her field and as a contributor to the education of scientists.

The appointee provides the keynote address on the opening day of the National Scientific meeting. Subsequent to the meeting a transcript of the lecture is published in the Australian Journal of Medical Science.

Vin's appointment reflects his standing in his profession over many years that includes 1996-2004 Member of the Board of Examiners of the Australian Society of Cytology (ASC), 2000-2004 Chief Examiner of the ASC, 2004-2009 Member of the Board of Education of the ASC, 2007-2009 National Secretary, Australian Society



Professor Vin Williams from the School of Biomedical Sciences

of Cytology and from 2008 as Member, Pathology Associations Council and Member Pathology Associations Council Workforce Committee, to name a few.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Curtin's WA Centre for Health Promotion Research has been awarded the 2009 WA AIDS Council World AIDS Day Award. The award recognises significant and sustained contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS and it is the first time the award has gone to a research centre.

The centre has made significant impact on the ways HIV/AIDS is viewed in the community. Their research has covered 10 years of HIV specific work, the My-Peer Project (peer based mental health promotion with marginalised and at risk youth), gay and lesbian community health research, and vulnerable groups and communities in Australia and in our region.



Representing WACHPR at the Award ceremony are Jonathan Hallett, Jude Comfort, WACHPR Director Dr Graham Brown, Gemma Crawford and Aingeal de Róiste.