Dear Colleagues,

This DVC(R) Bulletin #75 provides an update on important issues affecting researchers at UNSW. If you missed the previous bulletins – the contents are available at http://research.unsw.edu.au/deputy-vice-chancellor-research-bulletin.

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1. New Director of Research Strategy - Dr Brian Boyle

Dr Brian Boyle will lead our Research Strategy Office to strengthen our research performance and the profile of UNSW and UNSW researchers, working with our staff to initiative and secure significant new national and international research funding for major research programs and fellowships.

Brian’s most recent position has been as Director of the Australian Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Office, which successfully bid to co-host the multi-billion dollar international SKA radio telescope. Since 2009, he has led the development of the Australian government’s strategy and policy in the international SKA project, which is building the world’s largest radio telescope.

Brian will take up his new role at UNSW on 1 July 2015 as part of the Research Division.

Brian comes to UNSW with an impressive record of leadership, strategic management and research success. Prior to his role with the SKA, Brian was Director of the CSIRO Australia Telescope National Facility (2003-2009) and Director of the Anglo-Australian Observatory (1996-2003). In these roles, Brian’s ability to attract significant investment has been a major asset and will be particularly valuable for UNSW.

Brian is also a well-established researcher in his own right with a strong research background in astronomy. After completing his PhD in physics at the University of Durham, UK, he held positions at the universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge. He has published more than 130 papers in cosmology, active galaxies and quasars. Brian is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and winner of a number of awards including the Gruber Prize for Cosmology and the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.


2. New Deputy Dean of Graduate Research - Associate Professor Jonathan Morris

Associate Professor Jonathan Morris has been appointed as the new Deputy Dean of Graduate Research. Jonathan brings a wealth of experience in postgraduate research leadership and management at the School and Faculty level. In the Deputy Dean position he will be responsible for Higher Degree Research student thesis examination and he will be reviewing UNSW thesis examination procedures as well as working with the Dean of Graduate Research on graduate research strategy and policy.

Jonathan will be continuing his research and teaching in the School of Chemistry concurrently with taking on this new role.

3. Vice-Chancellors Postdoctoral Fellowships – Now Open

Applications are now open for the 2016 Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowships. UNSW Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellowships are awarded to early career researchers of exceptional calibre wishing to conduct full-time research at UNSW in any of its areas of research strengths. Applications must be discussed with Heads of School and prospective mentors. The deadline for submission to Heads of School is 3 July 2015. Further information may be found at: https://research.unsw.edu.au/vice-chancellor%E2%80%99s-postdoctoral-research-fellowships.

4. Connect your research with Open Research and Contributor ID (ORCID)

In April, two statements were released encouraging the use of Open Research and Contributor ID (ORCID) identifiers for researchers in Australia. The Joint Statement of Principle: ORCID – connecting researchers and research was issued by Universities Australia, the Australian Research Management Society, the Council of University Librarians and the Australian National Data Service. It presents a joint statement of principle to support the use of ORCID as a common researcher identifier across the Australian university research sector. The NHMRC and ARC Statement on Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) states that the NHMRC and ARC encourage the use of ORCID’s by researchers applying for funding.

What is ORCID?

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) is an international non-profit initiative that offers unique identifiers to researchers to link together their research activities and outputs. Once you have created an ORCID you can use it to connect your research through integration with publishers, repositories, funding agencies and other research organisations. It is quick and easy to register for an ORCID and begin using it to connect your research. Visit UNSW Library’s Research Impact Guide or contact your Outreach Librarian for more information.

5. NHMRC Consultation on Research Fellowships

The NHMRC are calling for comments on current and emerging issues for the NHMRC fellowship schemes. The external deadline for submissions is Thursday, 18 June 2015 (3pm).

A Consultation Paper is available for download at: http://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/public_consultations/nhmrc-fellowship-schemes. If you would like to contribute to the UNSW submission, please send your feedback on these specific questions to Bronwyn Greene (b.greene@unsw.edu.au) by no later than 29 May 2015:
Question 1: How should NHMRC’s funding balance between research grants and fellowships be adjusted as the total number of Project Grants available falls progressively over the next few years?

Question 2: To increase the turnover of NHMRC Research Fellows, should these schemes be seen as ‘up and out schemes’, whereby Fellows wishing to reapply can only do so at a higher level?

Question 3: Are there too many Fellowship levels? Does this structure impede the career progression of rapidly rising stars in health and medical research?

Question 4: Taking into account that awarding longer grants means fewer grants overall in steady state funding, should NHMRC extend the duration of Early Career Fellowships to more than four years? Should the Career Development Fellowship be extended beyond 5 years to, say, seven or ten years?

Question 5: Should NHMRC identify particular areas that require capacity building for the future and maintain support for those areas for long enough time to make a difference? What else should be done to support women and increase participation and success by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers?

Question 6: Is there a better solution to encouraging diversity in careers than those based on years post-PhD?

Question 7: Should employing institutions be expected to provide more certainty to their employees than now?

Question 8: Would this be achieved if NHMRC required institutions to commit to one or more years of ongoing support for researchers exiting from NHMRC Fellowships?

Question 9: Should this be restricted to Early Career and Career Development Fellows?

6. UNSW Research Partnerships Unit provides support to researchers

The UNSW Research Partnerships Unit provides focussed support to researchers who are engaging in contract research and/or consulting activity with industry, government and other external partners. This includes scoping and pricing projects and preparing agreements.

If you are interested in finding out more, the Research Partnerships Unit is hosting a workshop on 20 May (10am-1pm) that will equip researchers on how to get started with engaging external research partners. Register your expression of interest ASAP.

7. Reminders - New International Partnership with Sao Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil

UNSW and the Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) have signed a partnership agreement for scientific and technological cooperation. The partnership will include joint funding for collaborative research activities and academic mobility between researchers from UNSW and researchers from the State of São Paulo. The call for proposals is now open – please see the website for more information: https://research.unsw.edu.au/fapesp-unsw-joint-research-grants
8. Do you know... Research Ethics and Compliance Support (RECS) can organise tailored seminars and workshops for your staff and students?

We moved away from paper, introduced a pre-review of applications and refreshed the guides for researchers. RECS staff, in collaboration with committee Chairs and local experts, can organise tailored seminars and workshops for your staff and students so you stay up to date and take advantage of the new processes for human ethics, animal ethics, gene technology, radiation safety and export trade controls.

Please contact Dr Ted Rohr, Director RECS, on P: 9385 4235 or E: ted.rohr@unsw.edu.au to arrange.

9. Subscribing to the Research Bulletin

To subscribe to the Research Bulletin please go to dvc-research-bulletin-subscribe@lists.unsw.edu.au.

For any questions please direct them to David Do (david.do@unsw.edu.au or x52784).

Professor Les Field AM FAA
Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)