PHARMACY RESEARCH INNOVATIONS
DINNER SNAPSHOTS
METALS IN MEDICINE: DR NIAL WHEATE
PHARMACY ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS
ANNOUNCED
NEW SUPA PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

The 2011/12 term has been defined by change; my committee has worked hard to revamp SUPA to best serve the students and give back more to the community. We have given the incoming committee a great platform from which to begin and I know that they will continue to make fantastic progress. As a final hurrah we have organised what we hope will become an annual rugby charity cup match against the Law Faculty on Friday 17 August. We would love to have alumni support to truly make this an event to remember. Finally with my tenure as president coming to an end it brings me great pleasure to introduce the new president Elizabeth Kim. You will hear more from Elizabeth in the next edition.

AKSHAY SIDANA
President, Sydney University Pharmacy Association
T: 0404 332 626

FIAT MIST GIVEAWAY

Fiat Mist has five goodie bags to give away. The goodie bags were kindly donated by sponsors of the Pharmacy Research Innovations Dinner. It includes a Pharmacy News Magazine, a New Scientist Magazine plus products from Revlon, Cherub Rubs, Colgate and Bankwest. The first five lucky Fiat Mist readers that like our Facebook page and contact our Alumni Relations Officer at: pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au will receive a goodie bag.
On May 18, the Faculty held the Pharmacy Research Innovations Dinner 2012: Cancer. This was our inaugural fundraising event to raise money for research into innovative cancer treatments that will help to save the lives of many Australians who are living with cancer.

The event was an opportunity for alumni, friends and our industry colleagues to network with each other, re-connect with the Faculty and the University and hear about our strategic vision and direction. It was a fantastic success and via live and ballot bidding auctions we raised in excess of $50,000 which will go exclusively to support the projects of our Faculty cancer researchers.

Professor Fiona Wood, AM, world renowned for her patented invention of spray on skin for burn victims, delivered a truly inspiring keynote address, encouraging our pharmacy community to support innovative medical and pharmaceutical research. I would like to thank Professor Michael Murray, leader of the cancer research theme, for his engaging presentation on the role of omega fatty acids and cancer metastases research being undertaken in the Faculty.

I was also very pleased to be able to announce the details of two major gifts to the Faculty. The first gift is from the President of the Faculty of Pharmacy Foundation, Mr Maurice Renshaw. He has donated $315,000 over three years to the research being undertaken by Associate Professor Alaina Ammit to eradicate the symptoms of asthma via the discovery of a new drug. I thank Maurice for this transformational gift which sets a new benchmark for philanthropic support of the Faculty. The Foundation report on page six provides more detail.

The second gift is from Blackmores, the leading complementary medicines company, who will fund a new PhD scholarship, worth $100,000, in the area of pharmacist and consumer perspectives on complementary medicines. Blackmores is also supporting the Faculty in undertaking a three month needs analysis project in this same area. This will be conducted independently by Associate Professor Parisa Aslani, who has expertise in consumer medicines information.

On behalf of the Faculty, I would like to thank our friends, alumni and industry colleagues who attended and supported the dinner, and in particular our major sponsors BankWest and Pharmacy News and those companies and individuals who hosted tables or donated gifts for the auctions.

It is so gratifying to see such enthusiasm about the work being undertaken in the Faculty and I look forward to seeing you all again at future events.

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

MESSAGE FROM OUR ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

Congratulations to Gerard Stevens and Jonathan Penm on recently receiving a University of Sydney Alumni Award for contribution to the area of pharmacy. Our alumni are constant high achievers!

It was fantastic to see so many alumni at the inaugural Pharmacy Research Innovations Dinner on May 18. Good food, old friends and an inspiring keynote address were highlights of the event.

Do you like rugby? Students from both faculties have worked hard to create an event for alumni to catch up and watch a great game. Call a few mates and come along – food and drinks will be available at the venue. Further information can be found in this Fiat Mist.

We continue to update the Alumni Facebook page and LinkedIn group. Make sure you are part of the action!

I look forward to catching up at the next Alumni event.

LACHLAN ROSE
(BPharm (Hons) 2003)
President,
Pharmacy Alumni Association
Highlights of the night included: Mr Alan Cameron, AO, Deputy Chancellor who gave a welcome on behalf of the University of Sydney, Professor Fiona Wood, AM, Australian of the Year delivered a very inspiring address. Professor Michael Murray from the Faculty presented on the exciting new research being undertaken by his cancer research team. Our Dean, Professor Iqbal Ramzan shared the vision and strategic direction of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

A live and ballot bidding auction took place contributing to the funds raised on the night. Some of the gifts sold included: holidays to Queenstown, New Zealand and Phuket, Thailand, a private chef’s dinner, half day cruise on Sydney Harbour, vintage and limited edition wine and a Casey Stoner signed leather race jacket.

Two major gifts from Blackmores and President of the Faculty of Pharmacy Foundation, Mr Maurice Renshaw were announced by the Dean. For more details on these gifts, see pages 3 and 6.

The 180 guests were serenaded by the carillon as they entered the hall, which was played by Mr Isaac Wong who is a pharmacy alumni (BPharm 2003). They enjoyed a fantastic three course meal and were entertained by the Steve Barry Band from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Many guests were pharmacy alumni and enjoyed catching up during the evening. Other guests were there to represent: Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, NPS, Pharmacy Guild NSW, IMS Health and Cockram Construction.

It was a wonderful event and we would like to thank the collaborative efforts of the team who organised this event: members of our Pharmacy Alumni Association, Foundation and the Faculty.

**TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED = $50,000**
THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

[Image: Auction items on display]

THANK YOU TO OUR OTHER SPONSORS AND FOR GIFTS KINDLY DONATED BY:

Stirling Feldes  Mr Maurice Renshaw
Mr and Mrs Bronger  Revlon
Claude’s  Mr Rudi Sisic
Cherub Rubs Pty Ltd  Mr Jim Tait
Colgate  United Cellars
Mr David McLean  Mr YK Wan, Precious Group

[Image: (L-R) Ross Brown, Professor Fiona Wood AM, Professor Iqbal Ramzan]

United Cellars, a sponsor of our event, is kindly offering you a $100 wine voucher to spend on your favourite wines. Take $100 off your next order with United Cellars by contacting them on: T: 1300 585 483 or unitedcellars.com.au/pharmacyfaculty

[Image: Professor Fiona Wood AM giving her speech]

[Image: MC Chris Russell holding one of the live auction items]

[Image: (L-R) Kerry Cunningham, Director People & Communication from Blackmores, Professor Fiona Wood AM, Associate Professor Parsa Aslani, Professor Iqbal Ramzan]
A LEADERSHIP GIFT

THE PHARMACY FOUNDATION HAS A SINGLE PURPOSE: TO HELP ADVANCE THE PHARMACY PROFESSION BY SUPPORTING THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

The funding secured by the Foundation and its donors will always be allocated to academic staff for research, students for scholarships and faculty facilities, in accordance with donors’ wishes.

In the recent past, donors have helped improve the academic curriculum, practice and content, culminating today in a fusion of academic training and community, hospital and industrial practice. Funds have also been raised for improving our facilities – and for this we say thank you.

The curriculum is constantly evolving to ensure students are staying at the forefront of science, pharmacy practice and business management. Today, pharmacy students are taught compounding, pharmacology, patient counselling and also - thanks to Blooms The Chemist group - specialised business skills, that prepare young graduates particularly for community pharmacy and industry business life.

And there is always more to do. Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, is leading his staff to continue to advance the profession, and his work is supported by the generosity of the Pharmacy Foundation and alumni.

Recently, the Foundation President, Mr Maurice Renshaw (BPharm 1972) committed a leadership gift of $315,000 over three years to support a PhD scholar and research project by one of the Faculty’s academics, Associate Professor Alaina Ammit (whose work was profiled in the November 2011 Issue of Fiat Mist).

Mr Renshaw’s gift is tax deductible and 100% allocated to this research project, and includes provision of funding for a PhD scholar to work with Professor Ammit. Mr Renshaw has also structured his gift so that his second and third installments are conditional on the Foundation raising a further $100,000 each year from other donors. He has taken the lead and is now asking fellow alumni to join him to give back to the profession and their alma mater.

If you would like to learn more about the Faculty’s student scholarships, teaching and research programs, donate or make a bequest to the Faculty please contact Rebecca Palser, Development Manager, Faculty of Pharmacy at rebecca.palser@sydney.edu.au or call on 02 9351 7828.

Your gift is an investment in the pharmacy profession and humanity’s future.

level and/or enzymatic activity of the endogenous MAPK-deactivator, MKP-1, will provide a new anti-inflammatory strategy in asthma and airway remodelling.

There is an urgent need to find a new anti-inflammatory strategy. Current drugs for treating airway remodelling have side effects - steroids have dose-limiting effects and 10% of asthmatics are corticosteroid resistant. The Faculty research aims to identify effective alternative anti-inflammatory strategies, with reduced side effects, to eradicate the symptoms of asthma. Such a breakthrough would benefit millions of people worldwide, including two million Australians who suffer from chronic asthma.

Mr Renshaw’s gift is tax deductible and 100% allocated to this research project, and includes provision of funding for a PhD scholar to work with Professor Ammit. Mr Renshaw has also structured his gift so that his second and third installments are conditional on the Foundation raising a further $100,000 each year from other donors. He has taken the lead and is now asking fellow alumni to join him to give back to the profession and their alma mater.

If you would like to learn more about the Faculty’s student scholarships, teaching and research programs, donate or make a bequest to the Faculty please contact Rebecca Palser, Development Manager, Faculty of Pharmacy at rebecca.palser@sydney.edu.au or call on 02 9351 7828.

Your gift is an investment in the pharmacy profession and humanity’s future.
What do wedding rings, car exhausts, electronics and drugs used to treat ovarian and testicular cancer all have in common?

The precious metal: platinum.

When we think of a ‘drug’, we usually think small, organic molecules. However, not all drugs are purely organic based. Metals have been used since ancient times to treat disease and many modern medicines have atoms of metal at their heart.

These include: MRI contrast agents (gadolinium), radiotracers (technetium), anti-inflammatory drugs for arthritis (gold), sunscreens (titanium), anti-infectives and dosage form stabilisers (mercury), photodynamic therapy (tin and lutetium) and chemotherapeutics (platinum).

Platinum drugs are one of the most regularly used family of agents in chemotherapy and include cisplatin, carboplatin and oxaliplatin.

Recent discoveries from our research include:
- A new group of platinum drugs with reduced binding to critical protein, which means patients will experience less severe side-effects that people associate with chemotherapy such as hair loss, nausea, vomiting, low red blood cells and an increased risk of infection.
- Actively targeted platinum drugs that can recognise and thus be selectively absorbed by cancerous cells, avoiding damage to healthy cells.
- Improved dosage forms that deliver platinum drugs directly to the brain through the nasal cavity.

The outcomes of this research have the potential to make chemotherapy more effective, and more importantly, improve the quality of life of patients whilst they undergo treatment.

**PROJECT LEADER:**
Dr Nial Wheate is a pharmaceutical chemist who has recently started in the Faculty of Pharmacy after spending the last five years in Glasgow, Scotland undertaking pharmacy research and teaching.

**Contact:**
Dr Nial Wheate  
E nial.wheate@sydney.edu.au  
T +61 2 9036 7647
WHAT’S NEW AT THE FACULTY

FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY

On Monday April 30 2012, the Faculty of Pharmacy celebrated the achievements of its students with the annual awards ceremony, held in the Sutherland Room in the Holme Building on campus.

Professor Iqbal Ramzan welcomed guests and gave an update on the Faculty’s progress in the last year. He gave special thanks to industry sponsors for their support of the event and the Faculty. Many of the sponsors attended the event to present their award/scholarship to recipients. Associate Professor Simon Barrie, Director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning, presented all other awards on behalf of the University.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students received prizes sponsored by The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (NSW Branch), Blooms The Chemist, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, Blackmores, Amgen Australia and the Guild Insurance Group.

Students who received university scholarships or academic merit prizes in 2012 were also acknowledged.

The President of the Pharmacy Alumni Association was in attendance to present the Pharmacy Alumni Award for Achievement and the Pharmacy Young Alumni Achievement award. For more details on the recipients of these awards, please read the story on page nine.

If you would like to view the full image library of the event, please visit the Faculty of Pharmacy reception (Bank Building, University of Sydney). Images can be emailed or saved to a portable drive.

Professor Iqbal Ramzan said: “Congratulations to all of the award recipients. The awards ceremony was a fitting way to recognise the outstanding efforts of our students and alumni and they should be very proud of their achievements.

“We would like to thank the generous donors and supporters of our awards, which allows us to publicly recognise excellent performance by our students.”
The 2012 Pharmacy Young Alumni Achievement Award was presented to Jonathan Penm for his hard work and contribution towards the pharmacy profession. He has exponentially risen within his profession and is highly regarded by his peers. Jonathan is currently undertaking his PhD with the Faculty, having graduated with Class 1 honours in the Bachelor of Pharmacy in 2007. While undertaking his research, Jonathan also actively contributes to the Faculty through his teaching commitments. His leadership abilities and high level of clinical knowledge makes him an ideal educator for students and peers.

Working as a clinical pharmacist at Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Jonathan has demonstrated the key qualities of a good pharmacist: optimal patient care, outstanding knowledge of hospital and community pharmacy practice, and a desire to ensure continuing education is always a priority amongst peers and other health care professionals. His excellent communication skills and ability to work as part of a healthcare team make him an exceptional pharmacist in the profession.
ALUMNI NEWS

PRE-GRADUATION COCKTAIL RECEPTION

On March 15, Professor Iqbal Ramzan hosted the pre-graduation cocktail reception for this year’s graduating students from the Bachelor of Pharmacy, Master of Pharmacy, Master of Herbal Medicine and Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy. The event was a celebration of the students’ achievements throughout their degrees. Students were able to mingle with colleagues and staff from the Faculty. Professor Iqbal Ramzan (MSc 1977, PhD 1981), Ms Genevieve Daly (BPharm 1987) and Mr Lachlan Rose (BPharm (Hons) 2003) all gave fantastic speeches encouraging our graduates to strive for excellence in their future careers.

GOLDEN GRADUATES

Close to 200 alumni enjoyed a stimulating afternoon of culture and debate at the Golden Graduates luncheon which was held in the Great Hall on Monday 16 April.

Guests were welcomed by John McLennaghan, AM, President of the Alumni Council, and treated to performances by the Graduate Choir, accompanied by Amy Johansen on the organ, a carillon recital and music on the cello by Adam Szabo, a recent Conservatorium of Music graduate.

The centrepiece of the lunch was an address by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Michael Spence, who spoke of his vision of a more integrated institution and the importance of harnessing the benefits of inter-disciplinary research and innovation.

It was great to see the event so well attended by Pharmacy Alumni.

10 YEAR REUNION

The University of Sydney organised a successful ten-year reunion on Thursday March 29. The class of 2002 from all faculties celebrated their ten-year reunion at the Law Building’s Taste Café, catching up with former class mates, reminiscing about their past experiences and making new friends.
PHARMACY AND LAW CHARITY RUGBY MATCH

Dear Alumni,

This August, Sydney University Pharmacy Association (SUPA) alongside Sydney University Law Society (SULS) will be coming together for the inaugural Pharmacy vs Law Charity Cup Rugby Match. We would love you to come along to watch the game and show your support by cheering on the students.

We want to raise as much money as possible for charity and we need your help! All money raised on the night will go to the winning team, who will have the honor of deciding what charity the money will be donated to.

The University also has a donor who is willing to match each dollar we raise! This is even more reason to attend on the night and give generously.

Law narrowly lost to Pharmacy in a trial rugby match last year, and is therefore eager to win this match! So the heat is on and a little interfaculty rivalry never goes astray, especially when it’s for a good cause.

It will be a night full of laughs, gasps and accelerated heart rates, as the two teams battle it out in what is sure to be a great game. There will be a BBQ, drinks and after party at Manning Bar where everyone can mingle and catch up in a less competitive environment. So make sure you come down for what will surely be a night to remember.

I hope to see you all there.

Where: St Johns Oval, University of Sydney
When: Friday 17th of August 2012
Time: 6pm for a 6.15pm kick off
Cost: This is a FREE event to attend, there will be SUPA and SULS members walking around with donation forms
Food: BBQ
Drinks: Beverages will be available

Kind Regards,

AKSHAY SIDANA
SUPA President

FUN FARE PROJECT

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.

The program offers a chance for students to experience the Australian lifestyle first hand, and to learn how they can keep in touch with the University after they graduate. Alumni hosts and their families develop a meaningful rapport with student participants and enjoy reconnecting with the University.

Students from the following faculties have benefited from the program: Medicine, Arts, Business School, Engineering, Law, Architecture, Science, Veterinary Science, Health Sciences.

Students from the following countries have participated in the program: Iran, Chile, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Singapore, USA, Canada, China, UK, Germany, Columbia, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, Mauritius, Pakistan, Australia. We are encouraging Pharmacy Alumni to assist Sydney students by volunteering to host a function this year. Contact our Alumni Relations Officer for more information.

For more information visit: sydney.edu.au/alumni/hospitality
UPCOMING EVENTS

Below is a snapshot of some of the events taking place for alumni in NSW. More information on these events is commonly posted on the University website at www.sydney.edu.au/events. Invitations are sent to alumni by email, so please ensure we have the correct email address registered for you. To update your details contact: Maritza Messina, Acting Alumni Relations Officer on (02) 9351 7829 or pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au.

PHARMACY EVENTS

The Dean’s Newcastle Cocktail Reception  
Wednesday 22 August, 6:30pm  
Venue to be confirmed  
Contact: pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au  
*Please note the date has changed

The Dean’s Dubbo Cocktail Reception  
Tuesday 11 September, 6:30pm  
Venue to be confirmed  
Contact: pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au

Law vs Pharmacy Alumni Charity Rugby Match  
Friday 17 August, 6pm  
St Johns Oval, the University of Sydney  
Contact: Akshay Sidana, 0404 332 626

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1992 – 20 Years Reunion  
Friday 7 September, 6:30pm  
Faculty of Pharmacy, the University of Sydney  
PAID Event  
Contact: Jennifer Bell, jennibell@hunterlink.net.au or Julie Phelps, julietp@y7mail.com

Class of 1952 – Materia Medica – 60 Years Reunion  
Wednesday 26 September, 10:30am  
Faculty of Pharmacy, the University of Sydney  
PAID Event  
Contact: Bob Dash on bobdash@ozemail.com or 02 9449 5153

Are you part of Class 1962 or 1972 and would like to help in organising a reunion? Contact our Alumni Relations Officer.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Sydney Ideas Reception – Canberra  
“Turning Ideas into Action: How the University of Sydney is contributing to our national story, identity and policy on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander higher education and social inclusion”  
Tuesday 21 August, 7pm – 10pm  
Parliament House, Canberra  
PAID Event  
Contact: Eve Simons, eve.simons@sydney.edu.au

The Comedy Debate  
Motion: “We should chase idle dreams”  
Thursday 30 August, 6pm – 8pm  
Great Hall, University of Sydney  
Alumni vs Students  
Contact: Eve Simons, eve.simons@sydney.edu.au

2012 Sydney Connection Breakfast Program  
Thursday 6 September, 7.15am  
Mr Cameron Clyne, Group Chief Executive Officer of National Australia Bank and a Director of the National Australia Bank Board  
Venue: Four Seasons, Sydney  
PAID Event  
Contact: alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au

Thursday 8 November, 7.15am  
Mr Matt Barrie, Chief Executive of Freelancer.com and named the 2011 BRW Entrepreneur of the Year  
Topic: The next big thing  
Venue: The Ivy Room  
PAID Event  
Contact: alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au

Calling all Materia Medica Alumni!  
Would you like to attend a Materia Medica Alumni Reunion?  
Please contact our Alumni Relations Officer to express your interest.