WELCOME

March was a busy month for all of us. Congratulations to all who submitted grants! We also had a successful first meeting of the companion animal commercialisation working group – where we specifically focused on cats and dogs. Thank you to those who participated. Natasha Hamilton and Vanessa Barrs will work to progress this, and Natasha will also host a horse working group.

During March Rosanne and I met with the DVC-R to discuss the compact for 2015 – we hope to have it finalised by the end of this month – and once we do I will circulate details.

In the meantime, we have had some strong applications for the 2014 compact funded MBI/CPC intramural fellowships. Recipients of these awards will be featured in the next newsletter.

ICT have recently developed a digital strategy document which has being circulated for discussion. If you would like to see a copy of this document, Marie can send you a copy. Claire Wade is our central contact for computational biology matters. If you have specific thoughts or comments on the document – please let Claire know, or respond to Gabby Whelan from ICT directly. The document will be finalised by the end of May. It is also worth noting that Jeremy Hammond from Intersect is based on campus and is part of Andrew Black’s team. He is able to provide help with eResearch. To keep up with computational matters Claire has agreed to provide a column in our research newsletters. Thanks Claire!

Another document which has recently been approved by SEG is the Strategic Retention and Recruitment Program. The overall aim of this program is to take a coordinated approach to proactively identify internationally recognised researchers at all career stages in areas of strategic focus and target them for recruitment, as well as to develop a targeted program for developing and retaining the University’s existing high-performing researchers. I will sit on this committee – so if you have people you think might be worthy of head-hunting – let me know.

The next newsletter will be brought to you by Navneet Dhand as I will be away for a mix of work and annual leave. Don’t forget to send ADR emails to: vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au - this is especially important while I am away. Navneet and Marie will be checking these emails in my absence.

PROFESSOR KATHERINE BELOV
ASSOCIATE DEAN RESEARCH

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DIARY DATES

MONDAY 14TH APRIL
ENDING HUNGER IN CARING COMMUNITIES
Where: room 114, Mackie Bld KO1
Time: 35.00 - 6.30pm

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL
LIT REVIEW WORKSHOP
Where: GTB Room 105
Time: 9.00am - 1.00pm

TUESDAY 22ND APRIL
LIT REVIEW WORKSHOP
Where: Loxton Computer Room B01
Time: 10.00am - 2.00pm

FRIDAY 16TH MAY 2014
COMPARATIVE ONCOLOGY LECTURE
Where: New Law School Seminar Room 105, Eastern Avenue
Time: 4.00 - 5.00pm (Refreshments from 5.00pm)
WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?
The use of technology to improve the lifestyle and productivity of dairy farms. Robotic milking is one of my passions and I have been involved in robotic milking research for 12 years now. In many countries it has revolutionised the milk harvesting process. Whilst our pasture based systems meant that there was a lot of knowledge to be developed to understand how best to manage the system around the equipment we are now have an increasing number of robotic milking farms in Australia – currently 22 in operation with another 9 installing right now.

MOST EXCITING RESEARCH DISCOVERY TO DATE?
Definitely the co-development of a “high throughput” robotic milking system – the robotic rotary. Being involved in the testing and co-development of the equipment was extremely rewarding, but working with such passionate teams of people was a real highlight in my career to date. Now seeing the first commercial installation in Australia kicking so many goals with the technology makes all the hard work worthwhile. I love the idea that we have contributed to a new way of farming that excites the next generation and is helping to attract them back into the dairy industry.

WHAT IS ON YOUR RESEARCH BUCKET LIST?
To develop tools that help new entrants to the industry farm as productively as their counterparts who have say 30 years experience.

WHO HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS..

- Radio National’s Bush Telegraph program interviewed Professor Paul McGreevy from the Faculty of Veterinary science about teaching animal welfare.
- ABC Radio Australia’s Pacific Beat program spoke to Associate Professor Robyn Alders from the Faculty of Veterinary Science about Newcastle disease.
- Professor Richard Whittington from the Faculty of Veterinary Science was interviewed by ABC Northern Tasmania about a recent World Bank report into farmed fish. He was also interviewed by ABC Gippsland on the same topic.
- Robyn Alders has been recently interviewed by Radio Australia. To hear Robyn’s interview:- radioaustralia.net.au/pacific/radio/program/pacific-beat/vaccine-offers-new-hope-for-chicken-farmers/1282254
- The National Journal (US) reported on research by Prof Kathy Belev into the Tasmanian Devil.
- News grabs on 936 ABC Hobart featured Dr Beata Ujvari from the Faculty of Veterinary Science talking about Tasmanian Devil facial tumours. ABC Northern Tasmania also mentioned the study.
- Research by Dr Jeff Downing from the Faculty of Veterinary Science was mentioned in a Canberra Times article about animal cruelty.
- Prime 7 TV broadcast a segment about the sustainability of family farming. The piece included footage from the University’s food security forum.
- ABC Radio National’s Bush Telegraph interviewed Professor Richard Whittington from the Faculty of Veterinary Science on his presentation to the University’s food security conference discussing the importance of Australian fish farming expertise internationally, how it is replacing traditional fishing, and how it supports Asian countries.

If you have any media items please send to vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au

Taking the technology that is available to help farmers make more timely and informed management decisions on farm will enable them to minimise ‘wastage’ – whether that is cows that underperform, feed that is not efficiently converted to milk, loss of production through late detection of disease/illness (and the list goes on). Most of all, I want to contribute to the production of safe food that has been produced by animals whose well-being is not compromised by the economic viability of the farming system.

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON’T KNOW?
While I work with sophisticated robotic technology, in my private life I am everything but tech savvy. Until late last year the only television in our house was a 14 year old ‘fat-back’ tele!!
PIECES FOR PRACTITIONERS

General practice provides exposure to a rich variety of cases that can be used as a platform to extend our knowledge about certain conditions. Lecturer and companion animal practitioner Anne Fawcett had two papers published in the Australian Veterinary Practitioner last month demonstrating that there is plenty of scope for learning from clinical cases – and this knowledge can be used to improve the welfare of companion animals.

Dietary induced thiamine deficiency can occur due to use of sulphur dioxide preservative in some pet foods. Despite the fact that this phenomenon is documented and a known cause of severe neurological disease in cats, some manufacturers continue to use these preservatives. Such foods remain on supermarket shelves.

“We diagnosed a cat with probable dietary induced thiamine deficiency and testing of the food confirmed the presence of high concentrations of sulphur dioxides,” Dr Fawcett said. “This is entirely preventable and in this day and age, with the knowledge that pet food manufacturers have, this is an entirely preventable condition. There is a need for regulation of sulphur dioxide concentrations in pet food to reduce both clinical and subclinical cases of thiamine deficiency.”

The paper was co-authored by Sydney University alumnus Dr Ye Yao and pathologist Richard Miller from IDEXX Laboratories.

The second-paper, co-authored by Murdoch University’s Dr Peter Irwin, reviews the published evidence for various therapeutic strategies commonly used in the management of generalised tetanus in small animals. Whilst the disease is well known and clinically recognisable by characteristic generalised spastic paralysis, the review found that the level of evidence for the efficacy of tetanus antitoxin administration, antimicrobial therapy, wound management and immunotherapy in companion animals was very low.

“There is a real need for evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of this condition,” Dr Fawcett said. “Until then, clinicians must exercise careful judgement in determining the appropriate treatment.”

RESEARCHERS IN AGRICULTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (RAID)

RAID aims to share information, to promote, and potentially to advocate research in agriculture for international development.

Its genesis reflects a lack of awareness and readily available information for undergraduates, new graduates and young researchers on opportunities in agricultural research for development — and the potential benefits of sharing information, experiences and learnings between young professionals. The group has some 68 members to date, has a Facebook page and is hoping to have a website established soon.

To learn more:
- Go to Facebook page facebook.com/AgDevelopment
- Contact group at RAID@outlook.com.au

30 SECONDS WITH ...

DR LYDIA TONG

WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?
Veterinary Pathology; with a special interest in wildlife and forensic pathology

MOST EXCITING RESEARCH DISCOVERY TO DATE?
I have two is that allowed?? (I get excited easily)
1. Discovering that a common form of inherited cardiomyopathy that kills young human athletes also occurs in Great Apes.
2. Uncovering which features of fractures are indicative of abuse injuries in dogs – to help vets in practice better identify abused pets

WHAT IS ON YOUR RESEARCH BUCKET LIST?
On my bucket list is seeing a Centre for Veterinary Forensics Research, to increase understanding of the science and pathology of abuse of animals, and the links between violence toward animals and violence toward people... currently we are at the stage that Doctors were with Child Abuse in the 1950s.

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON’T KNOW?
I have three sisters who are all smarter than me: an academic materials engineer, a professional ballerina, and an environmental economist.
PUBLICATIONS
AS LISTED ON IRMA MARCH 2014

Fawcett (Quain), A C, Irwin, P. Review of treatment of generalised tetanus in dogs. Australian Veterinary Practitioner:44.1.574-578
Fawcett (Quain), A C, Yao, Y, Miller, R. Probable dietary-induced thiamine deficiency in a cat fed pet meat containing sulfur dioxide preservative. Australian Veterinary Practitioner:44.1.554-559
Gosby, A K, Conigrave, A D, Raubenheimer, D, Simpson, S J. Protein leverage and energy intake. Obesity Reviews:15.3.183-191
Maher, I E, Griffith, J E, Lau, Q, Reeves, T, Higgins, D P. Expression profiles of the immune genes CD4, CD8b, IFNy,IL-4,IL-6 and IL-10 in mitogen-stimulated koala lymphocytes (Phascolarctos cinereus) by qRT-PCR. PeerJ.2.e280
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Australia–India Strategic Research Fund for joint research projects
Australian Government funding of up to AUD 200,000 over two years will be available to each successful Australian applicant. The Government of India, through the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), will support the corresponding Indian partner’s participation in the joint research project.

Internal Deadline Closing date: 15th April 2014
Grant writing advice: Thomas.Soem@sydney.edu.au
Applications to: Sophie.Carruthers@sydney.edu.au

Call for nominations 2014 Young Tall Poppy Science Awards
Young Tall Poppy Science Award Nominations are now open and accepted from all fields of science and technology and are made in all states and territories.

Nominations close at midnight AEST 27th April 2014.

Uniquely, these awards recognise excellence in early career research across all the sciences including mathematics, alongside a passion and capacity to communicate science to the community.

For More information visit aips.net.au/tall-poppies/nominations/

Student travel grants:- Australian Department of the Environment, AU

The Australian Department of the Environment and Australian Biological Resources Study invites applications for its student travel grants. Financial support is awarded to postgraduate students in Australian institutions to travel to national or international conferences or workshops relevant to both the student’s research programme in systematics or taxonomy and the following ABRS research priority areas:

- biodiversity, conservation, and vulnerable and endangered species;
- public, plant and animal health;
- building taxonomic capacity.

A maximum grant of AU$1,500 is available for international travel while AU$750 is available for travel within Australia.

environment.gov.au/topics/science-and-research/australian-biological-resources-study/grants/bursaries

Closing Date 28th April 2014

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

Presented annually by the Australian Museum, the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward excellence in the fields of research & innovation, leadership & commercialisation, school science and science journalism & communication.

Applications Close: 2nd May 2014.

Further information:- australianmuseum.net.au/About-Eureka-Prizes
Research Australia - Grant Alert
The NSW Government is providing a total of $750,000 to innovative projects that can demonstrate the benefit of integrating and analysing state-wide data to enhance research and evidence-based healthcare

Applications to the Bioinformatics Collaborative Grants Program close at 5pm on Tuesday April 22. An application kit and guidelines are available: health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr/Pages/bio.aspx

Fisheries Scientific committee student research grants
The Fisheries Scientific Committee (FSC) is conducting a second round of applications to award student research funding of up to $3,000 aimed at filling some of the gaps in research information for threatened and rare species of fish and marine vegetation in NSW.

Applications Close: 2nd May 2014.
Contact: Kay.Winton@sydney.edu.au

Australia Japan Emerging Research leaders Exchange Program, Australian researchers to Japan November 2014

2014 Exchange: Australians to Japan
For the next exchange, eight Australian emerging leaders will travel to Japan to establish and develop personal and institutional linkages. These researchers from the nominated S&T fields (see below) will be selected by ATSE via a peer nomination process with merit-based assessment. The successful researchers will undertake two weeks of visits to develop personal and institutional linkages in Japan, 4-14 November 2014.

Applications Close: 8th May 2014.

Equity Fellowships now open
The Equity Fellowships are an initiative of the DVC(R) and the Equity and Diversity Strategy Centre designed to promote equity and diversity at the University of Sydney.

There are three types of Equity Fellowships:
Brown Fellowships: assist university researchers whose careers have been interrupted by the undertaking of sustained primary caring duties.
Thompson Fellowships: recognise that women are significantly under-represented at senior academic levels and aim to specifically offer women, presently at Levels C and D, opportunities to develop and strengthen their research, preparing them for roles at Levels D and E.
Laffan Fellowships: assist university researchers who have a significant disability, or have experienced a significant disability.

Thinking of applying? Find out what makes a strong application. s1.sydney.edu.au/research_support/funding/secure/strong_equity_application.shtml
Applications close 16th May 2014

Prime Minister’s prize for science
The Australian Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education invites nominations for its Prime Minister’s prize for science. The award is presented annually for a specific achievement within the following disciplines:
- mathematical sciences;
- physical sciences;
- chemical sciences;
- earth sciences;
- environmental sciences;
- biological sciences;
- agricultural and veterinary sciences;
- information and computing sciences;
- engineering;
- technology;
- medical and health sciences.
Nominations should within their field of science demonstrate original and meticulous research effort, significant scientific impact and advance human welfare or benefit society.
Only Australian citizens or permanent residents are eligible. Nominees must be currently active in their research.
The award includes a cash component of AU$300,000 and may be awarded to an individual or jointly to up to four individuals, if the achievement is a collaborative effort. In such cases, each member of the collaborative team would receive an equal portion of the grant.
Closing Date • 29 May 14
Further information: innovation.gov.au/science/InspiringAustralia/PrimeMinistersPrizesforScience/Pages/AboutthePrizes.aspx

Canine Research Foundation Research Grants 2015
The Canine Research Foundation is seeking applications for grants for research to commence in the year 2015. The Foundation is an independent public trust for the purposes of funding research directed at improving canine health, which it does through a program of annual research grants. The Australian National Kennel Council Ltd has adopted the Foundation as its research-funding vehicle.
Grants may be made by the Foundation for research projects relating to canine health where the research is conducted by an Australian university. Proposals should be received by the Foundation by May 30, 2014. See Flyer for further information, a word version of the application for funding is available contact marie.wildridge@sydney.edu.au

Research Professional: researchprofessional.com/ has many other opportunities listed.
DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOINFORMATICS
Some time ago the University of Sydney created a special group within Information and Communications Technology group to deal specifically with research computing. This group reports to the DVC Research. The head of this section is Mike Baker and he has been consulting with a number of groups across the university to better understand their research computing needs. The result of this consultation, along with the review of sciences within the university, identified that better centralised infrastructure relating to research computing in general and bioinformatics in particular were required. Prof Eddie Holmes has been appointed in the CPC and is assisting to create a cohesive bioinformatics platform for the university. Recently a core group of bioinformatics users across campuses met to discuss software requirements for a new computing cluster that will be made available to individual users on a subscription basis. The currently suggested fee is $2500 per account and this will provide access to state of the art computing infrastructure and software. In addition, a bioinformatics specialist team will provide consultative expertise to assist people in making use of the system. This should come on board in mid-2014.

GENOMICS VIRTUAL LABORATORY
For computer literate people interested in manipulating bioinformatics data a free service is available with tutorials designed to allow users to conduct their own bioinformatics analysis with a user interface that does not require linux/unix or scripting expertise. Anyone can use GVL to get their own small Galaxy running on the NeCTAR Australian Research Cloud. The system currently makes use of public software such as Galaxy and others such as those available via the Broad Institute and Ensembl. Tutorials for using the system may be accessed via genome.edu.au/wiki/GVL

RESEARCH DATA STORAGE AND ARCHIVING
Movements across the university are also occurring to better store, catalogue and share primary research data. This is in response to new directives from National competitive grant schemes such as those controlled by the Australian Research Council. A number of groups within the university have existing access to a “Research Data Store”. The current space allocation is approximately 2Tb per account but there is a suggestion that further space can be purchased for approximately $50 per Tb. The space to be allocated is going to be drastically increased in mid-year at the same time that the research computing core facility comes on board. There is a suggestion that the cost of the extra storage space will be waived if the research group agrees to archive the data with metadata as directed by the University library services. All primary data going forward are meant to be archived and library services can assist with connecting researchers with digitisation services or with converting files to acceptable file formats. The data storage policy is still in development and the Division of Science has a working party to deal with special data storage needs. Please contact me (Claire Wade) if you have special issues requiring the attention of the group. We have made the team aware of clinical files, patient image files and video files that may require special rules.

Contact Claire
E Claire.wade@sydney.edu.au
P 02 9351 8097
NEW GRANTS

The Faculty would like to congratulate the following academics and celebrate the award of the following grants.

Simon de Graaf: Sultanate of Oman: - Developing Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Dromedary Camels

Robyn Alders: (ACIAR): - Strengthening food and nutrition security through family poultry and crop integration in Tanzania and Zambia
13 February 2014

Ms Jane Zhang  
Research Administration Officer  
Research Grants and Contracts  
Level 6  
G02 Jane Foss Russell Building  
The University of Sydney  
SYDNEY NSW 2006

Dear Jane,

Canine Research Foundation  
Research Grants - 2015

The Canine Research Foundation is seeking applications for grants for research to commence in the year 2015. The Foundation is an independent public trust for the purposes of funding research directed at improving canine health, which it does through a program of annual research grants. The Australian National Kennel Council Ltd has adopted the Foundation as its research-funding vehicle.

Grants may be made by the Foundation for research projects relating to canine health where the research is conducted by an Australian university. Proposals should be received by the Foundation at the address noted on this letterhead by May 30, 2014.

Requirements of the Foundation in relation to the grants are:-

1. A report detailing progress on the project half yearly.
2. Within six months of the end of the period for which the project was funded, a final report covering the project and a summary for prospective publishing in journals of Member Bodies of the Australian National Kennel Council and other canine journals.
3. Any publications resulting from the work supported by the Foundation should acknowledge such support.

Grants per project will normally be in the order of $5,000-15,000 in any one year. Projects may extend beyond one year but funding each year will be dependent upon satisfactory progress as given in interim reports. Funds will be available as arranged through the university.

Note that funding is not usually provided for salaries, stipends or significant capital equipment.

An application form is attached. We ask that an electronic copy (preferably PDF format) be sent to the e-mail address noted on this letterhead as well as a hard copy forwarded to the postal address as noted.

Please respond where possible to the E-mail address as noted on this letterhead.

Yours sincerely,

Tracey Barry  
Administrator

Att.
ENDING HUNGER IN CARING COMMUNITIES

Speaker: George Kent, Professor of Political Science (Emeritus)
University of Hawai‘i, USA
5.00-6.30, 14 April, 2014
Room 114, Mackie Building K01
University of Sydney

Most studies of the problem of hunger in the world have treated it as a technical problem arising from limits in the capacity to produce food. Little attention has been given to the importance of human relationships. It should be recognized that the likelihood of hunger occurring in any community depends on whether people care about one another, are indifferent, or exploit one another. In any stable community, if people care about one another’s well being, they are not likely to go hungry. This is true even where people have little money.

Caring communities can protect people from exploitation, and they can establish local food systems that are sensitive to nutritional needs. Protecting and strengthening caring communities could be an effective means for reducing hunger in the world.

George Kent is Professor Emeritus with the University of Hawai‘i. He retired from its Department of Political Science in 2010. He currently teaches an online course on the Human Right to Adequate Food as a part-time faculty member with the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney in Australia and also with the Transformative Social Change Specialization at Saybrook University in San Francisco.

His recent books on food policy issues are Freedom from Want: The Human Right to Adequate Food, Global Obligations for the Right to Food, Ending Hunger Worldwide, and Regulating Infant Formula.

For more information email arts.cpacs@sydney.edu.au or call (02) 9351 7686
Media Release

Chicken bones tell true story of Pacific migration

Tuesday, 18 March 2014

Did the Polynesians beat Columbus to South America? Not according to the tale of migration uncovered by analysis of ancient DNA from chicken bones recovered in archaeological digs across the Pacific.

The ancient DNA has been used to study the origins and dispersal of ancestral Polynesian chickens, reconstructing the early migrations of people and the animals they carried with them.

The study, led by the University of Adelaide's Australian Centre for Ancient DNA (ACAD) and published today in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, reveals that previous claims of contact between early Polynesians and South America were probably based on contaminated results. Instead, the new study has identified and traced a unique genetic marker of the original Polynesian chickens that is only present in the Pacific and Island Southeast Asia.

The research team of national and international collaborators, including Australian National University, University of Sydney, and Durham and Aberdeen Universities in the UK, used female-inherited mitochondrial DNA extracted from chicken bones excavated in archaeological digs from islands including Hawaii, Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and Niue.

"We have identified genetic signatures of the original Polynesian chickens, and used these to track early movements and trading patterns across the Pacific," says lead author Dr Vicki Thomson of ACAD. "We were also able to trace the origins of these lineages back into the Philippines, providing clues about the source of the original Polynesian chicken populations."

Associate Professor Jeremy Austin, ACAD Deputy Director, says: "There are still many theories about where the early human colonists of the remote Pacific came from, which routes they followed and whether they made contact with the South American mainland. Domestic animals, such as chickens, carried on these early voyages have left behind a genetic record that can solve some of these long standing mysteries."

Project leader Professor Alan Cooper, Director of ACAD says: "We were able to re-examine bones used in previous studies that had linked ancient Pacific and South American chickens, suggesting early human contact, and found that some of the results were contaminated with modern chicken DNA, which occurs at trace levels in many laboratory components," says ACAD Director Professor Alan Cooper. "We were able to show that the ancient chicken DNA provided no evidence of any pre-Columbian contact between these areas."

"Remarkably, our study also shows that the original Polynesian lineages appear to have survived on some isolated Pacific islands, despite the introduction of European domestic animals across the Pacific in the last couple of hundred years," Professor Cooper says. "These original lineages could be of considerable importance to the poultry industry which is concerned about the lack of genetic diversity in commercial stocks."
WE INVITE YOU TO
COMPARATIVE ONCOLOGY LECTURE
CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK

PRE-CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL NUTRACEUTICALS FOR THE TREATMENT OF INTESTINAL DISEASE

The CRN Comparative Oncology SIG invites all cancer researchers to a lecture by:

Professor Gordon Howarth
SAHMRI Cancer Council Senior Research Fellow
Associate Head (Research) and Postgraduate Coordinator
School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences
The University of Adelaide

ABSTRACT
Naturally-sourced bioactive compounds (nutraceuticals) are currently gaining acceptance for the treatment of a growing range of gastrointestinal disorders which include chemotherapy-induced intestinal mucositis, inflammatory bowel disease and NSAID-enteropathy. Pre-clinical development of nutraceuticals is a critical step in the regulatory process. During his lecture Professor Howarth will describe the pre-clinical development of unique probiotics, plant extracts and animal oils utilizing proven animal model systems.

FRIDAY, 16 MAY 2014
4.00 - 5.00pm (with refreshments from 5.00pm)
New Law School Seminar Room 105
Eastern Avenue
The University of Sydney (Camperdown campus)
RSVP
Registration is free, but essential to merilyn.heuschkel@sydney.edu.au by Friday, 9 May 2014.

BIOGRAPHY
Professor Gordon Howarth began his research career in 1977, studying the immunopathology of renal, skin and autoimmune disorders at Adelaide’s Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science. Professor Howarth was an inaugural scientist in Adelaide’s Child Health Research Institute (1989-2004) and has since published more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles on the utilization of in vivo models of gastrointestinal disease for the efficacy-testing of newly developed bioactive compounds. He has also been actively engaged in the commercialisation of research, having been involved with Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) including the CRC for Tissue Growth and Repair (1991-2003). Between 2005 and 2008 Professor Howarth held a Cancer Council South Australia Research Fellowship; and between 2009 and 2011 the nationally-competitive Sally Birch Cancer Council Australia Senior Research Fellowship in Cancer Control. Professor Howarth is currently the recipient of a South Australian Cancer Council Collaborative Senior Research Fellowship (2012-2014) and is a member of the academic staff in the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at the Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide. Professor Howarth also holds an Affiliate Professor appointment in the Gastroenterology Department of Adelaide’s Women’s and Children’s Hospital.
$750,000 from NSW Government for Bioinformatics Grants

Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner today encouraged researchers interested in bioinformatics to apply for grants under the Bioinformatics Collaborative Grants Program.

The NSW Government is providing a total of $750,000 to innovative projects that can demonstrate the benefit of integrating and analysing state-wide data to enhance research and evidence-based healthcare.

“I am excited by the enormous potential that bioinformatics offers to clinical research and personalised medicine,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Bioinformatics is an analytical tool that can be applied to many aspects of health and medical research. It can be used to interpret large, complex sets of data and images.

“The Bioinformatics Collaborative Grants Program emphasises working together and sharing expertise in pursuit of a common goal - better patient care. We are inviting researchers and clinicians to work with bioinformatics and computer analytics experts to develop their projects.”

The NSW Government invests over $200 million annually in medical research.

“I am proud of the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government’s commitment to supporting innovation to cement NSW’s reputation as a centre of excellence for medical research,” Mrs Skinner said.

Projects will link a range of available data for research which could potentially translate into treatment options or help researchers come up with more targeted questions.

Mrs Skinner said she looked forward to learning about the innovative ideas put forward by researchers, clinicians and bioinformaticians.

Applications to the Bioinformatics Collaborative Grants Program close at 5pm on Tuesday April 22. An application kit and guidelines are available here.