TRIBUTE TO EMERITUS PROFESSOR THOMAS (TOM) R WATSON

CHEMIST OUTLET: A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MODEL FOR PHARMACY

STUDENT PHARMACY ASSOCIATION (SUPA) CELEBRATION DINNER: 92 YEARS
NEW SUPA TEAM

Dear Alumni,

My name is Elizabeth Kim and I am the new president of SUPA for the 2012-2013 term. I would like to introduce you to my new committee: Vice President - Adam Shanahan, Secretary - Tom Richardson, Treasurer - Bridget Cooper, NAPSA Councillor - Michael Wu, Events - Renee Garraway, Publications officer - Jessica Nguyen, Merchandise - Perin Lee, Professional Development officer - Connie Arronis, IT officer - Laurence and Sports officer - Ethan Aroney-Smith.

It has been a busy semester so far with our numerous social and educational events. We are looking forward to our major event of the year, the annual ball in November.

As you may or may not know, SUPA has been around for 92 years. To celebrate SUPA’s history, the committee and I have organised a gala dinner for Saturday 4 May 2013 at the MacLaurin Hall. It would be great to have past SUPA committee members attend to re-live memories and to celebrate this momentous occasion. In addition, we are trying to build up a database of past committee members. If you were a committee member, or know other members, please let me know as it would be of great assistance!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

LIZ
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Welcome to the 2012 spring edition of Fiat Mist. The last few months have been busy for the faculty and we are preparing for an eventful and productive 2013.

There have been many alumni events held in the second part of this year including two hosted by myself in Dubbo and Newcastle. We also held the Bachelor of Pharmacy class of 1982 – 30 years reunion, Bachelor of Pharmacy class of 1992 – 20 years reunion and the Materia Medica class of 1952 – 60 years reunion. These events were a great way for our alumni to catch up with classmates and to reconnect with the faculty.

I have recently returned from the World Centennial International Congress of FIP (the International Pharmaceutical Federation) held in Amsterdam. One of the highlights was attending the Academic Institutional Member Global Deans’ Forum which is always informative and provided much thought provoking discussion about the diverse educational challenges around the globe. Many of our staff and students actively participated through presentations and chairing workshops. A number of them were also recognised for their hard work and contribution to research and the industry.

We have recently had two new staff members commence – Dr Thomas Balle as Senior Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dr Dong Fu as Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Sciences. I was also recently reappointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy for another term by the Vice-Chancellor of the University. It is indeed a great privilege and honour to be given the opportunity to continue to lead this great faculty and work with our very talented staff and students.

Lastly, I would like to thank Professor Paul Groundwater, Associate Professor Jane Hanrahan, (and their colleagues Professor Dai Hibbs and Professor Mary Collins) and Professor Michael Murray on their NHMRC project grant success and Dr Qi Zhou on his fellowship. You can read more about all of the above faculty news on page 8.

I wish you all the best for the end of the year and the festive season and look forward to seeing you in 2013.

PROFESSOR IQBAL RAMZAN
MSc 1977, PhD 1981
Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy

Dear Alumni,

As I reflect on 2012, I congratulate the efforts of pharmacy alumni for their participation in alumni reunions and fundraising for the faculty. We appreciate your involvement and look forward to meeting up more regularly in 2013.

The Annual General Meeting is fast approaching and all pharmacy alumni members are welcome to attend. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 27 November. You must register for the meeting by emailing: pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au. At the AGM, the members of the pharmacy alumni committee are elected - the group that facilitates the activities and direction of the Pharmacy Alumni Association. You are welcome to nominate yourself to become part of it, so please signal your interest to our Alumni Relations Officer before the meeting.

On another note, with the new year comes a new cohort of pharmacy students. I would urge all alumni to contribute to the development of these students by offering to supervise workplace placements for students should the opportunity arise. It can take up a little extra time but the students need to learn good habits somewhere!

Have an enjoyable and relaxing time this Christmas with family and friends, and I look forward to catching up with you at the next alumni event.

LACHLAN ROSE
BPharm (Hons) 2003
President, Pharmacy Alumni Association
Niels Bowen, who graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Pharmacy, has long been at the forefront of pharmacy retailing. He opened up his first pharmacy when he was only 22 years of age in Wyoming Shopping Centre on the Central Coast of NSW. Since then his business, Chemist Outlet, has expanded to include 28 pharmacies across Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania. His company, Bowens Health Services, is comprised of nursing home supply, medical centre pharmacies as well as community pharmacies. His retail experience and entrepreneurial skills, however, extend beyond pharmacy, with other businesses such as retirement villages, wholesale meat supply, mobile home parks, bulky goods retail pine stores, radio and TV stations and a telecommunications company in Brazil.

THE BUSINESS MODEL
According to Mr Bowen, the days of pharmacy being protected and enjoying higher margins are truly over. Pharmacy is currently facing several challenges including increasing competition, removal of government protection and a reduction in dispensing fees.

"In the pharmacy industry, the volume of scripts being dispensed is going up, but script revenue is going down," said Mr Bowen. "This is something to worry about, as it could potentially send some pharmacies broke.”

Despite those challenges, the business model developed by Mr Bowen has allowed him to maintain his profitability and competitiveness. The key to his success has been to tune into consumer needs. By adding the ‘wow factor’ to his stores, he encourages customers to walk through it and make them feel like the store is talking to them, to fall in love with the store.
The ideal business model today is “a model that can appeal to all segments of the market,” says Mr Bowen. For example, “most of our customers are young mothers with a limited household budget. Our job is to provide a complete professional health care experience for her family and offer value for money. To do this we have to keep our costs down.”

His strong determination and passion for the industry along with his experience have allowed him to create a sustainable and very successful business model and he is happy to share some lessons learnt:

- Maintain good purchasing costs and high volume strategy to be competitive in price with fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies and large supermarkets such as Woolworths and Coles.
- Receive marketing support from manufacturers to help with the promotion of their products.
- Control stock and maintain wages at no more than 11% of turnover.
- Keep shop fitting costs low (approx. $150,000), with either a low leasing component or self-funded, while delivering a presentable pharmacy to suit your target market.
- Rent should not be more than 2.5% of turnover.
- Business model should be suitable for street and roadside pharmacy, not shopping centres. Street and roadside pharmacies not only provide low rent but also larger space including parking, which is a convenient shopping experience for the customers.

COMMUNITY PHARMACY IN THE FUTURE

Niels Bowen recently met with some Sydney pharmacy students and realised the majority of them are viewing the pharmacy profession through the lens of traditional models of community pharmacy which he feels is a narrow view. His message to current pharmacy students and alumni is: “think about community pharmacy of the future, because what exists today, including the sole trader, is unlikely to be there tomorrow.”

He believes that the pharmacy profession will continue to be known as one of the best and most-trusted professions in the community worldwide. He says: “The University of Sydney made me a pharmacist and that is the greatest gift I have received.”

Niels Bowen is a generous donor to the Faculty of Pharmacy, having contributed $100,000 over several years to the building fund for the upgrade of our teaching and learning facilities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his support.
A TRIBUTE TO EMERITUS PROFESSOR THOMAS (TOM) R WATSON

The University of Sydney bids a fond farewell to Emeritus Professor Thomas (Tom) R Watson – a distinguished alumnus and a former leader of the Faculty of Pharmacy. Professor Watson sadly passed away on 4 October 2012. The faculty extends its sincere condolences to the Watson family.

Emeritus Professor Watson was one of the first recipients of the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Pharmacy at the University in 1956. That same year, he joined the Department of Pharmacy as a lecturer, then become senior lecturer and associate professor before becoming the Head of the Department of Pharmacy in 1967.

In his eulogy, Dr Richard Thomas described Emeritus Professor Watson as “a man widely respected across the University. He was Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and an honorary Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. He was made an Emeritus Professor of the University in 1988, a title that is carried for life.”

Emeritus Professor Watson remained at the helm of the Department for many years, steering its transition into the modern day. Indeed, he is recognised for the many developments that he brought about including updating the undergraduate pharmacy core curriculum.

Dr Richard Thomas said: “Tom was always a gadget man and the types of gadgets ranged from the simple to the very impressive.” Emeritus Professor Watson was the first person to introduce Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (a Finnigan 3200 GCMS) to the faculty in the 1970’s and his efforts were recognised by re-naming the Mass Spectrometry Laboratory in his honour in 2006.

Emeritus Professor Watson’s research included fundamental aspects of medicinal and analytical chemistry and biopharmaceutics which was conducted in collaboration with colleagues in pharmacy and pharmacology at the University. The breadth of his research achievements range from investigating structure-activity relationships of benzimidazoles through to the detection of psychoactive drugs in road traffic accident victims. His research is published in leading chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacology international journals.

Dr Richard Thomas read as part of his eulogy: “The one word that best describes Tom’s general demeanor is that he was ‘dignified’. He was a gentleman, a kind and patient man.”

Many within the faculty and community have great memories of Emeritus Professor Watson as a leader and colleague. He not only shaped the future for a generation of pharmacists (and the patients they serve) through his academic leadership but also supported and guided the careers of many pharmacy academics as a mentor and friend. Emeritus Professor Watson will be greatly missed, but his legacy in the faculty and the pharmacy profession remains strong.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathies to his family and to thank them for providing the photos included in this tribute.
SCHOLARSHIPS: HELPING TO EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHARMACISTS

Scholarships are an important means of supporting future pharmacists. Funding for these scholarships is varied. Many of our scholarships are offered by the government, which are highly competitive and prestigious and others are available by the generosity of donors. Some of these scholarships have been established in perpetuity, usually by a family member, as a memorial gift to honour the legacy of their husband, parent or child, who may have been an alumnus or staff member.

In 2007, to recognise Emeritus Professor Watson’s invaluable contribution to the faculty and to commemorate his 80th birthday, Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy created the Tom Watson Scholarship to help support gifted undergraduate pharmacy students achieve excellence in their studies. We believe this was a fitting tribute to a learned, respected man who inspired his colleagues and students alike.

Emeritus Professor Watson was a generous and long term benefactor to the University and Faculty of Pharmacy. He gave to a range of areas including scholarships, Dean’s priorities and to the Faculty’s Foundation.

Scholarships ensure students from diverse backgrounds and cultures including those at a social or economic disadvantage, attend and make their mark at the University of Sydney. They can also enable students from remote areas or overseas to make the transition to the campus.

The Faculty of Pharmacy has several types of scholarships available for undergraduate, international, rural, sports and postgraduate students. Details of these can be found on the faculty website.

To further honour the late Emeritus Professor Tom Watson, the Dean would like to reinvigorate the fundraising drive for this Tom Watson Scholarship. When fully funded, this scholarship will cover the tuition fee for a final year student completing an honors degree (or similar scholastic achievement) in Pharmaceutical Sciences and would require a fundraising target of $200,000 to endow this undergraduate scholarship in perpetuity.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors who have contributed to scholarships and we encourage others to join them. These include:
- Blooms the Chemist - John Sidgreaves Scholarship
- Peter Giles Memorial Scholarship
- The Ross Brown Postgraduate Scholarship
- The Pharmacy Alumni Postgraduate Scholarship (established through a donation by Mr Ross Brown)
- W H and Elizabeth M Deane Pharmaceutical Fund PhD Scholarship
- Elizabeth Wunsch Postgraduate Research Scholarships
- Blackmores Postgraduate Research Scholarship

If you wish to enquire about how to contribute to the Tom Watson Scholarship please contact me on the details below.

Rebecca Palser, Development Manager
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FACULTY NEWS UPDATE

FIP 2012

Over 5000 colleagues from all over the world convened recently at the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Centennial Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Faculty of Pharmacy was well represented this year with the Dean, Professor Iqbal Ramzan and 6 academics and students attending.

The congress saw many of our staff and students recognised for their hard work and contribution to research and the industry. Including:

- Mr Ramesh Walpola was awarded the FIP Young Scientists Award for Professional Innovation and now joins the University of Sydney group of past winners which include: Dr Rebekah Moles, Dr Claire O’Reilly, and Mr Jonathan Penm.
- Associate Professor Parisa Aslani was elected President of the Pharmacy Information Section. This is a four year term.
- Dr Betty Chaar was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Social and Administrative Pharmacy Section.
- Mr Jonathan Penm was elected as Vice President of the Western Pacific Region of the Hospital Pharmacy Section.
- Dr Rebekah Moles was elected Assistant Secretary (Executive Committee member) of the Hospital Pharmacy Section.

In addition to these recognitions and awards, many of the staff were active participants in the conference. Associate Professor Aslani, Dr Chaar, Ms Mai Duong and Mr Jonathan Penm all gave excellent oral presentations as invited speakers at the congress.

FACULTY STAFF

Professor Stephen Garton, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, recently announced the reappointment of Professor Iqbal Ramzan as the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Professor Garton said: “The Vice-Chancellor and I believe that Professor Ramzan is the best person to lead the faculty forward and to build on the strong foundations which have now been established in pharmacy. The Vice-Chancellor therefore offered Professor Ramzan reappointment and I am pleased to advise that he has formally accepted.”

Professor Ramzan was appointed Acting Dean in July 2005, prior to which he had been Associate Dean (Programs) responsible for admissions and academic programs since 2001. During 2006 and 2007 Professor Ramzan served as Dean and was appointed to his substantive five year position as Dean and Professor of Pharmacy in 2008.

During the last five years as Dean, Professor Ramzan delivered full accreditation for the revised Bachelor of Pharmacy curriculum, transitioned the Pharmacy Practice Foundation to the Faculty of Pharmacy Foundation, raised in excess of $1 million for refurbishments and research infrastructure and restructured the Faculty to a disease-based research theme structure. Pharmacy has also maintained its financial stability during Professor Ramzan’s tenure.

In addition to the Dean’s reappointment, the faculty has recently appointed two new staff members: Dr Thomas Balle as Senior Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dr Dong Fu as Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Professor Ramzan said: “Dr Balle and Dr Fu bring years of experience in both teaching and research. Both have recent international experience that will benefit students and the research undertaken within the faculty.”
SYDNEY PHARMACY INDIGENOUS CAMP

The mysteries of commonly used medicines, topical ointments and creams will be revealed to the students who attend the inaugural University of Sydney, Pharmacy Indigenous Camp.

The four-day Pharmacy Indigenous Camp (SydPIC) planned for January 2013, is aimed at boosting the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders currently in the pharmacy profession.

With fewer than 50 registered pharmacists in Australia who identify themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Professor Iqbal Ramzan says it is imperative more indigenous pharmacists be trained, particularly where Aboriginal communities are lacking health professionals.

The Dean says the career options of pharmacists are diverse. "Pharmacists are an integral part of the healthcare system and have the capacity to directly affect the lives and lifestyles of the people with whom they interact," he says.

Course co-ordinators Dr Nial Wheate and Dr Rebekah Moles believe the shortage of indigenous pharmacists is a result of lack of engagement with high school students about career options in pharmacy.

“We developed the camp to bring interested students from all around Australia to get a taste of what it’s like to be a pharmacist and experience university life first hand,” wheate said.

“The camp will incorporate pharmacy workshops, laboratory sessions and field trips giving potential students a clearer idea of what to expect when studying at university and more particularly a career in pharmacy,” Dr Wheate said.

For more information, visit: sydney.edu.au/pharmacy/sydpic

NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NHMRC) GRANTS

Three groundbreaking pharmacy research projects have been awarded National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants and a young Faculty of Pharmacy academic has received the prestigious Peter Doherty Biomedical Early Career Fellowship in the recently announced 2013 round of NHMRC funding.

The Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Professor Iqbal Ramzan said: “I would like to thank Professor Paul Groundwater, Associate Professor Jane Hanrahan, (and their colleagues Professor Dai Hibbs and Professor Mary Collins) and Professor Michael Murray on their NHMRC project grant success and Dr Qi Zhou on his fellowship. I would also like to congratulate our Faculty of Pharmacy staff who are chief investigators on NHMRC grants held outside the faculty. In an increasingly competitive environment, being awarded multiple grants again this year is a great success and a credit to the dedication and innovation of our researchers.”

The 2013 round of NHMRC grants was announced by the Federal Minister for Health, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, at the University of Sydney. More than one hundred University of Sydney research projects have been recognised this year, sharing a total of $66.7 million for grants, fellowships, equipment and international collaborations. NHMRC administers funding for health and medical research on behalf of the Australian Government.
PHARMACY ALUMNI SUCCESS AT OLYMPICS

University of Sydney pharmacy alumnus Mark Stuart was head of pharmacy services for the London 2012 Olympics. Under his leadership, an Olympic and Paralympic Pharmacy Clinical Services Group was assembled and included a group of experts that serviced more than 15,000 athletes from 206 countries as well as 250,000 officials and more than nine million spectators.

Mark Stuart graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Pharmacy. He first became involved with Olympics pharmacy at the Sydney 2000 games. Since then he became chief pharmacist at the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002 and was involved in the planning of the Athens 2004 Olympics, the Turin 2006 Winter Games and 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

After the Olympics, his team was recognised for their design and delivery of a new national educational program for pharmacists. The team was awarded a bronze medal in the Outstanding Learning category. For more information, please go to http://www.pjonline.com/london_2012/london_2012_articles

Source: St George and Sutherland Shire Leader newspaper

HONOURED PHARMACY ALUMNI

The University of Sydney alumni were strongly represented in the 2012 Queen’s Birthday Honours. Among the recipients, two pharmacy alumni were awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM).

**Ms Rosalind Fischl, BPharm 1965**
OAM for service to the community through leadership of the Great Synagogue, Sydney, and a range of orthodox Jewish organisations.

**Ms Elizabeth Frost, BPharm 1963**
OAM for service to the pharmaceutical industry through a range of roles with professional organisations.
IT HAS BEEN A BUSY TIME FOR PHARMACY ALUMNI WITH SEVERAL EVENTS AND REUNIONS HELD IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS

BACHELOR OF PHARMACY CLASS OF 1982 – 30 YEARS REUNION
The 1982 Bachelor of Pharmacy class gathered in the pharmacy common room on a Friday evening in June. Everyone had a great time reminiscing about their time at the University while enjoying drinks and canapes. They especially enjoyed walking through the heritage corridor and visiting the main lecture theatre and labs. Professor Iqbal Ramzan welcomed the group and encouraged them to engage with the faculty through our events and activities.

BACHELOR OF PHARMACY CLASS OF 1992 – 20 YEARS REUNION
The 1992 Bachelor of Pharmacy class caught up in September. They were welcomed by Professor Iqbal Ramzan, and then undertook a tour of the facilities before enjoying drinks and canapés in the pharmacy common room. It was a great night and by the end of the evening, alumni were already making plans for the next gathering.

MATERIA MEDICA CLASS OF 1952 – 60 YEARS REUNION
The 60 year reunion took place at the end of September. It was a very successful event with 50 graduates coming back to the pharmacy building to reminisce! The group had a morning tea in the pharmacy common room, followed by a faculty tour run by the SUPA representatives and then lunch at the Withdrawing Room in the Holme building. Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Professor Stephen Garton, Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor gave a welcome speech and thanked Bob Dash, Jocelyn Kirby and Ross Brown for organising the event.

THE DEAN’S NEWCASTLE ALUMNI EVENT
Dean, Professor Iqbal Ramzan travelled to Newcastle to host an alumni reception for alumni living in Newcastle and surrounding areas. It was a great time and alumni enjoyed the networking opportunity.

THE DEAN’S DUBBO ALUMNI EVENT
The Dean hosted a cocktail reception for all pharmacy alumni living in Dubbo and surrounding areas. The event went very well and it was great to see so much enthusiasm from alumni about the faculty’s activities. In particular their interest and continued support of students doing their clinical placements in Dubbo was greatly appreciated.
UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

If you would like more information on any of the following events please go to www.sydney.edu.au/pharmacy

Invitations are sent to alumni by email, so please ensure we have the correct email address registered for you.
To update your details contact: Alumni Relations Officer on (02) 9351 7829 or pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au

CLASS REUNIONS

Organisation of reunions in 2013 are in progress, with final dates and venues to be decided.
If you are part of the graduation class of 1993, 1983, 1973 or 1963, please contact our alumni officer on pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au.
We are looking for volunteers to organise reunions and track down classmates.

ALL MATERIA MEDICA ALUMNI REUNION

If you completed a Materia Medica Program at the University of Sydney, we are calling all alumni to attend a Golden Graduate Luncheon on Wednesday 10 April 2013
(Date to be confirmed in early 2013)
Please contact the Alumni Relations Office to express your interest in attending.

FUN, FARE AND FUTURE ALUMNI PROGRAM

The University of Sydney’s alumni community is a valuable resource for students who have much to benefit from their experience. Fun, Fare & Future Alumni is a hospitality program connecting current international and local students with alumni. Gatherings over a meal hosted by alumni provide an opportunity for students to meet and engage with their fellow students and alumni families, enabling all to share academic, professional and social experiences and foster new friendships. Please assist Sydney students by volunteering to host a function in 2013.
Contact the Alumni and Events Office on 9036 9504 or visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/hospitality

PHARMACY EVENTS

A Celebration of SUPA: 92 Years
Were you a member of the Sydney Students Pharmacy Association (SUPA)? The current SUPA members are organising a gala dinner to celebrate 92 years since SUPA was founded.
Come along and celebrate with your fellow SUPA members!
The event will also include a CPD accredited speaker provided by PSA.
Saturday 4 May 2013
Maclaurin Hall, the University of Sydney
7.00pm
Contact SUPA at 02 9036 7680
Current SUPA President: Elizabeth Kim
elizabeth.kim91@gmail.com

ALUMNI AWARDS

2013 Alumni Achievement Awards
Do you know someone who should be recognised with a Pharmacy Alumni Award for Achievement?
The Pharmacy Alumni Association is calling for nominations for its two Alumni Awards for pharmacy graduates. The two awards are the Pharmacy Alumni Award for Achievement and the Pharmacy Young Alumni Award for Achievement.

Nominations open 7 January and close 5 April, 2013.
For more information visit sydney.edu.au/pharmacy/

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