Research Update
From the Office of Research & Development

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KEY DATES AND REMINDERS

NHMRC Development grant applications are due to ORD by Monday Monday 19 June 2008.

NHMRC Capacity Building Grant applications are due to ORD by Friday 30 May 2008.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. AUSTRALIA-CHINA AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION (ATC) PROGRAM

The 2008-09 funding round of the Australia-China Agricultural Technical Cooperation (ATC) Program has begun. The ATC Program, administered by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, seeks to strengthen the already close relationship between Australia and China in agriculture and related areas. It aims to provide an opportunity for Australia to share its expertise and capacity in areas relevant to China's needs such as in agricultural development, supply chain management, quarantine management, rural adjustment and environmental management.

The ATC Program seeks to build capacity in Chinese government agencies and industry officials to produce outcomes closely linked with areas of Australian interest in agricultural trade with China, and address issues relevant to both Australia and China to further strengthen the bilateral relationship.

Priorities of the 2008-09 funding round include, but are not limited to, the following:
- strengthening environmental and food safety standards
- enhancing the operational effectiveness of import clearance standards to promote agricultural trade
- strengthening agricultural supply chains.

Information and application forms can be found at http://www.daff.gov.au/market-access-trade/iac/atc-program.

Applications, along with a completed Research Project Application Tool (RPAT), are to be submitted to the Office of Research and Development no later than Friday 13th June 2008.

2. HAEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANTS

Grants are now available for medical, scientific or social research which will improve outcomes for people with haemophilia, von Willebrand disorder or related inherited bleeding disorders, and/or medically acquired blood borne viruses.

An amount of $50,000 is available for one or more projects to be undertaken over the next year.

Application form/conditions of funding are attached or may be downloaded from Haemophilia Foundation Australia web site at www.haemophilia.org.au.

Applications, along with a completed Research Project Application Tool (RPAT), are to be submitted to the Office of Research and Development no later than Friday 27th June 2008.

3. CURE FOR LIFE FOUNDATION GRANTS FOR RESEARCH INTO BRAIN TUMOURS

The Cure For Life Foundation™ is a charitable organisation established to further the quality of medical knowledge and technical resources available to treat and care for people with brain and spinal cord tumours.

The Foundation regards one of its roles as providing funding for small ‘one-off’ projects that have a clear relationship to the diagnosis, causes and management of brain tumours. Accordingly, researchers working in fields that are relevant to brain tumours are invited to apply for small ad hoc grants to support research in the calendar year 2008. Grants may be used for equipment, consumables, part-time staff support or ‘top-up’ funding for other grants. These grants are limited to a maximum of $10,000.

For more information on the application process please see - http://www.cureforlife.org.au/Grant_and_Fellowship_Applications/

Please note that applications will be reviewed roughly on a quarterly basis. Applications for the first round are to be submitted, along with a completed Research Project Application Tool (RPAT), to the Office of Research and Development no later than Friday 23rd May 2008.

For more information on Research at Curtin please visit the research website www.research.curtin.edu.au
SEMIPARAS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

1.  NHMRC COMMUNIQUE - REPORT OF THE 170TH SESSION OF THE NHMRC, 24 APRIL 2008
The National Health and Medical Research Council met on 24 April 2008. Agenda items included the 2020 Summit, Australian Government health initiatives, preventative health, obesity and nutrition and research in the clinical environment.

Communiques will be issued after every Council meeting to keep the research community up to date with the direction of the NHMRC.

This Communiqué outlines Council discussions on indigenous health, mental illness and other essential health issues. Highlights include:

- Minister Addresses Council Meeting
- Indigenous health a priority for NHMRC
- Funding of research in clinical settings essential
- Reducing the Burden of Mental Illness
- Cancer Clusters
- Genetics
- Policy and Practice Focussed Research
- Making better use of Guidelines
- NHMRC to study
- NHMRC to study Bariatric Surgery


2.  KEY FEDERAL BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS
A number of key initiatives impacting on specifically research in the university sector were announced in the Federal budget on 13th May 2008:

- **Australian Postgraduate Awards (APAs):** the number of Australian Postgraduate Awards will increase from 4,800 to nearly 10,000 by 2012

- **Future Fellowships scheme:** This new scheme will offer 1,000 talented Australian and international mid-career researchers four-year fellowships of up to $140,000 a year. Host organisations will receive up to an additional $50,000 a year to support related infrastructure and equipment for research projects. The Australian Research Council (ARC) will be responsible for development of the scheme and will collaborate with the NHMRC and other key bodies.

Several other announcements that may impact on research are:

- **The Education Investment Fund:** This subsumes the Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) and has an additional $5 billion from surpluses in 07/08 and 08/09. Also, unlike the HEEF, it will be a draw down fund.

- **Better Universities Renewal Fund.** This is a 1-off $500 million fund for capital grants in the following areas:
  - ICT
  - Laboratories
  - Libraries and student study places
  - Teaching space; and
  - Student amenities

3. ORD TRAINING SEMINARS

Please RSVP: D.Jeffery@curtin.edu.au for all sessions

Writing NHMRC rejoinders seminar
2.00pm to 3.00pm, Tuesday 10th June 2008
Room 210:104 (Case Study room – Elizabeth Jolley LT complex)

Professor David Hay will be presenting a session on writing responses to assessor comments. The session will cover topics such as:

- How to read your assessor comments – how to use them effectively
- Finding the right tone for your rejoinder
- What to write – how best to address the issues, or what to write if the review is glowing
- Dealing with conflicting assessments
- Pitfalls and tips

The session will also be useful for any staff submitting grant applications to other NHMRC grant schemes as most of the major schemes involve some kind of rejoinder process (please note that fellowship applications do not involve a rejoinder process).

Applying for ARC Linkage Project grants
10am to 11.30am, Monday 9th June 2008
Room 210:104 (Case Study room – Elizabeth Jolley LT complex)

This session will provide an overview of the ARC Linkage Project application process. Successful applicants will talk about the following topics:

- The planning process – when to start, how much lead time do you need
- How to find partners
- Managing those partners
- Pitfalls and tips

The session will also cover the following topics:

- Preparing an application
- General Budget tips
- Assessment criteria
- Characteristics of successful applications

An Introduction to Research Budgeting and Management
12.30pm to 2pm (BYO lunch), Thursday 22nd May 2008
Rm 307.102 (Watson Lecture Theatres)

This session will be of use to Early Career Researchers or researchers new to Curtin. It may also be relevant to new research managers/administrators. It will include topics such as:

- What is Consultancy V what is Research?
- The general principles of costing and pricing for research projects at Curtin
- Cost Recovery
- An overview of managing your funding once its approved
- Common pitfalls and tips

Demystifying Contracts
10am to 11.30am, Wednesday 28th May 2008
Rm 210.104 (Elizabeth Jolley seminar room)

This session will be of use to researchers and research managers/administrators who deal with contracts. It will cover the following topics:

- What constitutes a contract and why have one?
- Key clauses
- What to do if you receive a contract from a funder;
- How to initiate a contract;
- When to use the Curtin standard contract;
- Negotiating contracts and who can sign them
- ORDs role in contract management
# HELP, TOOLS and TIPS

## Research and Development Officer
### CBS and Humanities
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## TOOLS AND TIPS

### LINKS
- **Community of Science (COS)**
  - [www.cos.com](http://www.cos.com) – for funding opportunities

### Research Project Application Tool (RPAT)

### TIP OF THE WEEK

Are you new to research or new to research at Curtin?

There are a variety of support mechanisms available to you including your Dean of Research:

- **CBS**
  - Prof Jack Carlsen
- **Health Sciences**
  - Prof Barbara Horner
- **Humanities**
  - Prof Roy Jones
- **Science and Engineering**
  - Prof Roland de Marco

For more information on Research at Curtin please visit the research website [www.research.curtin.edu.au](http://www.research.curtin.edu.au)