

Research Symposium a Great Success



Over eighty clinicians, postgraduate students and colleagues attended the 50th Anniversary Curtin Physiotherapy Research Symposium, which was held on the Bentley campus of the University on February 15th. The title and theme of the Symposium, "Physio Research @ Curtin: the past, the present and the future", was well illustrated by the Head of School, Professor Tony Wright who revisited, with slides, some of the early research conducted by staff, including the current Vice Chancellor, Professor Lance Twomey and the previous Head of School, Professor Joan Cole.

Professor Wright also outlined the new research structure within the School, which is based around four research teams in the areas of musculoskeletal dysfunction, motor learning and control, lifestyles and health, and teaching, learning and technology. Additional mention was made of the research conducted by Joe Farrell and Wendy Pentland who were the first Masters and PhD students to graduate from the school. Tony also highlighted the Schools success in gaining major research grants from NHMRC and other bodies.

Members of staff and PhD students, representing each of the teams, gave short presentations outlining the scope of their research and their plans for the future. Associate Professor Sue Jenkins provided an interesting summary of the research she is performing in pulmonary rehabilitation at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. The value of exercise programs for improving mobility and function in the elderly was presented by Annette Brown while Associate Professor Leon Straker explained the novel web-based student feedback system which has been developed by the School.

Doctoral student, Sarah Love, and Dr Soumya Ghosh described their research interests, which focus on the control of movement. Sarah's studies, being conducted at Princess Margaret Hospital, address the effect of Botulinum toxin on spasticity and hence movement patterns in very young children with cerebral palsy. Soumya Ghosh, whose research is performed at the Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders, is interested in understanding how the cerebral cortex responds to injury and the implications of such responses to clinical practice.

Dr Alan Bryant from the Department of Podiatry presented the results of his recently completed doctoral studies on pressure and gait changes following hallux valgus surgery. The final speaker was Dr Peter O'Sullivan who gave a very thought provoking presentation on back pain and the dilemmas faced by both the sufferers and health care providers.

The Speakers who presented at the Research Symposium. (L to R) Dr. Peter O'Sullivan, Assoc. Prof. Leon Straker, Dr Soumya Ghosh, Assoc. Prof. Sue Jenkins, Sarah Love, Vice Chancellor Prof. Lance Twomey, Director of Research Assoc. Prof. Sarah Carroll, Dr Alan Bryant, Head of School, Prof. Tony Wright.

Peter also generated a few technical problems when his computer could not be connected to the projector system. Duncan Hardman came to the rescue with a major reworking of all the connecting cables in the lectern

In his concluding remarks to Symposium, Professor Lance Twomey, congratulated Professor Wright and the staff on the strength and the breadth of the research currently occurring within the School. He noted that the imminent move of the Physiotherapy School to the Bentley campus will not only provide the School with excellent teaching and research facilities but should also enable much greater collaboration with researchers from other schools and divisions.

It was a very successful event that helped to showcase the high quality research done in the School for researchers on the Bentley campus and the physiotherapy community.

Sara Carroll
Director of Research

School of Physiotherapy Alumni Chapter

The School of Physiotherapy has taken the first step towards establishing a school of Physiotherapy Chapter within the Curtin Alumni Association. More than 25 members of the Alumni have signed up to create the chapter. All School of Physiotherapy graduates and other friends of the School are welcome to join. If you would like to join the new chapter please update your contact details either through the Curtin alumni webpage at www.alumni.curtin.edu.au or the School of Physiotherapy homepage at www.physiotherapy.curtin.edu.au. Get yourself in the loop to find out about other exciting events that will be coming up in the course of the year as the School moves to the new building at Bentley.

2001 Prize Winners

Undergraduate Physiotherapy Prize winners

- Alison Baird**
APA 1st year prize, IO Thorburn prize
- Lisa Djulbic**
APA 2nd year prize
- Suzanne Jewell**
Dr Lindsay Michael prize
- Kathryn Williamson**
Continence and Women's Health Group prize
- Craig Wilson**
MPA prize, Cardiothoracic Group "Jane Kinging" prize
- Simon Cantoni, Michael Keig, Gavin Kerruish, Craig Wilson**
Blackwell Publications prize
- Kate Matthews**
Neurology group prize
- John Watson**
Private practitioners group prize
- David Saligari, Dale Scott, Daniel Sivertson, John Watson**
PT Management teamwork prize
- Andrew Briggs**
PRF prize, Lifecare prize
- James Fitzpatrick**
APA Marcus Rosen prize
- Claire Andrewartha**
Registration Board Pprize

Undergraduate Podiatry Prize winners

- Lauren Jacobsen**
Australian Podiatry Association prize
- Kristy Cooke, Jennifer Daniels**
Australian Podiatry Association project prize
- Kristy Cooke**
Podiatry Registration Board prize
- Tom Dwyer, Lauren Jacobson**
Brooks prize

Postgraduate Prize winners

- Hilary Quirke**
MPA "Brian Edwards" prize
- Daniel Miller, Hillary Quirke**
Archive Book Merchants prize
- Andrea Stanley**
Sports Medicine Australia prize
- Nicholas Caputi**
SPA prize
- Sarah Love**
Butterworth Heinemann prize

Register with the School

We would like to be able to contact you to provide you with information about our courses, short news releases, electronic copies of 'Hands On' and other goodies. To register go to

<http://www.physiotherapy.curtin.edu.au/internet/contactsignup.shtml>

The School of Physiotherapy is offering a professional 35mm slide making & 35mm slide scanning service for Professional Presentations.

- 35mm Slides \$7.15 each (inc GST) for ten slides or more
- 35mm Scanning \$2.75 each (Inc GST)
- Fast Turnaround for Urgent Work

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The School of Physiotherapy and Department of Podiatry had a very successful awards ceremony and graduation ceremony on 14th February. In previous years, the APA has organised an awards breakfast to distribute prizes to Physiotherapy students. This year the School took on the task of organising the awards ceremony and it was decided to hold it just prior to graduation. A large number of students, family members and friends attended the ceremony in the Elizabeth Jolley Lecture theatre on the Bentley campus.

The staff organising the presentation were suit-

2001 AWARDS AND GRADUATION



Head of School, Prof. Tony Wright kicks off the Prize Giving Ceremony.

ably attired in their academic gowns and a musical introduction was provided by flautist Andrew Plicher who is a current fourth year Physiotherapy student. Short speeches were made by Professor Tony Wright, Head of School, Mr David Malone, National President of the Australian Physiotherapy Association, Dr Paul Tinley, Head of Department of Podiatry and Mr Neil Hall, President of the Australian Podiatry Association WA.

Professor Wright thanked the families, partners and friends for the support they had provided to graduates during their student years. He also emphasised the importance of maintaining contact with the School and becoming part of the alumni association. David Malone talked about some of the changes that had occurred in the



Craig Wilson receiving the "Jane Kinging" prize for the Third Year Student with the Highest Results in Cardiopulmonary Science by APA President David Malone

APA and the fact that the physiotherapy market is continuing to expand at a significant rate.

A total of 24 prizes were awarded to undergraduate physiotherapy and Podiatry students and postgraduate students. Several students (Alison Baird, Craig Wilson, Kristy Cooke, Lauren Jacobson and Hilary Quirke) were awarded more than one prize and the entire group were congratulated by many speakers for achieving excellence among such talented peer groups. Professor Tony Wright, David Malone, Felicity Kermode, Sue Jones, Cameron Tweedie and Professor Joan Cole presented the

Physiotherapy awards, including the Physiotherapy Registration Board prize for the most outstanding Physiotherapy student to Claire Andrewartha. Neil Hall, Dr Paul Tinley and Jennifer Bryant presented the Podiatry prizes including the Registration Board prize to the most outstanding Podiatry student, which was awarded to Kristy Cooke. Postgraduate prizes were awarded by Dr Di Hopper, Felicity Kermode, Geoff Strauss, David Malone and Professor Joan Cole. The recipients were; Hilary Quirke, Daniel Miller, Andrea Stanley, Nick Caputi and Sarah Love.



Sue Jones presents the Physiotherapy Management Teamwork prize to Dale Scott, Daniel Sivertson & David Saligari.

The ceremony was a very successful event acknowledging the talent and achievements of students in the School.

An hour later everyone moved to the Curtin forum for the graduation ceremony. This was also a very spectacular event, with academic robes, musical fanfares and a superb fireworks display.

Father Placid Spearritt, Abbot of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia, provided a very entertaining and thought provoking address to the gathering. He emphasised the importance of education and the development of a social conscience.



The Brooks Award for the Best Academic Performance in Podiatric Medicine 357 (Sports Medicine component) is awarded to Lauren Jacobson and Tom Dwyer by Dr Paul Tinley, Head, Department of Podiatry



Prof. Joan Cole presents Sarah Love with the Butterworth Heinman Book Prize for the Masters or PhD Student Publishing the Best Article in a Scientific Journal.

It was a particularly successful evening for the School of Physiotherapy with five PhD graduates, six students graduating from postgraduate programs with distinction and six First Class Honours graduates. The PhD graduates were Dr Alan Bryant (Podiatry), Dr Eveline Innes, Dr Rawewan Lekskulchai, Dr Rebecca Liston and Dr Sally Roach (Sexology). Particular congratulations to Professor Jaon Cole who supervised three of the graduates. Other supervisors included Associate Professor Leon Straker, Dr Paul Tinley and Associate Professor Rosemary Coates.

Overall, the ceremony provided a terrific reflection of the academic excellence of the School and its students.

Tony Wright
Head of School

List of prize winners, see back page.

**SCHOOL OF
PHYSIOTHERAPY
50TH ANNIVERSARY
BALL Inside...**

Celebrating 50 Years in Fine Style!

Celebrating 50 Years in Fine Style!

The 50th Anniversary Ball was a wonderful event. Those who attended had a very enjoyable evening. We were well looked after by the Hyatt Hotel who provided a very nice venue and excellent service, and the band, Blush, who did a terrific job of keeping the evening lively and entertaining.

One very special guest who attended the Ball was Mr John Keating. Mr Keating was Head of School in the very early days from 1952 to 1957 before he left to go into private practice. His daughter, Annie, accompanied Mr Keating. It was wonderful to have him in attendance and providing a link back fifty years to the start of Physiotherapy education in WA. Like the current Head of School, Mr Keating originally hailed from Ireland.

There were several entertaining speakers in the course of the evening.

Professor Tony Wright welcomed guests and provided a historical perspective on the development of the School over the last 50 years. One interesting snippet of information was that the School of Physiotherapy predated the establishment of the Medical School at UWA by approximately 5 years. The School was originally under the control of the Registration Board and became part of WAIT in 1969 and a School within Curtin University in 1987. Tony emphasised the progress the School had made over 50 years and the bright future that lay ahead. He thanked the organising committee (John Annear, Leon Straker, Sonia Ranelli and Joan Cole) and staff members Karen Prideaux, Janice Molan and Nicole David for the great work they had done in organising the evening.

David Malone, National President of the APA, provided a very entertaining account of his days as a student at Curtin. His exploits as a novice hydrotherapist and his detailed knowledge of different forms of 'bombey' kept everyone entertained. Everyone marvelled at his ability to work his way back from the brink of disaster.

Danielle Woodhouse, Olympic Gold Medalist, provided an entertaining account of her experiences in the water polo team at the Sydney Olympics. The final match was a real nailbiter and Danielle had some fun stories of what was going on behind the scenes in the last few minutes of the game. Several people managed to get to wear her Olympic gold medal in the course of the evening.

Professor Lance Twomey, Vice Chancellor, was the final speaker. Lance, in his infinite wisdom, denied all knowledge of the meetings that Danielle and David had claimed to have with him during his time as Head of School. He outlined some highlights of the School's development and talked about the bright future of the School with the move to the new building on the Bentley campus.

Professor Fujiwara from Shinshu University in Japan presented a ceremonial bottle of saki to the School. Several people indulged in the saki, which helped to fuel the rest of the evening.

The inimitable Max Zusman was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Max did a great job of keeping everyone entertained and with the assistance of Sonia Ranelli he handed out an array of prizes to several lucky participants. Thanks to the Hyatt Hotel, Beiersdorf, ABS Medical and the Edwards Family Winery for providing the prizes.

There was no prompting required to get everyone up on the dance floor and as the photos show physios certainly know how to party. It was a very glamorous evening and as you can see everyone enjoyed the opportunity to take photographs of the other revellers.

Tony Wright
Head of School

