News from the Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome Brin Grenyer as the Deputy Chair of the FRC. Over the next few months Brin and I will be working on a series of projects to enhance research in the Faculty, and we will be keeping you up to date on these through the Newsletter (as well as through the usual communication processes, such as Faculty Meetings).

The next rounds of competitive grants are fast approaching their deadlines. As with the last few rounds, resources have been made available within the Faculty to assist with the preparation of grant applications; and we will be continuing to offer this service, so please let me know if there are specific areas you would like assistance with for the next round of external funding. Once again, I would like to “encourage” people to submit their draft applications as early as possible and to make sure that they allow sufficient time to get the requisite signatures prior to submission.

There are a range of other funding opportunities coming up over the next few weeks and months, and we will continue to provide information on these as we receive it – please see page 2 for current calls for funding.

The first round of Faculty funding for 2006 has been announced, and the successful applicants are already making progress on their various projects. The call for applications for the second round of funding will be issued soon, with applications closing early June (for commencement on 01 July).

We are also in the process of auditing the reporting on previous Faculty funding (Staff and Student) so – if you have not already done so – please make sure that you have submitted your final report on completed projects (including Scholarships, Conference Travel, and all categories of research grants). Sue Low (FRC Secretary) will be sending out “reminders” over the next few weeks. Please note that people with outstanding reports will not be eligible for subsequent funding rounds.

The next issue of the FRC Newsletter will be published August, and the deadline for submissions is in the second week of July.
Research News

Research Funding

Internal Funding
- Partnership Grants – no deadline
- RIBGs – close 08 May
- UIC International Links Grants Scheme – close 5 June (forms and guidelines available 15 May)
- URC Small Grants Scheme 2007 – close 31 July (forms and guidelines TBA)

External Funding
- NHMRC Training Awards (Postdoctoral Fellowships) – close 07 July
- ARC Linkage International Fellowships – close 14 July
- ARC Linkage International – close 14 July
- NHMRC Training Awards (Scholarships) – close 04 August

Research Administration

New: Research Integrated System (RIS) and Research Online

Last year, the university conducted an assessment of the research systems framework, which identified problems such as a lack of access to data by key staff, databases without online interface, lack of integration and communication with current systems and difficulties gathering reliable and accurate data for internal and external reporting.

In response to this, the university is in the process of implementing a single core system for all faculties, with the first stage to be completed and online by July 2006. This will mean for staff that they can update their own web profiles, add new publications themselves, and use the CV helper function of the new system to create instant CVs. Stage 2 of the system implementation (ending March 2007) will incorporate a similar framework for grants, ethics applications and approvals, and HDR student information.

The system will incorporate your research interest keywords (that most of you will have given recently to the FRC) so that these can now be easily matched across faculties. The system will also talk to the DEST database to make the DEST publication collection easier, and data from previous publication collections will be imported into this system. It will have search features so that staff and other researchers can easily identify publications of interest and importantly, publications will be linked to the new Research Online archival system, so that full-text publications can be accessed from the researchers own web profile.

Research Online (ro.uow.edu.au) is an open access digital archive promoting the scholarly output of UoW. It will initially contain preprints of journal articles and conference papers written by UoW authors from 2000-2005. It will give increased visibility to UOW research and can be found using Google.

These are major and exciting changes – stand by for more information…

Research Centre Profile

The Illawarra Institute for Mental Health (iiMH) integrates research, training and service development through a strategic alliance between the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, University of Wollongong and South East Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIAHS). The iiMH works closely with mental health services in the Illawarra region of NSW. However, it also has strong collaborative research relationships with public, non-government and charitable mental health service providers in South Australia, Victoria, ACT, and Queensland.

Since the establishment of iiMH in 1998 the emphasis has been on applied clinical research in mental health services to help treat mental disorders. However, there is also work done at the mental health promotion and prevention end of the spectrum - research is being conducted that helps better understand help seeking behaviours for psychological distress, predictors of healthy psychological functioning.
National Competitive Grants

- A major grant has been the NHMRC Health Partnerships Grant held in conjunction with the University of Queensland. The overall goal of what is known as the Australian Integrated Mental Health Initiative (AIMhi) is to improve the health of people who have chronic and recurring mental disorders. This provides $2.5 million in NHMRC funding over a 5 year period for three research streams, Indigenous, Rural and High Support. Researchers in iiMH (Deane, Oades, Crowe) coordinate the High Support stream which together with partner cash contributions involves managing a budget of over $1.5 million over 5 years. The stream focuses on evaluating the outcomes of the Collaborative Recovery Training Program which involves training mental health workers in specific psychosocial interventions skills and then implementing those with individuals who have psychotic disorders of a long standing and recurring nature (predominantly schizophrenia). Over 350 mental health workers from 10 organisations across four states (NSW, Qld, Vic, SA) have been trained. There are 6 PhD students conducting their doctoral research emanating from the grant.

- An ARC Linkage grant with Illawarra Area Mental Health as the partner is looking at area-wide aggression and violence minimisation (Greyner).

- An ARC Linkage grant with the NSW Police as the partner aims to reduce stress and improve psychological performance in the police force (Ciarrochi, Deane).

- An ARC Linkage grant with the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Wollongong involves a longitudinal study that aims to identify the antecedents of emotional well-being and school success amongst adolescents (Heaven, Ciarrochi, Vialle).

Other Research Consultancies

In addition to National Competitive Grants, researchers affiliated with iiMH have been very successful in attracting other sources of funds to support research projects. Examples include work with Lifeline South Coast, the Illawarra Division of General Practice, Schizophrenia Fellowship NSW, Neuroscience Institute for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders, Eli Lilly, NSW Dept of Corrective Services, MidWestern, Macquarie, Southern, and Illawarra Area Mental Health Services, and a wide range of non-government organisations.

- The Medication Alliance program (Byrne & Deane) provides a good illustration of this kind of research. Overall, this research program aims to improve medication adherence in people with mental disorders. The initial focus has been on individuals with psychotic disorders (predominantly schizophrenia). The research ranges from better understanding predictors of nonadherence, staff factors (e.g., attitudes) that effect adherence in patients and the effectiveness of interventions to improve adherence. Initially, funding was provided by a Quality Use of Medicine Evaluation Program (QUMEP) seacking grant from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. This was followed by grants from Eli Lilly and the Australian and NZ College of Mental Health Nurses to develop a mental health worker training program to enhance adherence. This training program has undergone a series of revisions following funded research with mental health services in Tasmania, NSW and Victoria. Initial promising outcomes have lead to a recent request for the training at a 900-bed psychiatric hospital located in Tacoma, Washington, USA. A variant of the Medication Alliance training has been implemented in a clinical trial for depression in primary care settings in Victoria (funded by Beyond Blue/Victorian Centre Excellence). The aim is to apply for a NHMRC Project grant to conduct a large randomized clinical trial of the Medication Alliance program in Australia.

- Although iiMH has a focus on clinically relevant applied research, theory and ‘basic’ research are also highly valued and this is reflected in the links with the Brain & Behaviour Research Institute and others in the Faculty. Dr. Nadia Solowij is conducting work that bridges basic and applied research and connects with other strengths within the faculty. For example, a study using functional magnetic resonance imaging of verbal learning and memory in cannabis users and schizophrenia patients with long term cannabis use (Solowij, Respondek, Seal, Ward, Shnier, Grenyer, Gordon) aims to gain a better understanding of the neurobiological interactions between cannabis effects on brain function and impaired cognitive functioning in schizophrenia. This has been funded by the Ramaciotti Foundation and NISAD.
• Several other researchers have links between iiMH and other units also conducting research related to mental health. For example, Dr. Craig Gonsalvez is leading a study titled “Prediction of problem gamblers using ambulatory psychophysiology” (Gonsalvez, Blaszczinski, Clarke). The research program examines the use of psychophysiological measures to identify individuals at high-risk for problem gambling, so that preventative interventions could be trialled. An ARC Linkage Grant with TABCORP as the Industry partner has been submitted.

Commercialisation & Innovation

Trailblazer 2006

The University of Wollongong is again running Trailblazer – an innovation competition open to all UoW researchers and students. If you have an exciting idea or early-stage research with commercial potential, enter Trailblazer. Visit our website: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/trailblazer

The purpose of the competition is to stimulate and motivate innovative and entrepreneurial activity. Entries from all research disciplines are encouraged, whether they relate to businesses, products, services or technologies.

Entries close Friday, 19 May 2006.
Further information contact your faculty MICD. Aapo Skorulis x4578 or aapo@uow.edu.au

The prizes are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Winners (can be a student)</th>
<th>Student Winners</th>
<th>Highly Commended</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First: $5,000</td>
<td>First $2,000</td>
<td>Open (x2) $1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner-up: $3,000</td>
<td>Runner-up $1,000</td>
<td>Student (x2) $500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Commercialisation Workshop

Last month staff and HDR students from the faculty attended an intensive workshop run by UniQuest over two days on innovation and its commercialisation. The staff member was Dr Lindsay Oades and the students Melissa Lynch, Yasmine Probst & Robert Battisti. Topics covered included Assessing the market, protecting your intellectual property, commercialisation options, consulting, licensing, venture capital and pitching your idea.

Wollongong represented itself admirably against the teams from the University of Queensland with our staff team coming second in the final pitch session and UoW students winning their section.

Intellectual Property Policy

The University’s Intellectual property Policy is current being reviewed and all staff and students should take the opportunity to provide feedback. The draft policy is available from UOW by contacting Dr Troy Coyle on 4420 or tcoyle@uow.edu.au.

Innovation Week

The Illawarra Innovation week is being held from 8 – 14 May. The University is involved in showcasing some of its activities. Specific details are available at: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/innovationweek06.html. They include a lecture on nanotechnology – will it change the world we live in?, tours of the Intelligent Polymers Research Institute, an innovative musical performance and IT services, tools and usability testing demonstration.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sharon Monterrubio (PhD student, Psychology) for being awarded a prestigious Neuroscience Institute for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders (NISAD) scholarship and research maintenance funds for her project on Fatty acids, Endocannabinoids, Nicotinic deficits and Stress (FENDS) in schizophrenia. Sharon and her supervisors (Dr Nadia Solowij, Psychology and Dr Barbara Meyer, BMS) have enjoyed recent success with several publications in international journals (highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter). In particular, their comments on a recent review published in the American Journal of Psychiatry were hailed as “interesting and provocative”, suggesting “new directions in investigating the etiology and treatment of schizophrenia”. When research work is in germinal stages, Letters to the Editor can be a timely way to publish pivotal hypotheses. As well as being funded by NISAD, this research has been supported by the FRC and iiMH. The overall team includes collaborative work.
Visitors to the Biomechanics Research Laboratory

Each year approximately four to five undergraduate students studying at universities around the world spend 3 to 12 months within the Biomechanics Research Laboratory (BRL) as placement students to gain experience in a biomechanics research environment. These self-funded students actively participate in all activities associated with the BRL, gaining diverse research experience while providing valuable research assistance to local BRL researchers. These students also generate an international flavour within the laboratory environment as well as providing potential foundations for developing international research collaborations with prestigious overseas partners.

Students currently within the BRL for 6 months include Jens Dassen and Andy Wijnen, both from the University of Zuyd, The Netherlands, who are investigating the scope of injuries associated with hang gliding as well as assisting to develop electromyographic analysis software. Denise Schmid, a Human Movement Science student from the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), is a member of the BRL for 3 months, assisting PhD student Karen Mickle in quantifying the structure and function of the feet of elderly people throughout the Sydney metropolitan and Illawarra regions. The three students also assist other BRL research students during data collection and analysis to gain as diverse an experience as possible. As Denise states: “It is a great opportunity for me to talk to Australian people while travelling around a little bit and having insight in how to conduct a research study. I am really enjoying my stay here in Australia and I am having a good time!” Please make these students welcome.

Well done also to the following students who won PhD and Honours scholarships for 2006:

**APA & UPA post-graduate research student scholarships**
- Jessica Lea Browne - Psychology
- Natalie Glasser - Psychology
- Sinead McGuiness - Psychology
- Renee Henry - BMS
- John William Whitting – BMS

**$2,000 UOW Honours Scholarships**
- Caterina Giorgi - Public Health & Nutrition
- Jessica Rae Nealon - BMS
- Julijana Eftimoska - Psychology
- Gregory Parriel - Public Health & Nutrition
- Sarah Opychane – Psychology

**Congratulations to members of the Biomechanics Research Laboratory:**

- Deirdre McGhee, Biomechanics Research Laboratory, who was awarded the 2006 University of Wollongong OCTAL Award for the Faculty of H&BS for her outstanding contribution to teaching and learning. Deirdre will be honoured at the Vice-Chancellor’s awards ceremony to be held on 23 June 2006.

- Dianne Riddiford and Julie Steele, who have been short-listed for the prestigious “Novel Award” (10,000 Euro: for the best scientific work in pressure distribution measurement) for their research titled *Obesity, midfoot plantar pressures and plantar fat pad thickness: Are these parameters related in children?* The short-listed applicants will now will be judged based on full manuscripts to be submitted to the International Award Committee. The outcome of the award will be announced at the 10th ESM to be held in the mountains of Bavaria, Germany later this year, where Diane and Julie have been invited to present the findings of their work.

cont. 📥
## Research grants awarded – External

Congratulations to all the following researchers for their fantastic grant success:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chief Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Funding Program</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Chief Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Funding Program</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mitch Byrne</td>
<td>Total value with in kind approximately $22,000</td>
<td>URC New Partnerships Grant in conjunction with ACT.</td>
<td>Effective use of violence risk assessments in Mental Health.</td>
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<td>Joseph Ciarrochi and JT Blackledge in collaboration with Lis Lane (Wollongong Hospital)</td>
<td>$86,570 (2006-7).</td>
<td>Cancer Institute NSW.</td>
<td>Support a Psycho-oncology clinical fellowship and evaluate an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy intervention amongst cancer patients.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Ciarrochi in collaboration with Lis Lane (Wollongong Hospital)</td>
<td>$70,890 (2006-7).</td>
<td>NSW Cancer Council.</td>
<td>Evaluate the efficacy of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy in helping cancer clients to reduce distress and live more vital, value-congruent lives. This project will evaluate ACT in groups, whereas the other grant examines ACT with individual clients.</td>
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<td>Sandra Jones, Don Iverson, Chris Puplick, John Rossiter, Max Sutherland and Julian Gold</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>NHMRC – Calls for Urgent research.</td>
<td>Potential avian influenza induced pandemic: minimising public panic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Jones and Danika Hall (Industry partner is Megan Dephoff from AFNSW)</td>
<td>Grand total of $25,667 (UOW contribution $8,000. Asthma Foundation NSW contribution $12,267 + $5,400 in kind).</td>
<td>UOW URC New Partnerships Grants Scheme - Asthma Foundation.</td>
<td>Investigation into asthma awareness and education in the 65+ age group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Monterrubio</td>
<td>PhD Scholarship</td>
<td>The Neuroscience Institute of Schizophrenia (NISAD).</td>
<td>Fatty acids, Endocannabinoids, Nicotinic deficits and Stress (FENDS) in schizophrenia.</td>
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</table>
# Internal Research grants awarded
## HBS FRC Grant Schemes (Round 1, 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>CHIEF INVESTIGATORS</th>
<th>PROJECT TITLE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Career Researcher Grant Scheme</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Dr Simone Favelle</td>
<td>Tracking eye movements during face recognition.</td>
<td>$2,891.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Publication Assistance Scheme</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Dr Craig Gonsalvez</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,329.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Prof Julie Steele</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Prof Robert Barry</td>
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<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seeding Grants Scheme</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health sciences</td>
<td>Dr Xu-Feng Huang</td>
<td>NDMA receptor hypofunction during perinatal brain development: implications for schizophrenia.</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collaborative Links Scheme</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Prof Julie Steele</td>
<td>Travel to Germany to finalise research collaboration agreement with Biomechanics Lab, University Clinics Tubingen, Germany.</td>
<td>$4,603.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small Grants Scheme</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Dr Stephen Palmisano</td>
<td>Investigation of terrain specific visual cues for aircraft landing.</td>
<td>$4,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Dr Chao Deng</td>
<td>The effect of antipsychotic drugs on the density of neuropeptide Y receptors in the brain stem of rats.</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Dr Nadia Solowij</td>
<td>Effects of comorbid cannabis use and schizophrenia on memory, apathy and executive functioning.</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Dr Bridget Munro</td>
<td>Do Rotasole shoes reduce loads on the anterior cruciate ligament?</td>
<td>$4,275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Leaders Scheme</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Todd Mitchell</td>
<td>Dr Kim Ekroos, Senior Research Scientist, AstraZeneca DMPK, Sweden.</td>
<td>$2,230.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology &amp; iiMH</td>
<td>Nigel Mackay</td>
<td>Prof Stephen Soldz, Director, Center for Research, Evaluation and Program Development, Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis.</td>
<td>$2,600.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Publications


Research Development Training Courses

(offered by the Career Development Unit)

*Research Grant Management Workshop Series*

NEW MODULAR FORMAT! Each workshop is designed to stand alone and staff are welcome to attend all or some of the workshops. Staff who have recently been awarded internal grants (eg, small grants) and/or external grants (eg, ARC/NHMRC etc) are particularly encouraged to attend. See below for workshops coming up…

- **Research Ethics - Date: Thursday 4 May, 2006, 12.30pm - 1.30pm**
  - Applying for ethical approval of a research project
  - Ethics committees

- **Where do I publish and Discovering Funding Opportunities - Date: Thursday 18 May, 2006, 12.30pm - 1.30pm**
  - Why should I publish?
  - Publication attributes
  - Useful databases available through the Library

- **Reporting Research Outcomes - Date: Thursday 1 June, 2006, 12.30pm - 1.30pm**
  - Why report research outcomes?
  - Reporting requirements
  - Elements of a good progress report
  - Elements of a good final report
  - Consequences of not reporting/poor reporting
Research Development Training Courses (cont.)
(offered by the Career Development Unit)

Managing Partnerships Relationships - Date: Thursday 29 June, 2006, 12.30pm - 1.30pm
- the legal responsibilities of UOW in managing ARC Linkage/ NHMRC Development grants, including the responsibilities of the Chief Investigator
- what the industry partner will expect
- the chain of events from attracting an industry partner and initial discussions to contract negotiations and post-award project management.

Unlocking the Secrets of Research Grant Writing
May/June Workshop
Duration: Session 1 - 9.30am - 4.00pm Wednesday 31 May, 2006
Session 2 - 2.00pm - 5.00pm (Optional) Wednesday 21 June, 2006

September/October Workshop
Duration: Session 1 - 9.30am - 4.00pm Wednesday 6 September, 2006
Session 2 - 9.30am - 12.30pm (Optional) Wednesday 4 October, 2006

- The workshop will be split into two sessions. The first session will cover all aspects of the grant process including:
  - Developing your track record
  - Establishing a research program
  - Research funding opportunities
  - Where should I publish?
  - Personal perspectives on developing grants from academics with a successful track record
  - Practical skills in writing grant applications

- During the second session (Optional), participants will be required to prepare and discuss their own grant applications with experienced reviewers in a peer review round table setting.

Jump Starting Your Research
Date: Thursday 20 July, 2006, 10:00am - 3:00pm
Recommended for female academic staff who wish to enhance their research activity.
Facilitator: Robyn Weekes, Director EED Unit. Prof Margaret Sheil, PVC Research.
Visit the career development website for the many other professional development courses available: http://staff.uow.edu.au/cdu/calendar/index.html
Library Tips

SERIOUSLY, TRY SCIRUS

Are you a googler? Why limit yourself to a general search engine? Scirus is a scientific search engine and excludes all those extra hits you don’t want. For example, searching for Dolly the sheep in Google returns hits with Dolly the sheep as well as Dolly Parton; Scirus only returns hits for Dolly the sheep.

Scirus organises your results into journal results, preferred web results, other web results. It also provides a list of alternative words to refine your results. Try Scirus today!

Interested in more search engines like Google Scholar?

Follow the link from the Library homepage: www.library.uow.edu.au > Resources by Topic > S > Search engines

Scopus, you’ll love it!

It’s a trial database and we need your feedback. Scopus searches for information in 25 million abstracts, in 15,000 peer reviewed titles. The Cited by link is a quick and easy method to sort your search results by the number of times an article has been cited.

For researchers this database provides a wealth of knowledge on all aspects of health and behavioural sciences. Give it a try and tell us what you think!

Tip!: truncation symbol is *

TESTIMONIALS FROM HBS RESEARCHERS:

“Scopus is excellent, easy to use & understand/navigate”

“Scopus database is excellent – will now be my preferred database”

PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO NEIL GRANT, ELECTRONIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

E: neil_grant@uow.edu.au

FOLLOW THE LINK FROM THE LIBRARY HOMEPAGE:

www.library.uow.edu.au > Databases > S > Scopus