CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Christmas is fast approaching and I am sure you are all looking forward to a well earned break. As you will see in this newsletter, there has been a lot of activity over the past few months within the group and I look forward to this continuing in 2011.

I wish you all an enjoyable festive season.

Karen Reynolds
Leader, Flinders Medical Devices & Technologies

NEWS

KAREN REYNOLDS WINS AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Prof Karen Reynolds who was awarded the highest honour available to a practicing engineer in Australia, by being named Australian Professional Engineer of the Year at the 2010 Australian Engineering Excellence Awards in Canberra on November 24. This achievement follows her earlier accolade, being named South Australia’s Professional Engineer of the Year on 10 September 2010.

To read the full article, click here.

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Carmela Sergi and husband John, who welcomed their baby daughter Alessia Sergi to the family on the 11th November.

Congratulations also to Dr Paul Gardener-Stephen and wife Dione, who welcomed their son, Caleb Archie on the 23rd November.

MDPP WIN 2010 TIA EXCELLENCE AWARD!

The Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) was awarded the Service to the Electronics and/or ICT Industry Excellence Award at the 2010 Technology Industry Association (TIA) Annual Gala Dinner on Friday 29 October. Congratulations to all MDPP partners!

To read the full article, click here.

MEMBER GRANT SUCCESS

Congratulations to the following members who secured grants over the past three months;

- ARC Discovery Grant
  A/Prof Kenneth Pope, Em/Prof. John Willoughby, Prof. David Powers and Dr. Trent Lewis secured $225K to go towards their project, "Enhanced brain and muscle signal separation verified by electrical scalp recordings from paralysed awake humans".

- ARC Linkage Grant
  Prof. John Roddick, and company rL solutions secured $163K towards their project, "Techniques for active conceptual modelling and guided data mining for rapid knowledge discovery”.

- Dr Trent Lewis and Dr Martin Luerssen have been awarded a “Researcher in Business” grant to develop a mobile phone talking agent.

- A/Prof. Murk Bottema, Dr Mariusz Baiger, Dr Gobert Lee, Dr Simon Williams and Peter Downey (BSSA) secured a grant from the Lyn Wrigley Breast Cancer Research and Development Fund for 2011 to work on image segmentation specific to x-ray images.

UPCOMING GRANT DEADLINES

- Vice Chancellor’s Awards for Early Career Researchers - 3 December 2010

- SKTP - Knowledge Exchange Grants
  Round 1 - 10 January 2011
  Round 2 - 6 June 2011

- Churchill Fellowships 2011 - 28 February 2011

- ARC 2012 Discovery Projects
  Closing date for applications - Monday 21 March 2011
  Anticipated release of the funding rules is Jan 2011

- NHMRC 2012 Project Grants
  Closing date for applications - Tuesday 8 March 2011
  Anticipated release of the funding policy is 6 Dec 2010

Note: the dates above are external closing dates however internal closing dates may apply. For more information, please contact the Research Services Office.
ASRI UPDATE

FMDAT MENTORING SCHEME

The FMDAT Mentoring Scheme has been well received, with several members already making the most of this initiative. If you are interested in having a mentor, please contact Kelly Burton at any time via email at kelly.burton@flinders.edu.au. To view a copy of the guidelines, click here or alternatively, contact Kelly for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MDPP CHRISTMAS DRINKS

The MDPP Christmas Drinks will be held on Wednesday 1st December from 4.30pm-6.30pm in the Engineering Courtyard, Flinders University. All FMDAT members are invited to attend. Help us celebrate 2010 with good food, great wine and excellent company.

FMDAT RESEARCH SHOWCASE - 14 FEBRUARY 2011

The FMDAT Research Showcase will be held on Monday 14 February in the SILC Building, Flinders University. This event will be a great opportunity to display our research to potential industry collaborators, companies, government affiliates and other FMDAT members. More information will be distributed soon, but please save this date in your calendars.

PAST EVENTS

WAR STORIES - LESSON’S LEARNT

The War Stories - Lessons Learnt Networking Breakfast was held at the BioSA Incubator Conference Centre on the 13th September 2010. Guest speakers included;
- Mr Stewart Bartlett, Signostics Limited
- Ms Ann Angel, RianCorp Pty Ltd
- Dr Meera Verma, Hospira Adelaide Pty Ltd

This event provided a unique opportunity to listen and learn from some successful companies who revealed the obstacles they have endured on their road to success. To view the presentations, visit the MDPP website.

RESEARCH INNOVATION SHOWCASE

The Flinders University Research Innovation Showcase was held on the 30th September 2010. The MDPP were invited to give a short presentation at the event and were also allocated a stand to display some projects. FMDAT members, Prof. Leon Lack, Dr Richard Leibbrandt and Dr Paul Gardner-Stephen were also invited to give a short presentation on their respective areas of research.

Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered their time on the day.

MEDICAL DEVICE PARTNERING PROGRAM (MDPP) - UPDATE

The Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) are working closely with the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) to finalise plans for the Program beyond the June 2011 funding period. The Program will be strengthened by additional commercialisation focus and funding opportunities. More information will be announced soon.
STUDENT CORNER
(BY MELISSA RYAN)

Our student members have been very busy these past months....

A big congratulations to the following members who have been awarded their PhD’s during the last three months;
- Mark McEwen
- Anna Shillabeer
- Brett Wilkinson
- Cyle Sprick
- Olivia Lockwood

We would also like to welcome a new PhD student, Ms Xizhao (Kelly) Li. Kelly commenced her doctoral studies on the 5th November and will be working on spatial-temporal characterisation of breast tissue.

Well done also to both John Reilly and Paul Colquhoun who have recently completed their honours; Paul also won the RS & SMBE prizes at the CSEM Honours Expo in October.

Likewise, congratulations to Lachlan Eberhard and Karthik Pasumarthy who were awarded 1st and 2nd prize at the 2010 Student Papers Night for Biomedical Engineering & Medical Physics.

Finally, we are planning an informal end of year celebration at the Belair Hotel on Friday 10th December from 5pm. All members are welcome to join us for a drink, and those who wish to, can stay on for a bite to eat. Hope to see lots of you there!

FMDAT MEMBER PROFILE

Prof Neil Piller:
Lymphoedema Assessment Clinic,
Department of Surgery

Research Focus:
My major interest relates to the accurate and objective diagnosis of lymphoedemas and of their differential diagnosis from other reasons for a swollen limb such as lipodema (genetic), myxoedema (thyroid), oedema (vascular) and the like. In addition to this, our group spends a lot of time in clinical trial work, usually testing out new ideas for better treatment of lymphoedemas.

In terms of what is most important in all of this are the collaborations and quality working relationships with members and other departments within Flinders University and the Hospital, in particular Flinders Biomedical Engineering.

Currently working on:
Bras and their impact on breast health. The lymphatic system is a low pressure system and it does not take much external pressure to slow or stop its flow. Together with Jan Douglass (of the assessment clinic) I am currently assessing the impact of bras on breast and arm lymphedema, using some of the pressure sensing and Tonometry instruments developed by the Biomedical Engineering department.

We are also busy validating the new tissue Indurometer (which is a surrogate measure of fibre build-up in the tissues).

When your not working, what do you enjoy?
Fishing, surfing, bike riding and a glass (or two) of good red wine with friends and family!

What is your favourite food?
Fish, fresh caught, marinated in home made lime jam and macadamia oil and lemon myrtle, served with kumera and a salad of greens from the garden.

What is the last movie that you watched?
SALT! Wow, kept me occupied the whole time which is unusual given my movie watching attention span!

What is your favourite television show?
I tend to avoid it, but if I must look at something it's the quality documentaries on SBS.

What are you currently reading?
New Scientist, every night a different idea! But in terms of a novel, there are two; *Hell West and Crooked* (A real life story about a real life croc Dundee) and re-reading *Conversations with God* (that's what its about), interesting and thought provoking.