



South Australian Scientist of the Year

Flinders University's world-leading gastrointestinal expert, **Professor Graeme Young**, has been named South Australia's Scientist of the Year for 2013.

The Professor of Global Gastrointestinal Health was awarded the prestigious accolade at the Science Excellence Awards – the state's premier event to honour outstanding achievers in science and research – on Friday 16th August at the Adelaide Town Hall.

It is the second consecutive year that a Flinders University academic has taken out the title, with Professor of Biomedical Engineering Karen Reynolds named the SA Scientist of the Year for 2012.

The panel of thirteen judges commended Professor Young for his instrumental role in developing the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, as well as for his tireless efforts to prevent infant deaths from diarrhoea in developing countries as the lead investigator on a major international project.

He was also acknowledged for his key role in establishing the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer – a leading cancer centre in Australia housing world-class care and survivorship services, alongside innovative cancer prevention and early intervention research.

In accepting the award, Professor Young said he felt privileged to be part of research that has directly influenced healthcare systems on a global scale.

"Science is one of the main ways in which we can improve society and enrich lives, including that of other societies less fortunate and less empowered than us," Professor Young said at the awards ceremony.

"I am truly privileged to have been involved in several scientific endeavours where our initial solutions have progressed, with modification and refinement, through to the point of proving benefit to not just our community but the global community," he said.

Professor Young also thanked his mentors, the Flinders campus including the University and hospitals in the southern region, his wife Joan and his colleagues, students and teams "that construct the solutions to the problems facing society".

Science Minister Grace Portolesi described Professor Young as a "scientific leader".

"His work as a teacher, mentor and researcher reflects the outstanding quality of our many scientists who make a difference in areas that are vital to our social and economic prosperity," Ms Portolesi said.

graeme.young@flinders.edu.au

(Article adapted from *Flinders News*)



Professor David Day, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research),
Professor Graeme Young and Professor Paul Worley, Dean, School of Medicine



From the Executive Dean



Individual achievements, international collaborations and internal grants are all celebrated in this edition of *Research Pulse*.

The university congratulates Professor Graeme Young on being named South Australian Scientist of the Year for 2013. This honour is well deserved and recognises Graeme's significant achievements in the prevention of bowel cancer, and the prevention of infant death from diarrhoeal disease.

Dr Michael Michael and Mr Raymond Tham were also recognised by South Australia for their roles in advancing scientific research and science communication in their respective fields. This edition of *Research Pulse* brings to light their notable accomplishments.

Our researchers continue to develop and foster links with research leaders from around the globe. Some of our Faculty's international research collaborations, particularly with China, are highlighted in this edition.

The Faculty congratulates all our researchers who recently received project grant funding including the successful recipients of the 2013 Faculty of Health Sciences and Flinders Medical Centre Foundation competitive research grants. This year the Faculty assessment committee reviewed 115 applications and awarded over \$1.2 million in funds. The funded projects are announced on pages 4-6.

Professor Michael Kidd AM
Executive Dean
Faculty of Health Sciences
Flinders University

Inconsistent care for Acute Coronary Syndrome

A team of Australian and New Zealand academics and researchers, led by **Professor Derek Chew**, has investigated variations in emergency treatment of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) across the two countries.

The results of the *SNAPSHOT ACS* study were recently published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, and highlighted inconsistencies and incomplete implementation of evidence-based treatment recommendations across the audited sites.

The investigators reviewed admission, diagnosis, treatment and clinical outcome data for 4398 patients with suspected or confirmed ACS at 286 sites across Australia and New Zealand. Of these patients, one-third were diagnosed with myocardial infarction (ie heart attack), 48% had unstable angina or chest pain and the remaining 19% had diagnoses other than ACS.

Myocardial infarction was most commonly treated with angiography while percutaneous coronary intervention and coronary artery bypass grafting were also routinely performed. Over one quarter of all ACS patients were transferred to another hospital for treatment. Results reveal a 4.5% mortality rate in hospital and recurrence of heart attack in 5.1% of admitted patients.

Based on these findings, and after adjusting for patient risk and other variables, Professor Chew's study has identified significant variations in care and outcomes by hospital classification and jurisdiction.

This study offers the most representative assessment of ACS health service resources, clinical care provision and outcomes ever conducted in Australasia. The published findings assert the importance of standardised ACS care and implementation of evidence-based practices. The results also offer a unique insight into the challenges of providing timely and effective ACS care for patients with complex comorbidities and those from rural and outer metropolitan areas.

Professor Michael Kidd AM congratulated Professor Chew on the paper saying, "I expect this will be one of the most important research papers, in terms of potential impact on policy and practice, published by the *Medical Journal of Australia* this year".

The paper is available online at: www.mja.com.au/journal/2013/199/3/acute-coronary-syndrome-care-across-australia-and-new-zealand-snapshot-acs-study.

derek.chew@flinders.edu.au



Professor Derek Chew

International collaboration improves education for health professionals

Leading dementia-care Academics from Flinders University and the Central South University (CSU) in China have successfully completed a collaborative dementia education project funded by Australia-China Council. The project team (**Dr Lily Xiao, Emeritus Professor Jan Paterson, Dr Anita De Bellis, Associate Professor Craig Whitehead and Dr Owen Davies**, Professor Guoping He, Ms Yao Wang, Associate Professor Xiuhua Wang, Professor Zaijin Jian, Professor Youyuan Li and Mr Kuanbao Yao) have extensive experience in dementia research. This experience and the knowledge gained through an earlier Flinders-CSU co-funded research project, has informed and enhanced the current collaboration.

Activities included a workshop at Flinders University, a three-day education program for trainers in Changsha and an international conference organised by the two universities, which was held in China. In total, 80 health professionals from 33 health care organisations participated in the three-day program for trainers. The project team assisted the trainers to train their colleagues over a six month period. Up to 631 health professionals

participated in the dementia care training program in their organisations. Project evaluation shows a significant increase of dementia knowledge and application of dementia knowledge to practice amongst participants.

The cross-national collaboration has generated synergy and significant knowledge transfer in dementia care and the development of the health workforce in China.

lily.xiao@flinders.edu.au



Front (L-R): Emeritus Professor Jan Paterson, Associate Professor Craig Whitehead, Professor Guoping He, Dr Lily Xiao. Back (L-R): Professor Youyuan Li, Ms Yao Wang, Dr Owen Davies, Professor Zaijin Jian, Associate Professor Xiuhua Wang, Dr Anita De Bellis

Family focus for bladder cancer research

Bladder cancer accounts for approximately two percent of cancer diagnoses in Australia with around two hundred new cases diagnosed in South Australia each year. It is most prevalent among people aged over fifty years of age, with men three times more likely than women to be affected.

Ms Susan Heyes, a PhD candidate in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, is examining the impact of bladder cancer on couples and families in South Australia.

People with bladder cancer are often a forgotten group who receive limited support. Results from phase one of Ms Heyes' study have revealed that many people with bladder cancer are struggling

to cope. Participants have reported significant lifestyle disruption caused by incontinence, a common side effect of treatment. Sadly, this has caused some patients to cease work, and has led to psychological health concerns for others. Furthermore, patients and their families report feeling lonely and socially isolated.

Ms Heyes is now seeking volunteers to participate in phase two of her study. People with bladder cancer, and their families, are encouraged to complete a brief questionnaire that will enable Ms Heyes to build a better model of care for South Australians with bladder cancer. More details are available by emailing

susan.heyес@flinders.edu.au



Ms Susan Heyes

Celebrating success in the Faculty

Research Pulse welcomes information regarding grants, awards and honours for publication in future editions.

Faculty of Health Sciences' researchers are shown here in **bold**.

Department of Health and Ageing

Mark Shephard: The Quality Assurance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services (QAAMS) Pathology Program, \$3,504,825.

NHMRC Centres for Research Excellence

Patsy Yates, Geoffrey Mitchell, **David Currow**, Kathy Eagar, Edwards, Glenn Gardner, Lindy Willmott, Ann Bonner, **Robyn Clark**, **Jennifer Tieman:** Centre for Research Excellence in End of Life Care (Lead: QUT), \$2,495,543.

ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment & Facilities (LIEF)

Peter Hoffmann, **Timothy Chataway**, Tara Pukala, Douglas Brooks, John Bowie, Markus Herderich, Geoffrey Fincher, Melissa Brown, **Damien Keating:** Establishment of the Protein Quantitation Centre of South Australia: PQCSA (Lead: University of Adelaide), \$450,000.

DFEEST Premier's Industry and Research Fund

Wei Zhang: Macroalgae Bioprocessing R&D to support the development of a Marine Biotechnology Industry in Regional South Australia, \$300,000.

The Financial Markets Foundation for Children

Dani Dixon, **Kevin Forsyth:** Decreasing neutrophil activation, infiltration and damage in respiratory syncytial virus infection: a means to ameliorate infant bronchiolitis, \$129,172.

Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies Incorporated

Ann Roche: Building Funding Application Skills Project, \$325,184.

Perpetual Philanthropic Research Grants

Keryn Williams, **Sonja Klebe:** Improving the quality of human donor corneas for corneal transplantation, \$99,521.

BIO Foundation

Michael Jackson: Identification of the cellular target of a functional antibody inhibiting neurotransmission in human narcolepsy - Ringarooma River, \$238,897.

Michael Jackson: Assessment of FGF-P as a survival factor for islet cells in autoimmune diabetes mellitus - Ringarooma River, \$63,340.

SAHMRI Beat Cancer Project - Blue Sky Funding

Michael Michael: Expression of tumour suppressing microRNAs in Arabidopsis thaliana, to enable oral delivery of microRNA replacement therapy, \$96,814.

Fiona Young: Microarray study to elucidate the mechanism of marine anticancer agents against estrogen-sensitive breast cancer cells, \$40,000.

Nicola Dean: Pilot study of the BRAVA device in conjunction with autologous fat transfer for reconstruction of partial and complete mastectomy defects, \$38,250.

Country Health SA

Malcolm Battersby: Digital Telehealth Evaluation Project - Country Health Services, \$60,000.

CSIRO

John Coveney, **Carol Anne Hartwick:** Lost in Translation: EPODE and OPAL comparison, \$17,500.

FaHCSIA

Ann Roche, **Michael White**, **Tania Steenson**, **Tony Trimmingham:** A resource for family members of people with co-occurring alcohol and other drug and domestic violence issues (AOD and FDV Client Resource Development), \$22,795.

Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grants

Equipment

Timothy Chataway, **Tom Gordon**, **Keryn Williams**, **Damien Keating**, **Neil Sims**, **Elke Sokoya:** AB Sciex 5600+ Triple ToF mass spectrometer with, \$30,000.

Michelle Miller, **Ian Spark**, **Bogda Koczvara:** TrueOne® 2400 Metabolic Measurement System, \$30,000.

Jill Carr, **Keryn Williams**, **Justine Smith:** Cryogenic liquid nitrogen storage unit, \$29,501.

Richard Woodman, **Arduino Mangoni**, **Richard Allan:** Sphygmocor™ & BioMedex 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure and pulse-wave analysis monitor, \$25,300.

Infrastructure

Malcolm Battersby, **Sharon Lawn**, **Peter Harvey**, **Niranjan Bidargaddi**, **Tarun J Bastiampillai:** Research manager infrastructure position, FHBHRU, \$20,000.

James Harrison, **Maria Crotty**, **Hugh Grantham**, **Richard Woodman**, **Ann Roche**, **Malcolm Battersby**, **Clare Bradley:** Faculty of Health Sciences support funding for SA-NT DataLink in 2013, \$35,000.

Dimitra Beroukas, **Tom Gordon**, **Jennifer Walker**, **Tatjana Banovic:** Establishing a South Australian Flinders Medical Centre Autoimmune Blood Bank, \$19,605.

Mark Slee, **Robyn Flook:** The South Australian Brain Bank, \$28,358.

Top Up

Doug McEvoy, **Leon Lack**, **Nick Antic**, **Ching Li Chai-Coetzer**, **Peter Catcheside:** Treating Insomnia comorbid with Obstructive Sleep Apnoea: A randomized controlled clinical effectiveness trial, \$8,000.

Lynley Bradnam: Novel treatment targeting cerebellum in Cervical Dystonia A multimodal approach using theta-burst stimulation combined with cognitive and motor training, \$14,000.

Vladimir Zagorodnyuk, **Simon Brookes**, **Nick Spencer:** Role of sensory neurons in obstruction-induced bladder overactivity, \$18,757.

Michelle Miller, **Maria Crotty**, **Robert Fraser**, **Lynne Cobiac:** A Trial Assessing N3 as Treatment for Injury-induced Cachexia (the ATLANTIC trial), \$20,000.

John Coveney, **Paul Ward**, **Julie Henderson**, **Samantha Meyer:** Trust makers, breakers and brokers: Building trust in the Australian food system, \$20,000.



Dani-Louise Dixon: Reducing respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) induced epithelial damage via the neutrophil moderator, feG, \$8,233.

John Miners, Kathie Knights, Peter Mackenzie, Andrew Rowland, Ross McKinnon: Predicting drug-drug interactions due to tyrosine kinase inhibitors: Inhibition of drug-metabolising enzymes and transporters, \$15,393.

Near Miss

Pamela Sykes, Rebecca Ormsby, Wayne Tilley: Parthenolide in the prevention and treatment of prostate cancer, \$13,783.

Seeding - Early Career Researcher (ECR)

Deb Agnew, Jessica Gunson: Building boys' resilience: Exploring the relationship between sport, masculinities, and mental wellbeing, \$15,000.

Christine Barry: Characterising sensory neurons involved in muscle pain, \$12,000.

Christina Kargillis, Mayumi Kako: Stories from disaster survivors: Acknowledging emotional impact in recovery, \$14,000.

Iris Levin Azriel: Culturing Spaces: Fostering a sense of belonging, health and wellbeing for diverse communities in public urban open spaces, \$15,000.

Nicola McCaffrey: Measuring the benefits of palliative care to inform equitable and efficient healthcare funding and policy decisions, \$16,000.

Louise Roberts: Analysis of the development and implementation of mental health related guidelines in Australian ambulance services, \$9,000.

Andrew Rowland: Assessment of sorafenib as a model compound for improving tyrosine kinase inhibitor utilization through dose optimization, \$8,000.

Lauren Thurgood: The effect of the microenvironment on del11q CLL cells, \$14,000.

Annabelle Wilson: The effect of cultural competence training for health professionals on health outcomes for Indigenous patients, \$16,000.

Seeding

Greg Barritt, George Tallis: Store-operated calcium channels and the development of liver steatosis and insulin resistance, \$16,000.

Malcolm Battersby, Melanie Harris, David Smith: Improving implementation of the Flinders Program™ in health services: A model for best practice, \$14,000.

Fran Baum, Malcolm Battersby, Doug McEvoy, Angela Lawless, Toby Freeman: Development of a pilot social health screening tool, \$16,000.

Sara Javanparast, Fran Baum, Angela Lawless, Richard Reed, Toby Freeman, Michael Kidd, Jeff Fuller: Collaboration between Medicare Locals and Local Health Networks to facilitate the provision of primary health care in South Australia, \$16,000.

Angela Lawless, Fran Baum, Katy Osborne: A pilot study to examine the role of Australian local governments in addressing the social and economic determinants of health to reduce health inequities, \$14,000.

Ian Blackman, Julie Henderson, Eileen Willis: Measuring quality of nursing care: Redevelopment of the MISSCARE survey, \$10,000.

Marcello Costa, Nick Spencer, Philip Dinning, Simon Brookes: Patterns of colonic motility in anaesthetised rats, \$10,000.

Nick Spencer, Simon Brookes: Silencing the pain pathway induced by inflammation from the large intestine using adeno-associated viruses, \$15,000."

Timothy Chataway: Development of a new oral immunotherapy treatment for peanut allergy, \$09,800.

Jessica Gunson, John Coveney, Paul Ward: Food, Health & Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD): Using Visual Methods to Improve Understanding of Food Challenges for Children with ASD, \$16,000.

Kaye Mehta, John Coveney, Sue Booth: The role of time in the provision of healthy family food: perceptions of mothers in paid employment, as primary food providers, \$16,000.

Samantha Meyer, Paul Ward, Mariastella Pulvirenti, John Coveney: Healthcare professionals' trust in the public and private healthcare system, \$12,000.

Paul Ward, John Coveney, Annabelle Wilson, Samantha Meyer, Julie Henderson: The future of food labelling – beyond communicating only nutritional information, \$16,000.

Sheryl de Lacey: Community literacy in fertility and women's and men's health: how do adults understand fertility and

how does this influence their decisions, \$16,000.

Eimear Muir-Cochrane, Jeff Fuller, Sharon Lawn, Richard Reed, Adam Gerace, Deb O'Kane: Identifying service needs and gaps for older people with mental health issues: Stage 2 Older people's journeys to mental health care, \$15,000.

Rainer Haberberger, Hakan Muyderman: The involvement of sphingosine kinase 2 and pain processing in the spinal cord dorsal horn, \$15,000.

Eileen Willis, Lily Xiao, Julie Henderson: After hours nurse staffing, work intensity and quality of care for aged care residents in rural public and community hospitals, \$10,000.

Ganessan Kichenadasse, Rebecca Ormsby, Pamela Sykes: ERG expression and response to Metformin/Valproic acid in prostate cancer, \$15,000.

Lindy King, Robyn Clark: Patients, family members and carers' views on involvement in recognising and responding to patient deterioration through the Medical Emergency Team (MET) call system, \$13,000.

Sonja Klebe, Keryn Williams: Establishment of an animal model of malignant mesothelioma to assess the effectiveness of inhibition of VEGFA in vivo, \$16,000.

Sue McAllister, Sebastian Doeltgen, Samantha Kruger, Helen Tedesco: Clinical reasoning processes and predictive accuracy of Speech Pathologists' bedside assessment of swallowing function, \$15,000.

Melanie Hayes, Karen Lower, Bryone Kuss: Genetic analysis of the clonal evolution of del11q22-23 chronic lymphocytic leukaemia during disease progression and in response to treatment, \$19,000.

Lidia Mayner, Richard Woodman, Arduino Mangoni: Are older people on anticholinergic medication at greater risk of hospitalisation during extreme heat conditions? \$12,000.

Christopher Barton, Paul Cafarella, Tanja Effing-Tijdhof, Richard Reed: Associations between patient satisfaction and health outcomes with GP communication and management styles amongst long term patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, \$9,555.

Mary Louise Rogers, Robert Rush: Determining the efficacy of targeted treatments for motor neuron disease, \$17,000.



PhD holds promise for new anti-HIV drugs

Qi Yang, a first year PhD student in Medical Biotechnology, is this year's winner of the Faculty of Health Sciences Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. Her presentation entitled *Marine sponges: A promise for new anti-HIV drugs* wowed the judges and educated the audience about the diversity of actinobacteria, a group of bacteria collected from marine sponges in South Australian waters.

Qi Yang commenced at Flinders University, under the co-sponsored Flinders University - Chinese Scholarship Committee Scheme, after completing Bachelor and Master's degrees in Marine Science and Biotechnology at Xiamen University. Her PhD project, supervised by **Professor Chris Franco** and **Professor Wei Zhang**, involves isolation of novel bacterial strains and exploring their pharmaceutical applications, particularly relating to HIV treatment.

While the 3MT competition was challenging, Qi says she enjoyed the experience and found it highly rewarding. She reflects, "the competition taught me the importance of communicating research and the skills I developed will benefit me throughout my career".

Qi also won the People's Choice Prize in the University 3MT Finals.

qi.yang@flinders.edu.au



Dr Alan Wilson congratulates Ms Qi Yang

Celebrating success in the Faculty

Faculty of Health Sciences Seeding Grants (continued)

George Tsourtos, Paul Ward, Carlene Wilson: The importance of resilience to stress in relation to smoking: a quantitative study in Australia, \$14,000.

Darlene McNaughton, Samantha Meyer, Paul Ward: Weight Loss Surgery: Through the Patients' Eyes, \$17,000.

Lillian Mwanri, Anna Ziersch: HIV status, stigma and discrimination, and health: the experience of people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds, \$16,000.

Anna Ziersch: Taking action against discrimination: The health and wellbeing effects of using formal complaints processes to address discrimination, \$18,000.

Flinders Medical Centre Foundation Research Grants

Top Up

Kathie Knights, John Miners: Aldosterone metabolism and inhibition by NSAIDs: A link to increased cardiovascular risk? \$20,000.

Keryn Williams, Helen Brereton, Sonja Klebe, Celia Chen: Anti-vascular endothelial growth factor-B as a biologic for treating eye disease, \$15,686.

Seeding - ECR

Sebastian Doeltgen, Lynley Bradnam: Non-invasive brain stimulation: a collaborative study towards optimising rehabilitative interventions for swallowing disorders and cervical dystonia, \$7,266.

Tobias Loetscher, Celia Chen: Using eye-tracking glasses for improved diagnosis of spatial neglect, \$17,597.

Seeding

Justine Smith, Binoy Appukuttan: Autophagy and the Retinal Endothelial Cell: implications for diabetic retinopathy, \$19,959.

Melissa Brown, Uwe Stroehler: The role of cation availability and homeostasis in *Acinetobacter baumannii* virulence, \$14,000.

Kathryn Burdon: Development of detailed gene expression profiles for normal and diseased human ocular tissues: The Eye-Atlas Project, \$16,000.

Morton Burt, Bogda Koczwara, Michelle Miller: Effect of anti-cancer therapy on insulin sensitivity and secretion, energy balance and cardiovascular function in women with early stage breast cancer, \$16,000.

Damian Hussey, Simon Carney, David Watson, Charmaine Woods, Eng Ooi: Detection of a microRNA signature for laryngeal cancer from blood exosomes, \$18,000.

Jonathan Gleadle, Jordan Li, Tuck Yong: Podicyturia in Glomerular Diseases, \$14,000.

Michael Sorich, Ross McKinnon, Christos Karapetis: Collaborative meta-analyses based on individual-participant data to accelerate the clinical translation of personalised cancer medicine, \$15,000.

Richard Le Leu: Red meat induced alkyl-DNA adducts and their regulation by green tea: The role of methyl-guanine-methyltransferase regulation by dietary agents, \$15,000.

Arduino Mangoni, Ben Lewis, Andrew Rowland: Dimethylarginine dimethylaminohydrolase (DDAH) and angiogenesis modulation: a novel therapeutic target in cancer? \$15,000.

Ida Llewellyn-Smith, Michael Michael: microRNAs change during pregnancy and post-partum in ganglia supplying uterine innervation, \$16,000.

Karen Lower: Identification of the direct DNA targets of ATM in response to elevated levels of reactive oxygen species, \$14,000.

Jill Carr, Michael Michael: Characterisation of exosomes isolated from dengue virus infected cells, \$16,000.

Ian Spark, Michelle Miller: Does a supervised exercise program for claudication have an adverse effect on immune, muscle and endothelial function? \$12,000.

Neil Sims, Hakan Muyderman: Effect of dental pulp stem cells on glial cell responses and neurological recovery in a rat model of stroke, \$18,000.

Mohamed Asif Chinnaratha, **Alan Wigg:** Predictors of hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence post thermal ablation, \$10,000.

Alan Wigg, Mohamed Asif Chinnaratha: Liver transplant outcomes in Australian Indigenous population, \$14,000.

Honouring Dr Chris Lunam (1952 - 2013)

The Faculty of Health Sciences is sad to advise of the death of much loved staff member, **Dr Chris Lunam**.

Dr Lunam has been one of the stalwarts of the Flinders University School of Medicine, having worked here for nearly forty years. She completed her PhD in the Department of Anaesthetics in 1985 and first worked in Human Morphology, which later became known as Anatomy and Histology.

While progressing through the academic scale to Senior Lecturer, Dr Lunam taught extensively in the Medical Course, specialising in basic anatomy and histology of the immune, endocrine and reproductive systems.

Dr Lunam's additional contributions to the School of Medicine were significant. She chaired the Honours Committee and undertook several important leadership roles in the Animal Ethics Committee for many years. Her own research evolved towards a better understanding of animal welfare issues in various livestock industries, within which she had a high reputation for the quality of her input.

Dr Lunam always went about her work with a unique blend of pragmatism and good humour. When it became clear her condition was terminal, she approached her inevitable fate with a characteristic mix of stoicism and resignation, still underpinned by as much good humour as she could muster.

In her final conversation with me, she said "I've always tried to do my best". No one could doubt that.

Her 'best' lives on in the professional lives of the thousands of students who successfully passed through her classes, and in the research environment of the School that she worked so hard to preserve and enrich.

ian.gibbins@flinders.edu.au

Research exchange with China

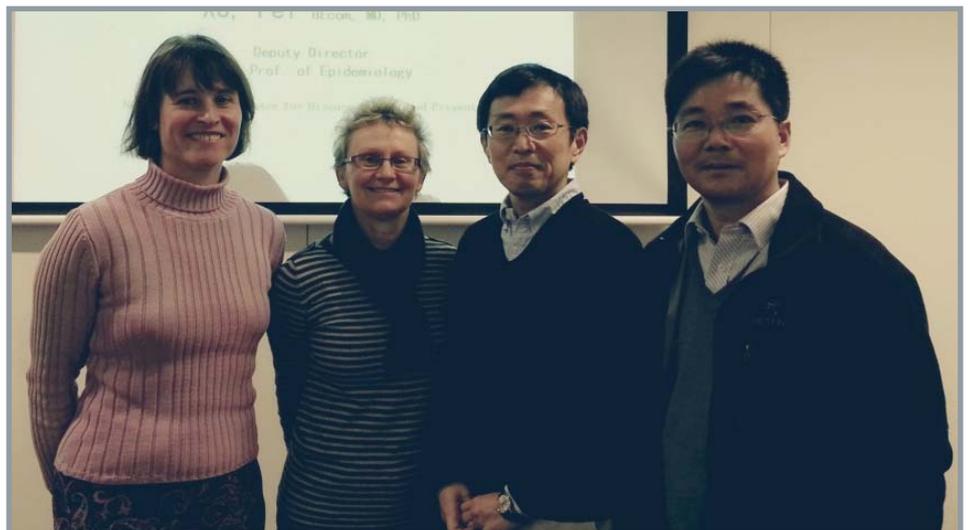
Fei (Frank) Xu, who is Professor of Epidemiology and Deputy Director of Nanjing Municipal Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, is currently visiting Flinders University from China, sponsored by a Flinders University International Research Fellowship Grant.

Professor Fei Xu has had previous working visits to the School of Population Health at The University of Queensland (2002-3) and the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (2012). During his stay of three months Professor Fei Xu will work closely with **Professor Julie Ratcliffe** and **Mr Gang Chen** from the Flinders Health Economics Group and **Dr Evie Leslie**, a senior researcher and the Flinders OPAL (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle) Evaluation Project co-ordinator, to plan out an extended programme of collaborative research between Flinders University

and his home institution. This will include collaborations around the economic evaluation of public health and health care treatment interventions in China. To this end, a quality of life instrument for adolescents which is currently in use in the OPAL Evaluation, [CHU9D] has already been translated to Chinese and piloted within a physical activity intervention trial in school settings in China.

In addition, the visit is designed to enable the exchange of information about the conduct and evaluation of specific community-based interventions, such as prevention of obesity in children and adolescents. It is anticipated that Professor Fei Xu's visit will result in a number of grant proposals both here and in China. While here he is also planning to attend an Australian Rules football match!

evie.leslie@flinders.edu.au



Professor Julie Ratcliffe and Dr Evie Leslie (Faculty of Health Sciences), Dr Takemi Sugiyama (UniSA) and Professor Frank Fei Xu

Lymphoedema research attracts international interest

Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Science (MSc) students undertaking the Lymphatics elective are once again showcasing their research expertise on the international stage. **Malou Van Zanten, Shannon Vanderstelt, Jennifer Glaetzer, David Lee** and **Kathleen Wang** are presenting their lymphoedema findings at the *24th International Congress of Lymphology* in Rome this month.

Kathleen Wang, a prize winner at the recent Australian College of Phlebology meeting in Hobart, is also co-chairing a session at the conference. The ongoing success of students in this elective is testament to the quality of work being undertaken in the Lymphoedema Research Unit at Flinders University and the expert guidance offered by Professor Neil Piller. neil.piller@flinders.edu.au

Our Unsung Science Heroes

The *Unsung Hero of South Australian Science Awards* are a joint initiative of National Science Week and the Australian Science Communicators. These awards recognise individuals who have made a significant contribution to science in South Australia and who deserve recognition for their efforts. Two such individuals are **Dr Michael Michael** (Gastroenterology) and **Mr Raymond Tham** (Centre for Marine Bioproducts Development), who were nominated and shortlisted as finalists for the *Science Award* and *Science Communicators Award* respectively.

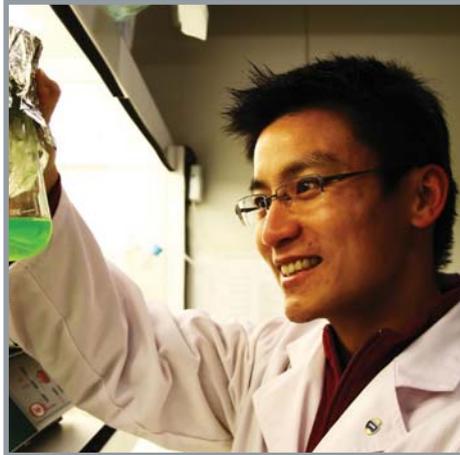
Professor Keryn Williams believes that Dr Michael “exemplifies the sort of unassuming, low-key, high achiever for whom the prize is intended”. He has been performing high quality research on non-coding RNAs, while supporting the scientific endeavours of colleagues in South Australia and further afield, for over fifteen years.

Dr Michael was the first to identify altered microRNA levels in solid tumours and is working towards the commercialisation of a test to identify bowel cancer. He is an extraordinarily generous scientist who gives his time and expertise freely to all those around him. While Dr Michael publishes widely and is chief investigator on many national competitive grants, he is seldom the first-named author or investigator, preferring to support and mentor his colleagues and students.



Dr Michael Michael

Nevertheless, those who know him are well aware of his significant intellectual contribution to much of this work.



Mr Raymond Tham

Mr Raymond Tham is another quiet achiever in the Faculty of Health Sciences. As the founding manager of the Flinders University Centre for Marine Bioproducts Development, he has worked tirelessly to showcase and attract investment for marine biodiscovery and biotechnology in South Australia. He is “a key player in getting the message to the world that South Australian science holds great promise in these novel areas” said Professor Wei Zhang.

Over the past six years, Mr Tham has helped secure more than \$7 million in research and development funding for the state, including projects with the SA Premiers Science and Research Fund worth \$5.2 million, a \$1.2 million ARC Linkage project and other industry-led projects, resulting in numerous jobs created.

Mr Tham’s exceptional performance in science communication, teaching, research and industry development is truly inspiring and deserves greater recognition.

The Faculty of Health Sciences applauds the achievements of these two ‘Unsung Heroes’ and extends thanks for their extensive contributions and commitment to endeavours within their respective fields.

michael.michael@flinders.edu.au
raymond.tham@flinders.edu.au

Support for vulnerable kids

In 2008, with the aid of increased State and Commonwealth funds, Housing SA led a strategic reform of the homelessness sector in South Australia. Reforms were implemented in 2010 and included the establishment of seventy-five specialist homelessness services across the state. The South Australian Implementation Plan also required that children presenting at these homelessness services were recognised as clients in their own right, even when accompanied by an adult. As such, routine assessment and case management of children was introduced.

In response to these changes, **Dr Yvonne Parry**, **Dr Julian Grant** and Ms Lynette Burke have partnered with the Inner Southern Homelessness Service to ensure that children receive appropriate referrals for support services. Their research, funded by a Faculty of Health Sciences Establishment Grant, considers the realities and complexities of working in the homelessness sector and investigates the capacity of staff to determine appropriate support services for parents and children.

It is anticipated that this research will enable the Inner Southern Homelessness Service to provide young clients with ‘best practice’ referrals to appropriate services. It will also facilitate the provision of services to these children, many of whom are already disengaged from mainstream services like health and education.

yvonne.parry@flinders.edu.au



Photo from Shutterstock

Research Pulse is an initiative of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Flinders University.

Comments and suggestions for future articles are welcome.

Also available online: www.flinders.edu.au/health-sciences/research/pulse

Contact: Denise.Caretti@flinders.edu.au | **Editorial Team:** Mrs Denise Caretti, Ms Pat Barkway & Dr Karen Lower