Dear Colleagues,

This DVC(R) Bulletin #37 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](http://research.unsw.edu.au/deputy-vice-chancellor-research-bulletin).

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1. New CEO lands at NewSouth Innovations

NewSouth Innovations’ new CEO, Dr Kevin Cullen, arrived last week from Glasgow, bringing with him fresh insights to Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation from his experience in the UK and with his involvement in AUTM (Association of University Technology Managers). Kevin is looking closely at the commercialisation and Knowledge Exchange activities at NewSouth Innovations and across UNSW, with an intention to remove real or perceived obstacles to the flow of knowledge between the University and our community. His philosophy for NewSouth Innovations is for the company to assist with the creation of relevant world class research, and research partnerships, and to drive the outputs into society, the economy and the wider community.

2. Important Changes to Gene Technology Regulations and Institutional Biosafety Committee applications

The Government has recently made amendments to the Gene Technology Regulations 2001 which come into effect on 1 September 2011. The main amendments to the Regulations are:

- To the definitions;
- To the classification of Exempt dealings, Notifiable Low Risk Dealings (NLRDs) and Dealings Not Involving Release (DNIRs);
- To the information to be reported to the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR);
- That Genetically Modified Organism applications must be reassessed every 5 years (previously unspecified);
• That assessment records be kept for 8 years (previously 3 years); and
• The OGTR Guidelines for the transport, storage and disposal of Genetically Modified Organism’s has also been reviewed.

The UNSW Institutional Biosafety Committee form has been modified to capture the additional information that now must be reported to the OGTR. All applications to the UNSW IBC now need to be submitted on the revised application form (Genetically Modified Organisms application form) which can be found on the OHS web pages.

The new Regulations mean that all researchers currently listed as having research projects involving Genetically Modified Organisms as exempt dealings, NLRDs and DNIRs must be reassessed by an IBC every 5 years. **If you have been sent an email from the UNSW Institutional BioSafety Committee requesting further information on your project, you are required to respond.** Failure to respond to these notifications, may result in the necessary suspension of your research, under the OGTR Regulations, until the required information has been provided.

Further information on the changes can be directed to Kate Noble, OHS Coordinator (Biosafety), 9385 2911 or k.noble@unsw.edu.au

3. **Research Ethics Applications – Incentives for recruiting research participants**

A reminder to researchers on using incentives as a means to recruiting research participants. If you are using prizes, rewards or incentives to recruit research participants, keep in mind that these are considered “games of chance” and are subject to NSW Lotteries Act.

It is entirely acceptable to run and promote such competitions, for non-commercial purposes (including as an aid to academic research), provided that:

• Appropriate ethics approval is obtained;
• You don’t offer “cash prizes” – prizes must be limited to non-monetary options, such as gift/store vouchers (not redeemable for cash) or goods;
• Any advertising is honest and not misleading – and should include some indication of when the competition will be drawn; and
• You notify winners promptly (within a day or two) of the prize being drawn.

Different types of competitions are subject to different regulations, and can raise additional legal issues. If in doubt, contact the Legal Office on x52701.

4. **Research and Consultancy**

I am aware of a perception around the University that consultancy activity, by definition, excludes any research component. This is simply not correct. Support for consultancy activity was brought into the Research Division in April this year, with the specific intent of increasing the research component of consultancies and using relationships with industry clients to increase the value of research projects and thus grow our total research income. The current government definition of research requires that the activity create new knowledge and/or use existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. If you need further information or assistance in identifying or maximising the research component of your consultancy project please contact Warwick Dawson (x57929, w.dawson@unsw.edu.au) in the Research Partnerships Unit. The RPU is tasked with assisting UNSW researchers establish and strengthen relationships with external partner organisations.

5. **NHMRC Monitoring Visit**

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) conducted their Monitoring Visit from 1-4 August 2001, where they reviewed UNSW’s policies, procedures and performance in managing
NHMRC funding. The NHMRC interviewed a wide range of researchers and key staff from both UNSW and UNSW Affiliates. I would again like to take this opportunity to personally thank those of you who participated. A report will be provided to UNSW by the NHMRC outlining their observations and findings during the Monitoring Visit as well as a series of recommendations which UNSW will need to implement.

6. **Review of Health and Medical Research in NSW**

The New South Wales Government are in the process of reviewing Health and Medical Research across the state. There is a series of consultation papers available at [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/omr/review/](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/omr/review/). UNSW will make a single consolidated response to the review. **If you have any comments, please send them to my Executive Officer, Bronwyn Greene (b.greene@unsw.edu.au) by no later than Monday 19th September 2011.**

7. **Discussion Paper on inclusion of ERA outcomes into the Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) funding formula**

The Commonwealth Government are seeking feedback on the incorporation of the ERA outcomes into the SRE funding formula for universities. The discussion paper is available at: [http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/ResearchBlockGrants/Pages/SREConsultationPaperInclusionofERA.aspx](http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/ResearchBlockGrants/Pages/SREConsultationPaperInclusionofERA.aspx). UNSW will make a single consolidated response to the review. **If you have any comments, please send them to my Executive Officer, Bronwyn Greene (b.greene@unsw.edu.au) by no later than Monday 19th September 2011.**

8. **Angst and Ethics: Short Survey**

Below is the link to a short survey being conducted by a LaTrobe University Ethics Officer exploring potential areas of apprehension between various parties involved in ethical review. The survey covers both human and animal ethics. The survey is designed for completion by:

- Ethics Committee Members and Chairs;
- Researchers and Research Trainees (e.g., PhD students) involved in ethical review; and
- Ethics Administrators.

If you are interested, the survey can be accessed at: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?pli=1&hl=en_US&formkey=dGFra1hUXFLWktuYnJKMTBktiakE6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?pli=1&hl=en_US&formkey=dGFra1hUXFLWktuYnJKMTBktiakE6MQ#gid=0). The Survey is currently open until the end of September 2011 and has ethics approval from La Trobe University. The outcomes of the survey will be presented at the Australasian Research Management Society (AMRS) Conference and shared with all Universities.

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