WELCOME

After almost four months in the UK at the University of Sussex, it is wonderful to be back in Adelaide (although this cold weather is a shock to the system!). It is fantastic to come back to a hive of activity, with plenty of research, events and activities on the go.

I hope you find the following news items, opportunities and successes of interest.

Karen Reynolds
Leader, Flinders Medical Devices & Technologies

NEWS

2010 SA SCIENCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Congratulations to FMDAT member, Prof Joe Shapter, who received the Tertiary Science Educator of the Year Award at the SA Science Excellence Awards, held on Friday, August 13.

This award is a real testament to Joe’s inspiration, enthusiasm and passion in science education. Well done Joe!

Congratulations also to the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP), finalists in the Excellence in Research Collaboration category. It is good to see this relatively young program recognised for encouraging closer links between industry, researchers and the community.

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING RATED FASTEST GROWING CAREER FIELD BY US BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Employment projections by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics rate biomedical engineers as the fastest growing occupation, with an estimated increase of 72% between 2008-2018.

Other occupation projections through to 2018 include:

- Network systems and data communication analysts (53.4% increase)
- Computer software engineers, applications (34% increase)
- Computer software engineers, systems software (30.4% increase).

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010, Fastest growing occupations

MEMBER GRANT SUCCESS

Prof Leon Lack, together with Flinders Partners, have successfully secured $20k from Commercialisation Australia, for the Re-Time bright light therapy glasses. The funding will assist Re-Time Pty Ltd to commercialise the light therapy glasses for the treatment of insomnia and related disorders, including jet lag and depression. Prof Lack has recently been working with the Medical Device Partnering Program to produce 10 prototype glasses prior to manufacture.

UPCOMING GRANT DEADLINES

- ARC Linkage Projects 2011 Round 2
  Open for proposals in RMS – 22 September 2010, closes 17 November 2010

- Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation 2011
  - closing date 24 September 2010

- SKTP (Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnership) Fellowship Program
  The SKTP will have 20 x $10,000 grants available from 2011 for research involving community linkage. Watch this space, more details to follow.

Note: the dates above are the internal closing dates for the Research Services Office unless specified otherwise.

ASRI UPDATE

NEW FMDAT MENTORING SCHEME

Following a number of requests, FMDAT have established a new mentoring scheme. Guidelines for this scheme will be distributed shortly. If you are interested in having a mentor or in becoming a mentor, please contact Carmela Sergi, Manager Strategic Initiatives via email at carmela.sergi@flinders.edu.au.

FMDAT WEBSITE

FMDAT have a NEW look website. A special thanks to Cheryl Walker (Faculty of Science & Engineering) for all her hard work in getting this up and running. The website will continue to see developments, including flash images and the ability to link to videos etc. If you have any suggestions or material to include on the website, please contact Kelly Burton, Project Officer via email at kelly.burton@flinders.edu.au. To keep the website current, make sure you continue to keep Kelly updated on any news/media items.
UPCOMING EVENTS

WAR STORIES - LESSONS LEARNT

The next MDPP networking breakfast will be held on Monday 13 September. Listen and learn from successful medical device companies as they disclose their ‘war stories’ and make the most of this opportunity to network with existing and new external partners. Guest speakers include Dr Meera Verma, Mr Stewart Bartlett and Ms Ann Angel. For more information refer to the program.

INNOVATION SHOWCASE - 30 SEPTEMBER

Flinders University and Flinders Partners invite you to take part in an afternoon of ideas, innovation and commercialisation. On the afternoon of September 30, Flinders University will showcase its innovative research to attract Higher Degree Research students and potential industry collaborations. Further details about this event will be provided in the coming weeks, but save this date.

MEDICAL DEVICES & TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Plans for a Medical Devices & Technologies Research Showcase during the weeks following the Innovation Showcase are underway. Stay posted for more details!

PAST EVENTS

$HOW ME THE MONEY: HOW TO PREPARE SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

This comprehensive workshop included presentations by Prof Mike Bull (ARC grants), Prof Keryn Williams (NHMRC grants) and Ms Christine Maher (Budget Tool). A panel session followed including our expert presenters, Prof Phyllis Tharenou and Flinders Partners. If you would like to view the PowerPoint presentations, visit the FMDAT website to download.

MDPP NETWORKING BREAKFAST - MEDICAL DEVICE SERVICE PROVIDER FORUM

The most recent MDPP networking breakfast session was held at the BioSA Incubator Conference Centre on 22 July 2010. A number of South Australian service providers were invited to present a short one-minute overview of their company along with a ‘special offer’ to MDPP participants.

STUDENT NEWS

Editors of news group, Indian Express, recently visited Flinders University and spoke with FMDAT student member, Karthik Pasumarthy, about his experiences whilst studying at Flinders (with a focus on his Biomedical Engineering Masters degree). The article (due to be published in the Sept/Oct full-glossy edition) is great exposure for the University, and aims to encourage other Indian students to study at Flinders.

FMDAT MEMBER PROFILE

Dr Sean Fitzgibbon

Research Focus:

Sean is a postdoc in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory in CSEM. He has a background in Cognitive Science and particularly signal processing of biological signals.

He is primarily working on an ARC funded project to develop a neuroimaging technique for improved spatiotemporal identification and localisation. The objective of this project is to develop and evaluate technology that permits the concurrent recording of very high-density localised EEG (~2mm spatial resolution) at specific scalp regions of interest and conventional EEG from the rest of the scalp to achieve higher spatial resolution and reduce localisation error.

Sean is also working to establish EEG capability in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and is conducting and/or supervising several EEG related projects which include the brain controlled wheelchair, workload and vigilance monitoring, adaptive interfaces, machine learning approaches to brain-computer interfacing (BCI), and practical application of BCI technology to the severely disabled.

He is also very interested in mobile application development and has guest lectured on this topic.

When he's not working, Sean enjoys ..... His family and the footy (The Mighty Tigers)

Sean's favourite food is..... All food!

The last movie that Sean watched is ..... Percy Jackson and the Olympians (with my kids!)

Sean's favourite television show is ..... The West Wing

Sean is currently reading ..... Eragon by Christopher Paolini (reading it to my daughter)

STUDENT CORNER

Our student membership numbers are continuing to grow, which is fantastic. I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome new members who are undertaking studies in the field of biomechanics. Ms Rosidah Lazid commenced her PhD in June under Prof Karen Reynolds and Behnam Zakavi has commenced his Masters with Dr John Costi.

Please remember to keep us updated on any new students or awards and achievements.