Dear Colleagues,

This DVC(R) Bulletin #56 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 Associate Dean (Research) Faculty of Medicine**

Professor Peter Gunning will be Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Medicine, commencing 1 July 2013. Professor Gunning is a senior researcher at UNSW with an excellent research track record in area of cancer and related disorders. He heads the Oncology Research Unit in the School of Medical Sciences.

Professor Gunning has been Presiding Member of the UNSW Animal Care and Ethics Committee providing oversight, compliance and assistance to researchers with research involving animals. Professor Gunning will be contributing to research strategy and promoting research performance and excellence within the Faculty of Medicine and across the University during his term.

2. **New Research Ethics and Compliance Support Unit to be Established at UNSW**

I am pleased to announce the establishment of a new single unit for all biosafety, radiation safety and research ethics approvals, support and management at UNSW. The new Unit known as the UNSW Research Ethics and Compliance Support (RECS) Unit will be launched in late 2013.

Under the leadership of a new Director, RECS represents a significant increase in resources and staffing to support UNSW researchers, the Institutional Biosafety Committee, the Radiation Safety Committee, the Human Research Ethics Committee and the Animal Care and Ethics Committee.

The establishment of RECS follows a number of external and internal reviews into research safety, research compliance and research ethics throughout 2011 and 2012, including a Monitoring Visit by the NHMRC. The new structure, and enhanced levels of support, addresses all of the key recommendations raised in the reviews.
The committed support provided by the Workplace Health and Safety staff and the Ethics Secretariat together has assisted UNSW researchers and UNSW’s Ethics, Biosafety and Radiation Safety committees over many years. There will be new appointments made to RECS and current corporate knowledge will be appropriately transferred progressively over the next 3-6 months with input from the various committees.

Anyone requiring further information on the new Unit should email enquiries.research@unsw.edu.au.

3. New National Strategic Research Priorities Announced

The Government has recently announced new Strategic Research Priorities (SRP) to drive investment in areas that are of immediate and critical importance to Australia and its place in the world. The Strategic Research Priorities have been identified as “societal challenges” and will take effect on 1 July 2013 for a period of 3 years. The existing National Research Priorities (NRP) have been discontinued and any associated reporting requirements will be phased out by 30 June 2014.

The Strategic Research Priorities are:

1. **Living in a changing environment**
   - Identify vulnerabilities and boundaries to the adaptability of changing natural and human systems
   - Manage risk and capture opportunities for sustainable natural and human systems
   - Enable societal transformation to enhance sustainability and wellbeing

2. **Promoting population health and wellbeing**
   - Optimise effective delivery of healthcare and related systems and services
   - Maximise social and economic participation in society
   - Improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

3. **Managing our food & water assets**
   - Optimise food and fibre production using our land and marine resources
   - Develop knowledge of the changing distribution, connectivity, transformation and sustainable use of water in the Australian landscape
   - Maximise the effectiveness of the production value chain from primary to processed food

4. **Securing Australia’s place in a changing world**
   - Improve cybersecurity for all Australians
   - Manage the flow of goods, information, money and people across our national and international boundaries
   - Understand political, cultural, economic and technological change, particularly in our region

5. **Lifting productivity and economic growth.**
   - Identify the means by which Australia can lift productivity and economic growth
   - Maximise Australia’s competitive advantage in critical sectors
   - Deliver skills for the new economy

Further information including FAQ’s can be found at: http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/Pages/StrategicResearchPriorities.aspx.
4. **Research Output System (ROS) – Implementation Postponed**

ROS is the new publication collection system that will replace ResPubs as the vehicle through which we collect and manage UNSW’s research publications.

ROS was planned to “go live” on 1 July 2013 however thorough testing of ROS has identified security items which must be addressed before the system can be released for use across the University. The Project Team, UNSW IT and the system developer are co-operating to address these items as quickly as possible. Until further notice, ResPubs will be available for the entry and verification of research publications, enabling population of the Research Gateway. A new go-live date will be advised as soon as practicable.


UNSW will make a single consolidated submission to the Government on the questions raised in the discussion document. Please send any comments you would like considered for incorporation into the UNSW submission to Bronwyn Greene (b.greene@unsw.edu.au) by **no later than Friday 2nd August 2013**.

6. **2014 UNSW Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellowships**

Applications for the award of up to 12 Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellowships opened on 14 June and will close on **23 August 2014**. Each Faculty will nominate a restricted number of strong applicants in areas of research strength and who will build research capacity. Faculties, via Associate Deans Research, will publicise their selection processes and all applicants need to have a Head of School recommendation.

Fellowships are fully-funded centrally and include a research allowance of $10,000 p.a. Full details on eligibility, the application process, and an information pack for Heads of School are available at [https://research.unsw.edu.au/vcfellowships](https://research.unsw.edu.au/vcfellowships). Successful fellowships will be announced by 4 November.

7. **UNSW Fellowship Writing Scheme**

Another round of Future Fellowships was announced in the recent Federal budget. Applications have typically been due in the November to March window. Researchers are encouraged to bring this opportunity to the attention of possible candidates, especially of international researchers and those currently based at other Australian institutions.

UNSW has introduced a Fellowship Writing Scheme to support applicants for Future Fellowships.

We know that external applicants for Fellowships are more likely to be successful if they are here at UNSW while they are developing their applications. UNSW will support a limited number of Future Fellowship applicants to come to UNSW to write their applications and work with senior researchers and mentors who would otherwise be attempting to do this from afar.
Support will be provided up to the maximum limits below:

1. International applicant - $5,000
2. Applicant from outside the Sydney basin or interstate - $3,000

Funding will cover airfares and accommodation/living expenses associated with spending a minimum of 1 week at UNSW working intensively on a Future Fellowship application. The proposed host school will need to provide adequate resources (e.g. desk, administrative support, internet connection etc) to support this process.

Applications for the Fellowship Writing Scheme should be in the form of an up-to-date academic CV and covering letter (with a travel plan) from the proposed mentor to be sent to the proposed host school. Once applications have been endorsed by the proposed school, they must then be forwarded to Associate Professor Laurent Rivory (Research Strategy Office) for assessment for Support. Confirmation that support is available will be provided in writing from the RSO.

Interested parties should contact Associate Professor Laurent Rivory in the RSO for further details at l.rivory@unsw.edu.au.

8. Do you know...the requirements of using confidential data?

Researchers given access to confidential information have a legal requirement to maintain that confidentiality. Primary materials and confidential research data must be kept in secure (locked) storage and must only be used in the ways agreed with those who originally provided it.

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