Dear Colleagues,

This DVC(R) Bulletin #27 provides an update on important issues affecting researchers at UNSW. If you missed the previous bulletins – the contents are available at http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter.html.

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1. Visit UNSW 2010

The Visit UNSW Scheme is available to assist in the recruitment of top domestic students to UNSW to commence a postgraduate research degree.

The current round of this scheme should be of particular interest to academics in communication with high achieving students, who are interested commencing study in a research degree in semester 1, 2011.

The Graduate Research School will assist with travel and accommodation costs for students to visit UNSW campuses to meet prospective supervisors, discuss potential projects and see the facilities and support for UNSW research students first hand.

Eligibility:

- High achieving student
- For domestic students only (Australian citizens or permanent residents or New Zealand citizens)
- Applications for domestic scholarships to commence in S1, 2011 close on Friday 29 October. Therefore, the visit must take place in time to allow for the submission of applications for scholarships and admission

See attached files and www.grs.unsw.edu.au/futurestudents/visit.html for more information. Contact Dr Shona Blair (s.blair@unsw.edu.au) at the Graduate Research School with any queries.
2. 3-Minute Thesis Competition Winners

Congratulations to all of the participants of UNSW’s Interfaculty Final of the Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT), which was hosted by the Graduate Research School on 8 September.

It was a hugely successful and exciting afternoon where the competitors had just three minutes to present their thesis topic to a non-specialist audience. The field of contestants was incredibly strong and the judges had an extremely difficult time awarding the winners as there were numerous presentations of very high calibre.

The broad aim of the competition was to help students develop their communication skills, and it also gave the audience a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the breadth and depth of research being carried out across UNSW.

The winners were:

a. Winner - Alex Jordan (School of Biological, Earth, and Environmental Sciences)
   The lifetime costs of male reproductive effort

b. Runner up - Alexander Pui (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
   Flood Risk in a Warming World

c. People's Choice - Paul Lee (St Vincent's Hospital Clinical School)
   Brown fat: a novel target of human obesity treatment

d. Extra congratulations go to Alex Jordan for also winning the People’s Choice award in the Inaugural Australia and New Zealand 3MT Competition!

Alex entered this inaugural trans-Tasman competition, which was hosted by the University of Queensland on 21 September in Brisbane, and competed against students from 32 other universities in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. This was a great event, and as at the UNSW competition there were many excellent presentations on a great deal of fascinating research.

3. Inventor of the Year Awards 2010 Announced

Presented annually by NewSouth Innovations, the 2010 UNSW Inventor Awards carried a total cash purse of $28,000. The awards recognise inventors that are making the world a better place. The awards are open to UNSW academics and students who are commercialising their research with NewSouth Innovations.

One hundred and forty leaders from business, media and research organisations celebrated the September 2 awards evening held at UNSW’s John Niland Scientia Building, UNSW Vice-Chancellor Professor Fred Hilmer and NSW Chief Scientist and Chief Engineer Professor Mary O’Kane spoke at the gala event, which was emceed by Robyn Williams, host of ABC Radio National’s The Science Show.

The Winner and finalists were:

a. Thorsten Trupke – 2010 UNSW Inventor of the Year
b. Obada Kayali (Environment Category Winner)
c. Levon Khachigian (Medicine Category Winner)
d. Christoph Arns (ICT Category Winner)
e. Thorsten Trupke (Science and Engineering Category Winner)
f. Henner Kampwerth (Student Inventor of the Year)
g. Maria Skylias-Kazacos
h. Nick Di Girolamo
i. John Fosters
j. Adam Carr
k. Brett Neilan
1. Deep Sen
2. Greg Leslie
3. Helder Marcal
4. Linlin Ge


4. NHMRC Information Session

Professor Warwick Anderson, Chief Executive Officer National Health & Medical Research Council, will be visiting UNSW on Tuesday 12 October, as part of a national series of information and feedback sessions. Professor Anderson will speak about NHMRC current activities, including funding schemes and success rates, the new Strategic Plan and its implications on health and medical researchers, and recent international collaborative research initiatives. There will be ample time for questions from attendees. All researchers and research administrators with an interest in health and medical research are invited to attend. To register see: http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/.

5. U21 Early Career Research Development Workshop

UNSW will be hosting the inaugural U21 ECR workshop 18-30 May, 2011 in the broad theme of Energy and Environmental Sustainability. The workshop will bring together 50-60 ECRs from U21 partner Universities, who are conducting research in any area related to energy and environmental sustainability to network with global peers, and gain skills and training in critical aspects of research career development. Nominations for UNSW ECR participants will be coordinated via Faculty Associate Deans Research from mid-October. The second workshop will be held at the University of Birmingham in December 2011 in the broad theme of Healthy Living.

6. ERA

The membership for the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) has been announced for the ERA 2010 Research Evaluation Committees (RECs). The evaluation of the data submitted for ERA 2010 will be carried out the RECs. There will be a total of 8 RECs, with a range of expertise who will be conducting the evaluation. More information can be found on the ARC website at http://www.arc.gov.au/era/recs_2010/era_2010_RECs.htm.

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