

Adelaidean

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Rhodes Scholar's global health challenge

Story on page 5

Creating a healthy future for us all

I doubt anyone would dispute that support for health and medical research is absolutely fundamental to building and sustaining a healthier society.

When the Federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, announced the 2012 National Health and Medical Research Council grants last month it was a timely reminder of the value and impact of university-based medical research.

The University of Adelaide received a record-breaking \$44.8 million in funding for more than 60 projects, winning the most funding in Australia relative to size, and the sixth most in absolute terms. This wonderful result is a very significant increase on the amount awarded for 2011 and reflects the prestige of the researchers and the University's strong commitment to building capacity across health sciences and sciences.

The grants awarded will help advance the careers of many of the University's researchers and, more importantly, trigger new medical discoveries and deliver tremendous health benefits for our community.

Especially pleasing was the success of our key research partners, based in our neighbourhood – SA Pathology, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Women's and Children's Hospital, the Lyell McEwin Hospital, and the Women's and Children's Health

Research Institute. Collaborative research allows us to reach for new frontiers and harness expertise from an even greater pool of talent.

The University has a long and distinguished history in research with the likes of Florey and the Braggs having transformed our world through their remarkable discoveries.

But only recently did I become aware of another good story in the annals of the University's research.

Thorburn Brailsford Robertson gained a degree in physiology at the University in 1905 (and almost turned to physics on being taught here by William Bragg). After stints at University of California, Berkeley and Toronto as a professor, he returned to Adelaide to take up a Chair and worked in the areas of physiology, biochemistry, and pharmacology.

One of his many impressive achievements was that he established and improved a method for producing insulin in bulk very shortly after its discovery at Toronto. Remarkably, the Royal Adelaide Hospital was using his supply of insulin on diabetics in 1923 – just one year after the published discovery.

Tragically, Thorburn Brailsford Robertson died at 45, in 1930; he apparently succumbed to influenza. Overwork and asthma were thought to be contributors.

So affectionately was he regarded that a stained glass window tribute was created in his honour. I decided to track down this window, and it turns out that it is a mere six metres from my office next to the inner staircase in the Mitchell Building! Superb it is too.

This is only one of many stories that exemplify the collaboration, high-quality basic research and translation that we value so highly as a University and as a community.



PROFESSOR MIKE BROOKS
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President
(Research)

Adelaidean

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What does the future hold for learning?

A major event at the University of Adelaide this month will focus on one of the most important aspects of university life: teaching and learning.

The program for each day will include keynote addresses, interactive workshops, open forums and showcases of the latest thinking on the educational experience.

"The University of Adelaide is keen to ensure we continue to innovate on teaching and learning," said the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic), Professor Pascale Quester.

"With quality, equity, and learning and teaching outcomes being key themes leading Australia's higher education reform, the time is right for us to hold an event that discusses these issues and helps to inform the way forward."

Professor Quester said the Festival of Learning & Teaching would bring together academic and professional staff from across the University, as well as students and external stakeholders to "engage, discuss and co-create".

"This event aims to spark momentum around new approaches to teaching and learning. My hope is that it will produce lively and spirited discussion; we should be passionately debating the future of learning at our University, for the benefit of all."

Professor Quester said delivering the best learning outcomes for students was paramount.

"It goes without saying that learning and teaching is not the same as it was when the University was first established, and it will always change. It's important for us to look at what the future holds for learning at our University, how we can engage with students, and how we can deliver meaningful outcomes that will be relevant to our graduates throughout their lives," Professor Quester said.

While most of the events for the Festival of Learning & Teaching will be run at the North Terrace Campus, a number of workshops and keynote speeches will also be held at Roseworthy Campus and videoconferenced to North Terrace and Waite.

For more information about the festival, including the program of events, go to: www.adelaide.edu.au/festival-1t

Story by David Ellis

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\$44.8 million for medical discoveries

The University of Adelaide has cemented its reputation as one of the premier health and medical research institutions in Australia after being awarded a record \$44.8 million in Federal Government funding.

The Federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon. Mark Butler, announced the 2012 National Health and Medical Research Council grants at the University's North Terrace Campus last month.

A total of 61 health and medical grants were awarded to University of Adelaide researchers, representing the lion's share of funding awarded in the State. In total, South Australian institutions were awarded nearly \$60 million.

Relative to size, the University achieved the best result in Australia and was the sixth most successful in absolute terms.

Professor Mike Brooks, the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), said the result was "a brilliant outcome" for the University and the State.

"It justifies an ambitious investment and growth strategy we are undertaking in health and medical research at the University, including the establishment of the Robinson Institute which is an international leader in reproductive health.

"It also endorses the remarkable contribution of our collaborative partners, including SA Pathology, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the

Women's and Children's Hospital, the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute and the Lyell McEwin Hospital.

"The projects earmarked for funding from 2012 will ultimately result in many new medical discoveries and improved health outcomes for the community," Professor Brooks said.

NHMRC Project Grants awarded to University of Adelaide researchers included:

- **\$4.8 million to Professor Gary Wittert:** *Testosterone for the prevention of diabetes mellitus in high risk men;*
- **\$1.9 million to Professor Caroline Crowther:** *Does antenatal magnesium sulphate given to women at risk of preterm birth between 30 and 34 weeks' gestation reduce the risk of death or cerebral palsy in their children?;*
- **\$1.8 million to Dr Carmel Collins:** *DHA for the reduction of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in premature babies;*
- **\$1.5 million to Associate Professor Tamas Revesz:** *An international clinical trial to evaluate new therapies to improve survival of children with relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukaemia;*

- **\$1 million to Professor Jennifer Couper:** *Early environmental determinants of type 1 diabetes;*

- **\$909,580 to Professor Sharad Kumar:** *Control of sodium and chloride transport by an enzyme involved in protein modification;*

- **\$429,231 to Professor Maria Makrides:** *Does n-3 LCPUFA (such as from fish oil) supplementation in pregnancy reduce asthma and allergies in school age children?*

Twelve University of Adelaide researchers and affiliates received \$6.3 million in total for Early Career and Research Fellowships, and two Centres of Research Excellence focusing on nutrition and dental health services were awarded \$2.5 million and \$2.4 million respectively.

Results from the most recent rounds of Australian Research Council funding were not available at the time Adelaidean went to print.

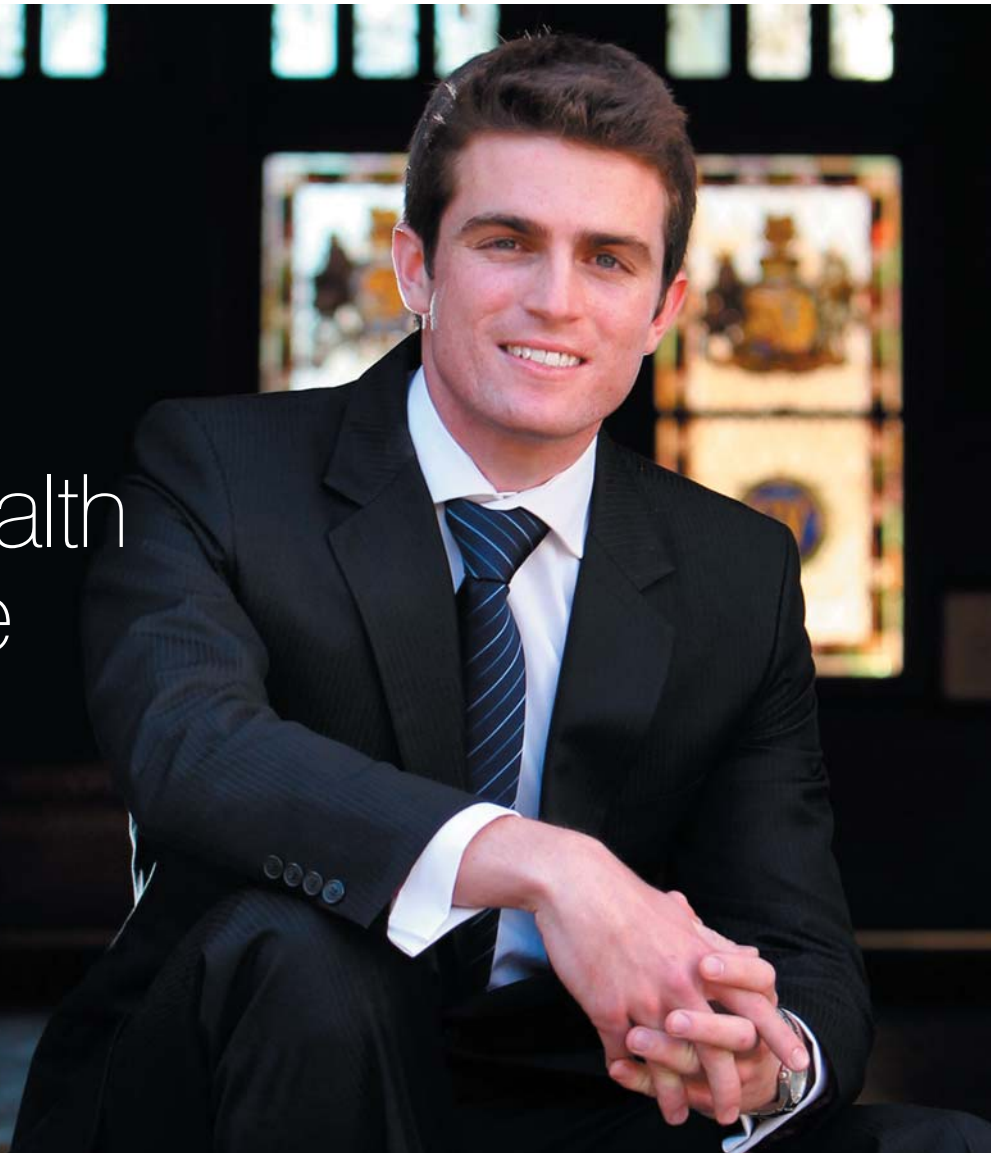
Story by Candy Gibson

Photo by Randy Larcombe



Rhodes Scholar's global health challenge

Medical student Mark Hassall has become the 105th student from the University of Adelaide to be awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.



Mark was announced as South Australia's 2012 winner at a ceremony at Government House last month.

The scholarship was presented by the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, who described Mark as "an exceptional candidate in an extremely high quality field of eight young South Australians".

The prestigious scholarship, established by Cecil Rhodes, offers a unique opportunity for postgraduate students to study at the University of Oxford.

Mark is in his fifth year of a medical degree and has also completed a Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Adelaide.

Winning the scholarship will give Mark the opportunity to study a Masters in Global Health Science at Oxford from October next year.

"I was pleasantly shocked to hear the result," he said.

Candidates for the Rhodes Scholarship are selected on the basis of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service. The Rhodes Scholarship supports students who

demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as "leaders for the world's future".

Mark has a long list of academic and personal achievements. These include his selection to participate in two, four-week medical electives in Oxford and Cambridge next year, and being awarded the University of Adelaide Medical School's 2010 research prize, where his findings were presented at the International Movement Disorders conference in Argentina.

In addition to this, he has been a past president of the Adelaide Medical Students' Society (AMSS), holds Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and completed the London Marathon in 2009.

He was also awarded one of only three national Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarships in recognition of his achievements in medicine.

Mark is passionate about Indigenous health, having spent time providing medical assistance within remote Indigenous communities in Western Australia and the APY lands.

"The challenge laid down by Cecil Rhodes 'to fight the world's fight' resonates strongly with my ambition to close the Indigenous life expectancy gap," Mark said.

"I aspire to be a national leader in Indigenous public health, as well as a medical specialist.

"Given Oxford's standing as one of the top five European universities in public health research, the supervisors and academic environment for this research project will greatly expand and strengthen my skills and abilities," he said.

Governor Scarce congratulated Mark on his outstanding academic achievement and "will watch with enormous interest as he embarks on an exciting study program in the field of health science at the University of Oxford".

"The Rhodes Scholarship has a tradition of acknowledging academic excellence and recognising the potential for scholars to show future leadership and make an outstanding contribution to society.

"I am confident that Mr Hassall will maintain this fine tradition," he said.

Story by Sarah Bown

Above: Rhodes Scholar Mark Hassall at Government House

Photo by Matt Turner, courtesy of *The Advertiser*

Event celebrates the history of History

A one-day symposium covering more than a century of history teaching at the University of Adelaide will be held next month.

The event, on Friday 2 December, leads up to the 110th anniversary of the appointment of George Cockburn Henderson as Professor of History, and founder of the Honours School of History.

The symposium will feature a program canvassing the "history of History" on the North Terrace Campus.

2012 not only marks Henderson's 110th anniversary, but also the 10th anniversary of the transformation of the Department created by Henderson into the present Discipline of History in the School of History and Politics.

Symposium coordinator Wilfrid Prest said the program would offer some long-range perspectives on the University's History students, staff, research and teaching from early days to the present, together with personal recollections and memoirs.

Speakers include prominent History graduates and teachers, past and present, such as:

- **Catherine Baker**, an Asian art historian who currently writes education programs based around the collection at the Art Gallery of South Australia;
- **Peggy Brock**, currently Emeritus Professor at Edith Cowan University, Perth;

- **Andrew Buxton**, a former president of both state and national history teachers' associations, who now teaches at Concordia College;
- **John Calvert**, Reader in History 1950-60 and founding editor of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*;
- **Robert Dare**, who taught History at the University of Adelaide from 1971 until his retirement in 2006;
- **Roger Knight**, who has taught History at the University of Adelaide since 1968;
- **Margaret Hosking**, who has worked in the Barr Smith Library since 1977, and became research librarian for History in 1984;
- **Robin Prior**, who lectured at the University of NSW (Australian Defence Force Academy) until 2008, and is now visiting Professorial Fellow at the University of Adelaide;
- **Beth M Robertson**, Manager of Preservation Services, State Library of South Australia.

All History alumni – graduates, former students and staff – are invited to attend this event, which will provide a foundation



for a multi-authored book to be published in 2012 by the University of Adelaide Press.

The symposium will be held in the Ira Raymond Room of the Barr Smith Library from 9.00am-5.00pm on Friday 2 December.

Registration is free but essential, with registrations closing Wednesday 23 November. To register, email: history@adelaide.edu.au

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: George Cockburn Henderson, a leader in History at the University of Adelaide

Photo courtesy of the University Archives

Art & Heritage Collections

Elizabeth Pascale
Art & Heritage Collections Officer

Right: One of the many student faces featuring in the *Learning Hub Heads* exhibition

At the new Hub Central facility for University of Adelaide students, we're featuring an exhibition of work by local artist, graduate and current Art History student of the University, Peter Drew.

Called *Learning Hub Heads*, this project embraces and celebrates the student presence in the new Hub Central space through the contemporary art language of street art. It is a continuation of Peter Drew's *Faces of the University* project across the North Terrace Campus.

A nationally recognised artist, Drew is renowned for his Einstein-on-a-bicycle paste-ups, as well as the pink-cheeked digital faces which appear across Adelaide and interstate. Peter's work is also in the University of Adelaide Visual Art Collection.

Learning Hub Heads is on display at the University of Adelaide in Hub Central and will be developed further over the next year. It is free of charge and open to the public during Hub Central opening hours.



For more information or to register your interest in *Learning Hub Heads*, email art.heritage@adelaide.edu.au or call 08 8303 3086.

Learning Hub Heads is a collaborative project between Peter Drew, Art & Heritage Collections, the Hub Central Project Team, and Baulderstone.



Student on-campus space revolution

The University of Adelaide's revolutionary new three-level \$42 million learning hub for students was officially opened last month by the Federal Tertiary Education Minister, Senator the Hon. Chris Evans.



Situated in the heart of the University's North Terrace Campus, 'Hub Central' brings together learning and social spaces with student information services – creating a new meeting place and a "first port of call" for all students.

It blends these facilities with food and service retail outlets, merges seamlessly with the Barr Smith Library and provides new connections through to lecture theatres and across campus.

Creating Hub Central involved students and staff working together with more than 9000 hours of student involvement in both the design and overall function of the space.

"We want to provide the best on-campus experience for students in Australia," said Acting Vice-Chancellor and President Mr Paul Duldig. "That means meeting the requirements of students today – and that's vastly different from campus life 20 years ago or even five years ago.

"Students want flexible areas for informal learning and group study, areas for social interaction, access at all hours to the latest technology and resources, and easy

access to both face-to-face and online services and support. They want informality, a place where they can heat their leftovers, just hang out or catch up with friends both here and globally via Skype.

"We've provided what our students told us they wanted, but we've also built in flexibility so that this space can evolve with the requirements of future generations of students.

"Campus life is more than just getting a degree. Hub Central will be the natural focus for the University's student communal life."

Senator Evans said the facility would transform the on-campus experience for students.

"These facilities will help build university, community and social networks within the University of Adelaide, providing a university experience for students that goes beyond their studies," he said.

Joining guests at the opening were northern suburbs children from The Smith Family, representing the future generations of students. They were presented with commemoration certificates.

Hub Central covers 10,500sqm over three levels. Facilities include: 11 project rooms, 11 project booths, student lounges with moveable furniture, two information service areas, a student kitchen, two Skype booths and a news bench, two training rooms, over 200 new computers, total wireless connectivity, print stations, lockers, the Maths Learning Centre, the Writing Centre and food outlets. A convenience store and post office will soon open.

Hub Central has been built with the support of the Federal Government's Better Universities Renewal Funding (\$15.5 million) and the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund (\$1.5m).

The design was by architect firm HASSELL and the construction by Baulderstone.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above: Touring the Hub Central (from left): Acting Vice-Chancellor and President Paul Duldig, Tertiary Education Minister Senator the Hon. Chris Evans, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) Professor Pascale Quester

Photo by Jennie Groom

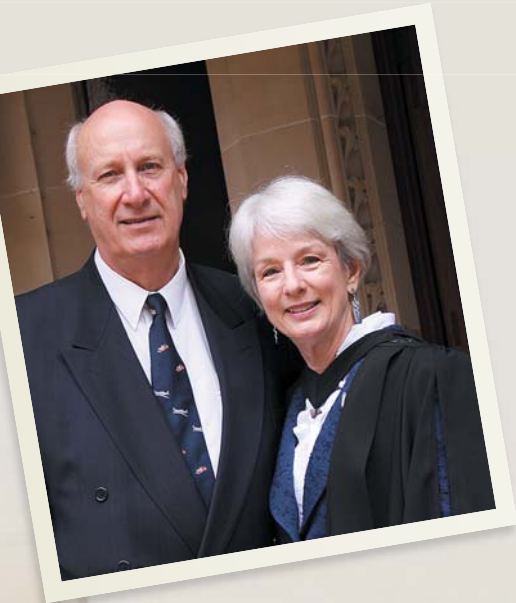
Inset: Students using Hub Central

Photo by Sam Noonan, courtesy of HASSELL

Graduations

2011

A former University of Adelaide Chancellor shared the stage with more than 1000 graduating students at the recent mid-year graduation ceremonies.



Above: Distinguished Alumni Award winner the Hon. Justice Catherine Branson QC and Dr Alan Down

For his distinguished service to the University of Adelaide, the Hon. John von Doussa AO QC was awarded the University's highest honour – the degree of Doctor of the University (D Univ).

Mr von Doussa was Chancellor of the University of Adelaide from July 2004 to July 2010. He graduated in Law from the University of Adelaide in 1962 and has had a long and distinguished legal and judicial career, including being President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission from 2003 to 2008.

He was presented his D Univ by the current Chancellor, the Hon. Robert Hill, at one of the graduation ceremonies held in historic Bonython Hall from 26-28 September. Mr von Doussa was also a guest speaker at the ceremony.

"During his time as Chancellor, John's strong inclusive leadership, commitment

to the principles of equity and community, and his status locally, nationally and internationally proved invaluable to the University," said the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

During the graduation ceremonies, the University also presented Distinguished Alumni Awards to two notable graduates.

Mr Barry Gear AO (B Tech (Electrical Engineering) 1967) is former President of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations and Chairman of the State Emergency Relief Fund. He received the award in recognition of his leadership to the engineering profession and significant contribution to emergency services organisations.

The Hon. Justice Catherine Branson QC (BA 1977, LLB 1970) is President of the Australian Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Commissioner.



Above: Former Chancellor Hon. John von Doussa AO QC with family members

Left: Music teacher Esther Yu (2nd from right), pictured with family, graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education (Honours).

Right: Author Dylan Coleman (right), graduated with her PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide. Dylan was recently announced as the winner of the Arts Queensland David Unaipon Award. She is pictured here with supervisor Dr Sue Hosking from the Discipline of English & Creative Writing.



Left: Mace bearer and Theoretical Physics MPhil graduate Manuel Carrillo Serrano (centre) with Chancellor the Hon. Robert Hill and Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha

Below: Dihadul Karimy from Indonesia received her Master of Laws from the University of Adelaide. Her husband is also a current student at the University.



She received the award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Australian law and human rights.

The new graduates heard from a variety of guest speakers, such as: Mr Darryl Gobbett, Chief Economist, Prescott Securities Ltd; Dr Michael Llewellyn-Smith, urban management consultant and Adelaide City Council Area Councillor; Professor Don Bursill, Chief Scientist for South Australia; and Associate Professor Bassam Dally, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering.



Family heirloom to mark graduation

At her graduation ceremony on 28 September, Mary Maxwell proudly wore an academic gown that has been in her family for 75 years.

Mary, of Toorak Gardens, received her Bachelor of Laws at the ceremony. She already holds a PhD in politics from the University of Adelaide and a Masters degree from Johns Hopkins University, and is a former president of the Australian Institute for International Affairs in SA.

She is also the widow of Professor George Morrison Maxwell (1924-2000) who founded the University of Adelaide's Department of Paediatrics (originally called the Department of Child Health) in 1959.

The academic gown Mary wore has heirloom status – her late mother, Patricia Whalen, wore it to class every day during her senior year in Boston, as was the custom in 1936.

"I suppose when Mum was a 22-year-old, she didn't imagine that three quarters of a century later a child of hers would be getting a law degree in Australia! You may have heard of late bloomers, but this is ridiculous," Mary said.

In 2000, when Mary enrolled in the Adelaide Law program, she received a letter from former South Australian Governor and former University of Adelaide Chancellor Dame Roma Mitchell AC, DBE, CVO, QC, that said: "I look forward to you being admitted to the Bar in 2003."

However, her study ended up taking a bit longer. "I dropped out for a while," she said, "to campaign for a seat in the US Congress and to be a litigant in a suit against President Bush in 2006." The lawsuit sought an injunction against the threatened bombing of Iran, on the grounds that such a deed would contravene US Congress' "exclusive prerogative of declaring war".

Mary is the author of several books, the latest of which, *Thou Shalt Not Kill Troy Davis*, is about an American man convicted of and executed for the murder of a police officer.

Next year, her granddaughter Shiva Motlagh is expected to wear the family academic gown when receiving her Bachelor degree in Linguistics from Adelaide. During their studies, both grandma and granddaughter undertook exchanges in Germany.

Above: University of Adelaide graduate Dr Mary Maxwell wearing her mother's academic gown from the 1930s

Helping stroke patients who can't swallow

A simple function that most of us take for granted – swallowing – is the focus of University of Adelaide research which could help thousands of stroke sufferers around the world.



In an Australian first, researchers from the University's Robinson Institute are using magnetic stimulators to jump-start the brain after a stroke and repair swallowing functions, which break down in more than 50% of stroke patients.

Speech pathologist Dr Sebastian Doeltgen, who is part of the University's Neuromotor Plasticity & Development Research Group, has been awarded \$300,000 in Federal Government funding to investigate revolutionary techniques to treat swallowing disorders.

"About 60,000 people suffer strokes each year in Australia alone, with more than 35,000 of these initially experiencing problems with swallowing. That is a huge part of the stroke population who have difficulty eating or drinking and may have to be fed through a tube," he said.

"There are up to 32 muscle pairs involved in swallowing and all have to work in perfect

harmony to get food and drink from the lips down into the stomach. This activity places a huge demand on the brain.

"When people have strokes, the parts of their brains that control the muscles in the mouth and throat are often damaged and we have to find ways to reactivate these regions. Using the magnetic stimulators we can create electrical currents in the brain that stimulate the nerve cells, which we believe help control swallowing," he said.

Dr Doeltgen's group is the only one in Australia – and one of only a handful in the world – using magnetic stimulation and brain exercises to develop new rehabilitation approaches for swallowing disorders.

Swallowing problems are a very common result of strokes, but they also often accompany a range of neuro-degenerative disorders, such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's

disease and Alzheimer's disease, and even premature birth.

"As strokes are the second biggest killer in Australia and a leading cause of disability worldwide, the cost to the health care system as well as quality of life of those affected is enormous," Dr Doeltgen said.

"Swallowing disorders form a large part of these disabilities but no one ever thinks about swallowing. It is like breathing. We take it for granted but imagine the impact on your life if you couldn't swallow anymore. It's huge."

Dr Doeltgen's research is being funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and is supported by the Robinson Institute, the School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health and the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

Story by Candy Gibson

Photo by iStock



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Sports lab a winner for students

A new University of Adelaide laboratory for Australia's first sports engineering students has been opened within the School of Mechanical Engineering.

The state-of-the-art Sports Engineering Laboratory has specialised facilities for study and research into the techniques and technologies for boosting sports performance, injury prevention and rehabilitation.

Member for Adelaide the Hon. Kate Ellis joined elite athletes, sports industry representatives, engineering professionals and University staff and students to officially open the laboratory.

The Sports Engineering Laboratory is home to students of the Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical and Sports), Australia's first sports engineering undergraduate degree. The first graduates will complete their degree this year.

The Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, Associate Professor Bassam Dally, said sport was a huge and growing global industry worth more than US\$600

billion a year. He said there was great demand for research and development in new sports technology, equipment design and performance.

"Sports Engineering combines the core principles of mechanical engineering with studies in biomechanics, anatomy, exercise physiology and sports materials," he said.

"Our degree was designed to promote a broader interest in engineering and is attracting a wider range of student, including females, and particularly those with keen interest in sport.

"The Sports Engineering Laboratory is giving our students hands-on practical application of sports engineering and providing our researchers with the facilities and equipment needed to best meet the needs of the sports industry."

Facilities in the University's Sports Engineering Laboratory include:

- a 3D analysis system for modelling and simulating human movement;
- an oxygen analysis system for measuring uptake and output during exercise;
- electromyography (EMG) analysis to measure muscle activity; and
- a force platform for measuring ground reaction forces (useful for assessing running shoes); and much more.

Student projects this year have included assessment of lower-back pain through 3D analysis; cycling mechanics to improve performance; and a mechanical cricket bowling machine.

Story by Robyn Mills

Below: Australian women's track endurance team member Katherine Bates on a wattbike with students Arjun Palaniappan, Marek Carls and Stephen Jelfs

Photo by Michael Mullan



\$100,000 win for cataract drug



The Adelaide-based innovators behind commercialising a world-first drug to delay cataracts from forming, and slow their growth, have won Australia's richest business plan competition.

The \$100,000 University of Queensland (UQ) Business School's Enterprize competition was won last month by Calpain Therapeutics, a company co-founded by Dr Tim Lovell and University of Adelaide Chemistry Professor Andrew Abell.

As reported in the October 2011 issue of *Adelaidean* ("New drug offers hope against cataracts"), Calpain Therapeutics is pioneering a novel drug with application to the eye health of people around the world.

Dr Lovell said the Calpain Therapeutics team was "thrilled to have won such a prestigious competition as Enterprize" – especially on what was World Sight Day, a global initiative to raise public awareness of blindness and vision impairment as major public health issues.

For more details about Calpain Therapeutics and the drug, see the original story in the *Adelaidean* online at: <http://j.mp/adelaidean48863>

Remembering an acclaimed author



The life and achievements of acclaimed international author and University of Adelaide graduate Hazel Rowley (pictured) will be commemorated at a special event in the Barr Smith Library on Saturday 19 November.

The School of Humanities will host a one-day symposium in honour of the award-winning biographer, who died in March aged 59.

Head of Humanities Professor Jean Fornasiero said the event would highlight the breadth of Rowley's work, touching on subjects close to her heart: biography, existentialism, feminism and social justice and freedom.

Guest speakers will include internationally known biographers Brian Boyd and Mary Ann Caws and tributes will be paid to Rowley, including a play reading inspired by one of her great role models, Simone de Beauvoir.

Rowley earned global recognition for four outstanding biographies, as well as many essays on social and literary questions.

She had a BA Honours in French and German Studies from the University of Adelaide, as well as a PhD in French Studies.

A comprehensive overview of her life was published in the Winter 2011 edition of *Lumen* and can be found online at: <http://j.mp/lumen45501>

To register for the *Lives of Hazel Rowley* event go to: <http://hss.adelaide.edu.au/french/conferences>



Boost to education access

The University of Adelaide and children's charity The Smith Family are working together to improve educational outcomes within South Australia's disadvantaged communities.

The new partnership is initially focusing on Adelaide's far northern suburbs, Elizabeth Vale and Smithfield Plains and the wider Playford area.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said the partnership would benefit disadvantaged children through the direct interaction and support of University of Adelaide staff and students, and provide new opportunities for them to connect with the University's campuses and learning environment.

"The University of Adelaide is proud of its strong track record in attracting and encouraging students from under-represented schools and communities with our 20-year-old pioneering Fairway Scheme and other access and participation projects," said Professor James McWha.

"We've had a highly valued relationship with The Smith Family over a number of years. This new agreement will help us have some real impact on disadvantaged communities, not only directly benefiting children within these communities but also shining new light on the opportunities that become available through participation in higher education."

Under the agreement, second-year Oral Health students from the School of Dentistry have been helping deliver the Food 4 Smiling program in the northern suburbs, aimed at improving oral health of children under five.

Ten students have been working in pairs to present good oral health messages to

parents, carers and professionals working with young children, with the focus on prevention, healthy eating and lifestyles.

The Smith Family Chief Executive Officer Dr Lisa O'Brien said: "This partnership will engage more disadvantaged students and their families in a range of learning support programs to help them build their capacity to access and make the most of opportunities."

The partnership will:

- support a Smith Family Learning for Life Worker within Elizabeth Vale and Smithfield Plains to help connect students to learning opportunities, using University of Adelaide resources and academic and student support;
- deliver educational and support programs from pre-school to adult education, including learning clubs, mentoring, digital literacy, employment skills and health and wellbeing programs;
- connect disadvantaged children and communities to the University of Adelaide's campuses and learning environments through a range of programs and outreach activities, and through access to University resources and facilities and interaction with staff and students.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above: At the signing of the agreement with The Smith Family (from left): Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha, University of Adelaide students and The Smith Family Learning for Life scholarship participants Robert Howard and Melance Ndiokubwayo, Minister for the Northern Suburbs the Hon. Michael O'Brien MP, and The Smith Family Chief Executive Officer Dr Lisa O'Brien

Drug to combat problem drinking

University of Adelaide researchers are developing a drug that may help combat alcoholism and other drinking problems.



The drug prevents the typical physical effects of drinking alcohol and may reduce the incentive to drink.

Led by Dr Mark Hutchinson, ARC Research Fellow with the University's School of Medical Sciences, the researchers found that behavioural responses to alcohol stem from an immune response in the brain.

"This immune response lies behind some of the well-known alcohol-related behavioural changes, such as difficulty controlling the muscles involved in walking and talking," said Dr Hutchinson.

The drug being developed could block this immune response and prevent typical drunken behavior like slurring and staggering.

"Alcohol is consumed annually by two billion people world-wide with its abuse posing a significant health and social

problem," said Dr Hutchinson. "Over 76 million people are diagnosed with an alcohol abuse disorder.

"This work has significant implications for our understanding of the way alcohol affects us, as it is both an immunological and neuronal response. Such a shift in mindset has significant implications for identifying individuals who may have bad outcomes after consuming alcohol, and it could lead to a way of detecting people who are at greater risk of developing brain damage after long-term drinking."

The research was published recently in the *British Journal of Pharmacology* by PhD student Yue Wu, supervisor Dr Hutchinson, and others.

Laboratory mice were given a single shot of alcohol. The researchers studied the effect of blocking toll-like receptors, a particular element of the immune system,

by using drugs. They also studied the effect of giving alcohol to mice that had been genetically altered so that their immune receptors didn't function.

"The results showed that blocking this part of the immune system, either with the drug or genetically, reduced the effects of alcohol," Dr Hutchinson said. He believes similar treatment could work in humans.

"We expect that medications targeting this specific receptor – toll-like receptor 4 – will prove beneficial in treating alcohol dependence and acute overdoses."

Dr Hutchinson said clinical trials in humans were only 18 months away with the potential for medication to be available through prescription within three years.

Story by Robyn Mills

Photo by iStock

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Adopted greyhounds make great companions for Roseworthy vet clinic

Harry, Barrett and Lilly have been playing an important role in the Companion Animal Health Centre at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus.

They are Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) dogs – the first such dogs adopted by the centre under an agreement with GAP.

GAP is an association that rescues “retired” greyhounds (they may be as young as two years old) from racing careers.

GAP usually fosters out greyhounds to homes after assessing their behaviour and suitability for households.

The Companion Animal Health Centre has developed an agreement with GAP to house up to four greyhounds per semester and use them for non-invasive teaching.

“In the time they’ve been with us, Harry, Barrett and Lilly have quickly become clinic icons,” said the Centre’s Practice Manager, Diane Whatling.

“Harry is a black-and-white inquisitive greyhound with a larger-than-life nose; Barrett is a brindle, sensitive new age greyhound; Lilly – the only female – is blue in colour and is a truly excitable girl.

“They’re like our mascots in a way, but they also serve an important purpose: helping to train the next generation of vets.”

For non-invasive teaching purposes, Vet School students can check the greyhounds’ femoral pulses or heart rates and also listen

to their respiration rates. Many students also enjoy social interaction with the dogs.

“Our students are rostered to socialise with the dogs and are often seen walking around the campus with them morning and night. When we first asked the students if they would like to be added to the roster, we were inundated with requests,” Ms Whatling said.

“In the future, our adopted greyhounds will also be used as emergency blood donors in order to support animals with blood loss, due to haemorrhage or diseases. Greyhounds make great blood donors due to their easily recognised anatomy and stoic nature.”

Ms Whatling said the Companion Animal Health Centre was pleased to be able to provide a good, temporary home for the greyhounds, but they will all move on to new homes.

“At the end of each semester our current greyhounds will become available for adoption. This is only fair – we don’t want the dogs to become institutionalised but to find a caring home in the community for the rest of their lives. After all, we want the greyhounds to have long, healthy and happy lives, which is why we’re working with GAP.

“Our greyhounds are micro-chipped, vaccinated, desexed, treated for heartworm and intestinal worm and vet checked – that’s all done in-house at the Companion Animal Health Centre.

“Greyhounds make great pets and require little exercise, contrary to belief. If anyone is interested in taking on a GAP dog, please contact us at the Companion Animal Health Centre and we can arrange a visit.”

The University of Adelaide’s School of Animal & Veterinary Science runs a Companion Animal Health Centre (for cats, dogs and other pets) at the Roseworthy Campus. Open to the public, the Companion Animal Health Centre is a commercially run part of the Veterinary Health Centre.

For more information, please contact the Companion Animal Health Centre: 08 8313 1999 or vet_reception@adelaide.edu.au

Above: The first three greyhounds adopted by the Companion Animal Health Centre (from left): Harry, Barrett and Lilly

Photo by Heidi Symons



Among the many guests at the event were (above, from left) Kathleen Zakis, Katherine Murray and John Murray, and (left) Barbara Kidman, Inese Medianik and Merry Wickes

A decade of support

The University of Adelaide recently recognised a special group of donors who have generously given to the annual Barr Smith Library Appeal every year since its inception in 2002.

Hosted last month in the Library's iconic Reading Room, 50 alumni and friends of the University enjoyed a cocktail event featuring entertainment by students from the Elder Conservatorium of Music and a display of books from the University's Special Collections.

The Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha, and University Librarian Ray Choate spoke on how the donors' valuable contributions ensure the Library can continue to cater to an ever-growing University community for generations to come.

As a thank you gift to show the University's appreciation for their decade

of valued support, guests received a commemorative letter opener etched with the historic Barr Smith Library facade on the handle. A unique publication featuring the memories and favourite books of donors who attended the event is now being arranged by the Library.

For information on ways in which you can support the University of Adelaide, please contact the Development and Alumni office on 08 8303 5800, or email: development@adelaide.edu.au

Story by Connie Dutton

Photos by Joy Prior

Alumni

PRIVILEGES

Adelaide alumni have access to a range of exclusive benefits, services and discounts – and each month we bring you the pick of the bunch for a featured special.



Special Offer of the Month: winedirect.com.au

The Festive Season is nearly here. Need wine for celebrations at home, work or even as gifts?

We have a fantastic offer – the Official 2011 Royal Adelaide Wine Show Dozen!

There are 3 trophies and 13 gold medals in this mixed dozen. Truly outstanding value with highlights including 2010 Bird in Hand Shiraz, 2010 Wolf Blass Red Label Shiraz Grenache, 2011 Peter Lehmann Riesling and 2011 Chain of Ponds Black Thursday Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc. Delivery available to anywhere in Australia.

Get in early to secure your dozen as the first 100 orders will receive a copy of the 2011 Royal Adelaide Wine Show 'Catalogue of Results'.

To secure your dozen, view more Wine Direct offers and the full alumni privileges package, go to: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/privileges





Research Tuesdays

SHARING GREAT RESEARCH WITH THE COMMUNITY

WHEN:
5.30-6.30pm Tuesday 8 November

WHERE:
Napier 102 Lecture Theatre
North Terrace Campus

ADMISSION FREE, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Register online:
adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays
or call: 08 8303 3692

Products making themselves

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the products we need and use every day were to make themselves? As all living things demonstrate, this is not just a pipedream. In fact, self-assembly is now being exploited in the manufacture of various products ranging from cosmetics to vaccines to solar panels.

Provided the fundamentals of 'self-assembly' are understood and can be exploited, it could form the basis of a new way to manufacture things that is competitive with the more traditional labour-intensive and even capital-intensive approaches. Researchers at the University of Adelaide are seeking to make this a reality.

In this presentation Professor Mark Biggs will provide an overview of the principles of



self-assembly, highlight some examples of existing technologies built at least in part using self-assembly, and talk about the potential of self-assembly into the future.

ARTS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lunchtimes at ELDERHALL

Adelaide's favourite lunchtime series of music concerts concludes its 20th birthday celebrations with two not-to-be-missed concerts.

Friday 11 November: John Davis Music Classical Music Awards – rising stars from the Elder Conservatorium of Music vie for \$2400 in prizes.

Friday 18 November: Special Lunchtimes at Elder Hall 20th Birthday Concert with the Australian String Quartet.

www.elderhall.adelaide.edu.au

When: 1.10pm Friday 11 and 18 November

Where: Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide

Cost: Tickets \$7, available at the door from 12.30pm on the day of the concert

Lives of Hazel Rowley

A one-day symposium in honour of award-winning biographer and University of Adelaide graduate Hazel Rowley, who died in March aged 59.

This event, which marks what would have been Hazel's 60th Birthday, is sponsored by the Discipline of French Studies, the JM Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice and the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Adelaide.

When: 9.00am-6.30pm (followed by a dinner at 7.30pm) Saturday 19 November

Where: Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus

Cost: Free symposium; \$60 for the dinner (drinks included)

Registration Essential. Please register online at: <http://hss.adelaide.edu.au/french/conferences>

Friends of the University of Adelaide Library – Dorothy Driver

Author Dorothy Driver has written and taught widely on South African literature and currently teaches part-time at the University of Adelaide. She will speak on issues such as the effects of apartheid on South African writers, and how South African literature has changed with the demise of apartheid.

When: 6.00pm for 6.30pm Thursday 24 November

Where: Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus

Cost: Free and open to the public. Gold coin donation invited.

RSVP: by Tuesday 22 November to Robina Weir, phone 08 8303 4064 or email robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au



Carols on Campus

Tuesday 20th December 7pm Bonython Hall

Free community event – all welcome

