Australian Partners in Malaysian research

Two Australian researchers have been included in a fundamental research grant awarded by the Malaysian government, to a research team based at the Universiti of Sains Malaysia.

A/Prof Peter Kell (UoW) and Dr Marilyn Kell (UWS) are the Australian partners in the grant entitled Constructing a New Model For International Literacy Testing and Indexes. This research will look at development in international testing and the feasibility of testing in Malaysia. Malaysia is not currently included in the major international literacy and numeracy testing.

The team from the International Research Unit at USM is led by Professor Ambigapathy Pandian and includes Dr Syed Zianal Arif Mohammad Kapilan Abdullah and Dr Aniswal Abd. Gani.

The successful Malaysian application emerged from a university research grant at UoW. A/Prof Peter Kell and Dr Mohan Chinnappan were awarded $13,500 to undertake preliminary research into international literacy tests such as Program for International Student Achievement (PISA) and tests in science and maths such as Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Dr Chinnappan also has a UoW international linkage grant where USM is a partner.

USM is one of four research Universities in Malaysia and has an active partnership with the University of Wollongong.

The project has a schedule of 3 years, commencing in May 2009.

Research Student Colloquium – 8 August 2008

The 22nd Research Student Colloquium held on Friday 8 August was very successful with a range of interesting topics presented. Many thanks to participating students, supervisors and academic staff who attended to support the presenters and engage with their research.

The format of one whole-day was seen as a positive change by all attending.

Planning has commenced for the next Colloquium, to be held in February 2009.

Awards and other great news . . .

• Nicola Johnson, Rod Clarke (Commerce) and Jan Herrington have been awarded $19,286 for the project titled ‘Developing interdisciplinary collaboration in SInet using an online enterprise wiki’. A conference paper explaining the rationale and focuses of the project was recently presented at the Emerging Technologies Conference and can be found at http://ro.uow.edu.au/etc08/12. The emlab are hosting the software titled ‘Confluence’. This enterprise wiki will be available to all members of SInet.

• Rachel Jones was invited to present at the Graduate Medical School Research Forum.

• Annaliese Riethmuller was one of two highly commended students receiving an award at the recent Trailblazer innovation competition for “Jump Start”, a physical activity program for early childhood settings.

• Rachel Jones was a finalist in the open category for her Time2bhealthy Program for promoting healthy eating and physical activity in pre-school aged children.
Publications Update

Don’t forget, you do not have to wait for the annual publication collection. You can enter your information in RIS and bring the documentation to Kim Oborn at anytime throughout the year.

**Verified 2008 publications:**


Update on Research Projects

Time2behealthy program (Rachel Jones) - Useability and functionality testing has been completed.

FILA program (Louisa Peralta) – Completed first drafts of methodology and results chapters for both the Proof-of-concept trial and Pilot RCT. Discussion and Introduction chapters are currently being drafted.

Jump start (Annaleise Riethmuller) - Currently testing program in long day care centres. Of the 20-week intervention, 12 weeks have been completed to date, with very positive responses from staff and children. Pre-test and process data collection has been collected successfully and planning has begun for post-test data collection.

Grants


Jones RA, Okely AD, Trezise J. Jump Start: A motor development program to promote physical activity among pre-school-aged children. Faculty Grant (awarded $7000, 2008)

In addition, Tony Okely and Jan Wright led a consortium involving researchers from University of Sydney, University of Newcastle, Charles Sturt University, and University of New England who successfully tendered for the NSW DET’s Girls in Sport initiative, a research project aimed at preventing the decline in physical activity among adolescent girls. The tender is worth $300,000 and work will start on the project in October 2008 and continue until the end of 2010.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles


