



WELCOME

The Office of R&D newsletter aims to keep the Curtin community updated on R&D management initiatives, strategic developments and events. We still hope to generate discussion on issues raised in the newsletter through a 'Letters to the Editor' column. You are invited to send correspondence directly to me at B.Glover@curtin.edu.au.

BARNEY GLOVER

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For more information on the activities of the Office of R&D call ext 7863.

<http://research.curtin.edu.au>

LNG TECHNOLOGY WINS PREMIER SCIENCE AWARD

Congratulations to Curtin's Professor Robert Amin, from the Department of Petroleum Engineering, for winning the 2002 Institution of Engineers Australia Eureka Prize for Engineering Innovation. Professor Amin won the award for the LNG Micro-Cell, developed in collaboration with Core Laboratories Australia.

The prize is one of several 2002 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, Australia's premier national science awards. It is awarded to an individual, business or corporation for outstanding innovation in an engineering project.

The LNG Micro-Cell technology enables the conversion of natural gas to liquid natural gas in small-scale production by means of an innovative transportable refrigeration system.

Because the LNG Micro-Cell can liquefy natural gas on-site, it will make the exploitation of small gas fields economically viable. The technology also circumvents the process of flaring off gas and, therefore, has significant environmental benefits.

Professor Robert Amin



DVC ACTIVITIES

Last month, I attended a National Press Club function and a forum in Canberra organised by the combined learned academies, both addressing the Government's proposed national research priorities.

Professor Michael Barber, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation at UWA, addressed the National Press Club and sounded a word of caution, citing an earlier priority setting exercise by the now defunct ASTEC. In 1981, that body concluded that expertise in epidemiology, virology and immunology warranted only low priority over the next five to 10

years. This was just two years before the outbreak of HIV/AIDS and, based upon its expertise in those three critical areas, Australia was able to set an international benchmark of best practice in its response to the crisis.

The combined academies forum was interesting from a number of perspectives. While the biotech/medical lobby was extolling the virtues of a 'healthy population' as being an obvious priority, with the necessary increase in resources for the sector, a spokesperson from the Academy of Social Sciences made the point that addressing the underlying issues of broken families,

OFFICE OF R&D NEWS

Small Grants 2003

The Office of R&D is currently revising the guidelines for the 2003 round of the Curtin Small Discovery and Linkage Grants. Details of the round and guidelines will be released in August 2002. For this round, there will be a new internal assessment procedure to replace the previous external review process.

Grant Opportunities Database

The Office of R&D, in conjunction with UWA and ECU, has acquired a site license for the Community of Science (COS) database of research grant opportunities. This flexible system will provide researchers with up-to-date information on grant opportunities in their research area by e-mail. More information about accessing COS will be distributed in the near future.

IP Adviser Joins Curtin

Professor Malcolm Richmond has been appointed to the Office of R&D as a senior adviser on commercialisation and intellectual property management. Professor Richmond's appointment further strengthens the University's strategic aim of developing a sustainable base for wealth creation through investment in high-quality innovative technology developed within the University. Professor Richmond brings to the position significant industry experience.

Research and Research Training Management Report

The University has submitted the revised *Research and Research Training Management Report: 2002* to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) as part of the Education Profile Submission. The revised report, which supports the recently approved *University Research Management Plan: 2001-2005*, is available on the Office of R&D website.

Research Performance Index (RPI) Review

The RPI Steering Committee has completed the initial draft report on the review of the RPI scheme. The report recommends a major overhaul of the scheme (which has been in existence for over a decade), including a streamlining of performance categories, increased points for research completions and publications, and the introduction of a new category to support high-quality and high-impact research outcomes.

The report has been distributed to the Divisions for consultation and feedback is due in early August. The draft report is available on the Office of R&D website.



which it was stated that the alliances formed by that company with Australian universities include none of the Group of Eight (but does include Curtin)! Other papers addressed the NHMRC and CSIRO perspectives.

PAUL ROSSITER
DVC, R&D

GRADUATE STUDIES NEWS

- » Workshops entitled Implementation of the Best Practice Framework were held within the Divisions during July. The workshops aimed to enhance familiarity with the working draft of the framework and provide feedback for its revision. The workshops were conducted with staff, primarily Heads of Schools and Postgraduate Coordinators, and guided by the Dean, Graduate Studies and Ms Alison Thair.
- » At the June meeting of the University Graduate Studies Committee, the first applications for entry to the Register of Supervisors of Higher Degree by Research Students were approved. For interested staff, the application form and associated guidelines for the Register of Supervisors can be downloaded from the Office of R&D website at www.curtin.edu.au/corporate/research/graduate/forms.html.
- » The University Graduate Studies Committee has endorsed the Report on the Review of the Position of Dean, Graduate Studies, including the recommendation for continuation of the position. The report is now being considered by the Office of R&D, Academic Senate and the Planning and Management Committee.
- » A report analysing data collected from Higher Degree (by Research) Students Exit Surveys returned during 2000 has been completed, with a similar report for surveys returned in 2001 nearly complete. Copies of the reports will be circulated to the Divisions in due course.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Office of R&D has published a Sustainable Development prospectus, profiling the many areas of the University that have capabilities in this field. This prospectus follows the already existing Oil and Gas prospectus. A new Marine Science prospectus will be published in the near future.



RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

School of Public Health Wins International Grant

Curtin's School of Public Health has received a large project grant from the Hong Kong Research Grants Council, the equivalent of Australia's ARC and NHMRC, for the project Assessing Health Care Management Outcomes: A Finite Mixture GLMM Modelling Approach. The grant is worth HK\$307,960 (approximately AU\$70,000).

Curtin's Dr Andy Lee will head the research project, in collaboration with Associate Professor Kelvin KW Yau from the City University of Hong Kong. Professor Yau was a visiting research fellow at Curtin's School of Public Health in April 2002.

Curtin Hosts Cleaner Production Signing and Roundtable

In June, Curtin hosted the annual signing ceremony for the WA Cleaner Production Statement, which was followed by the Eco-Efficiency Roundtable.

The event was organised by the WA Sustainable Industry Group (WASIG), a network of Western Australian business, government and education organisations committed to adopting sustainable practices and technologies.

The WA Cleaner Production Statement is a statement of intent calling on stakeholders to commit to cleaner production principles. The roundtable provides participating businesses with an opportunity to report on their achievements. WASIG is convened by Curtin's Professor Rene van Berkel, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Cleaner Production.

Haydn Williams Lecture

Professor John Tilton delivered the annual Haydn Williams Fellowship 2002 public lecture in July, speaking on the availability of mineral resources.

UPCOMING EVENTS

INNOVATION LECTURE SERIES

The Innovation Lecture Series aims to foster debate on the meaning and applications of innovation in an academic environment. The series will showcase various themes of innovation across different disciplines. The lectures are open to all.

The first lecture looks at the innovative possibilities arising from arts and science collaborations. It has been organised to coincide with the Biennale for Electronic Arts Perth (BEAP) Festival, currently at the John Curtin Gallery.

Presenters will be:

- » Rob Donovan (Professor of Public Health)
- » Paul Thomas (Director of the BEAP Festival)
- » Gordon Parkinson (Director of the Nanochemistry Research Institute)
- » Martin Cebis (Australian Telecommunications CRC).

The lecture will be held on 8 August 2002 at 3.30pm in the Curtin Club. Two further lectures are scheduled for October and November. For more information, contact Gordon Parkinson on ext 2743 or Martin Cebis on ext 4053.

IN THE NEWS

The Sydney Morning Herald and *The West Australian* covered a recent study on Aboriginal health conducted by Curtin Professor of health economics, Gavin Mooney. The study – part of a report published by the Productivity Commission – examines issues of equity and finds that the key factor affecting access to health service in Australia is a person's Aboriginality. Geographical location and socio-economic conditions are also factors.

Associate Professor Mike Stewart's project to map the topography of beaches around Cottesloe, using new and highly accurate laser scanning equipment, received coverage in several local papers.



Photo courtesy of Post Newspapers Perth

In his lecture, Professor Tilton examined the evolution of public concern on this topic, the measures used to assess resource availability, the historical trends they identify and the implications for the future. He also addressed environmental and social costs associated with mineral extraction and use.

Professor Tilton is a globally recognised expert in mineral economics from the Colorado School of Mines. He will be at Curtin until September, working closely with WASM.

Book Launch

In June, Humanities hosted the book launch of Mary Besemeres' *Translating One's Self*, published in the prestigious *European Connections* series by Peter Lang.

Looking at works by contemporary bilingual authors such as Eva Hoffman, Richard Rodriguez and Kazuo Ishiguro, Besemeres explores

how inner worlds differ from one language and culture to another, as well as how immigrants into a new language are challenged to become different persons.

Besemeres holds an ARC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Australian Studies at Curtin.

IVEC Applications

The Interactive Virtual Environments Centre (IVEC) invites researchers requiring high-performance computing facilities to participate in Round 2 of its Member Allocation Scheme for access to its new high-performance computer Carlin. Additional information and an application form are available at www.ivec.org/programs/expertise/mas.html.