Dear Colleagues,

This DVC(R) Bulletin #41 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. Peer review of Research Grants

All recipients of competitive research grants are reminded of their obligations to contribute to the peer-review of grants. Participating in the peer review process is a requirement of accepting grant support and the ARC and NHMRC are now actively monitoring researchers currently receiving grants to ensure that they are fulfilling their obligations, except where there are exceptional circumstances.

2. Changes to ARC Linkage Grant Scheme

A new process and two different categories of ARC Linkage type grants will operate in 2012.

(1) The Industrial Transformation Research Program

The Industrial Transformation Research Program is a new component in the ARC Linkage Program, and consists of Industrial Transformation Research Hubs and Industrial Transformation Training Centres. The ARC anticipates that the first round of the Industrial Transformation Research Hubs will open for proposals in March 2012 for funding commencing in July 2012, and the first round of the Industrial Transformation Training Centres will open for proposals in March 2012 for funding commencing in January 2013.

Industrial Transformation Research Hubs:

These research hubs will encourage larger R&D projects that could help solve the big problems facing our industries today. In these hubs, managers, researchers and industry workers will work together to address everything from our need to reduce pollution in our manufacturing processes to our struggle to compete locally with a high Australian dollar.

Up to 20 research hubs will be established nationwide with initial funding for up to four years. This funding term gives our researchers and industry partners the flexibility to undertake comprehensive research programs that will help tackle our big industry challenges, as well as short-term projects that
may help answer emerging issues or questions. The Government will invest up to $1 million per year in each hub with this investment being matched by industry partners.

**Industrial Transformation Training Centres:**

Industrial transformation training centres will foster close partnerships between university-based researchers and the industry members who will use the research outcomes. Up to 50 training centres will be established nationwide. Around 20 of the centres will include training in social impact, inclusion and industrial and community transformation.

As part of the training centres component, the Government will award up to 600 industrial PhD scholarships to embed students in industry settings, directly harnessing research capability to address industry needs.

UNSW will establish criteria and an internal process to select and support applications for hubs and training centres as soon as the funding guidelines are released.

**(2) Linkage Projects**

The Linkage Projects scheme will have one round for funding to commence in 2013. The ARC expects that this round will open for proposals in September 2012 for funding commencing in July 2013.

**3. NSW International Student of the Year Awards**

A PhD candidate from the Faculty of the Built Environment, Andrea Wechsler, has been nominated by the UNSW for the NSW International Student of the Year Awards 2012. Each of the educational institutions in NSW were invited to nominate one student from their entire international student body. The Awards will promote social engagement and recognise the contribution made by individual students to the community. The Awards will be announced and presented on 4 March, 2012.

**4. Postgraduate Coordinator Workshop**

A practice sharing workshop, around the themes of controlling the quality of research student admission, will be held for Post Graduate Coordinators and other staff on 28 February. This Postgraduate Coordinator Practice Sharing Workshop will bring together postgraduate research coordinators, supervisors and GRS staff to share their approaches to considering and assessing admission and scholarship applications in different disciplines. See [http://research.unsw.edu.au/events/pgc-practice-sharing-workshop](http://research.unsw.edu.au/events/pgc-practice-sharing-workshop) for more details.

**5. New Researcher Development Manager**

I am pleased to advise that Dr Jean Rath has commenced in the role of Researcher Development Manager in the Researcher Development Unit. Jean is the point of contact in the Division of Research for all researcher development training programs including Early Career Researcher training, Future Research Leaders Program and Supervisor Development. Jean replaces Dr Gro Frolund who departed UNSW in December 2011 for a new position overseas. Jean can be contacted via email at j.rath@unsw.edu.au or extension 59740.

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