

**ORD UPDATE / RESEARCH UPDATE
30-2007**

Dear Colleagues

The following information may be of interest to you, your research teams and students:

1. THE FORUM FOR EUROPEAN-AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION (FEAST)
2. CURTIN'S RESEARCH PROJECT APPLICATION TOOL (RPAT) IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE R&D WEBSITE
3. NHMRC DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN
4. NHMRC APOLOGISES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR IN GRANTS PROCESS

1. THE FORUM FOR EUROPEAN-AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION (FEAST) SEMINARS

The Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation (FEAST) in link with the Delegation of the European Commission to Australia and New Zealand is organising a series of seminars covering most Australian capital cities, including Perth. UWA has been asked to host the Perth visit to be held on the morning of **17th September 2007** and details are now available on FEAST's website:

<http://www.feast.org/?diary&ID=402>

2. CURTIN'S RESEARCH PROJECT APPLICATION TOOL (RPAT) IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE R&D WEBSITE

Curtin Researchers and administrators can now download the Research Project Application Tool (RPAT) excel document directly from the Research webpage at: <http://research.curtin.edu.au/grants/grants.cfm> or from the 'Tools and Downloads' page.

As this document is for use by Curtin staff only, you will be required to enter your Curtin staff id and password before you can access it. You will then be given the option of Opening or Saving the document. If you choose the Open option you will see a Security Warning appear asking if you want to enable or disable the Macros. Please ensure that you click on the **Enable Macros** button to ensure full functionality of the RPAT.

3. NHMRC DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN

The second round of NHMRC Development Grant applications for 2007 for funding commencing March 2008 is now open.

The Development Grants support the development of health or medical research that has commercial potential and may benefit the Australian community by providing funding for research commercialisation at the early proof-of-concept stage.

The scheme endeavours to bridge the funding gap between the end of a high quality

basic research program and the developments required to make the project commercially attractive to possible investors. Development Grants provide funding for research commercialisation at the early proof-of-concept stage and while commercial partners are encouraged, it is not a requirement that applicants have a commercial partner in place.

Development Grants are designed to support development work undertaken in a human health related field, for example diagnostics, medical devices, pharmaceutical product development, biotechnology, bioinformatics and biomaterials.

Funding is normally awarded for a period of one year. Funding may be provided for a maximum period of three years, subject to satisfactory achievement against agreed milestones. The grant request will usually not exceed \$200,000 per annum.

Further information is available from the NHMRC website at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/apply/granttype/development/index.htm>.

Applications are to be submitted to the Office of Research and Development no later than Friday 7th September 2007.

4. NHMRC APOLOGISES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR IN GRANTS PROCESS

The NHMRC have issued the following statement:

Public Statement

The National Health and Medical Research Council today confirmed that an administrative error had occurred in its 2007 project grants review process that had inadvertently revealed the identity of some reviewers.

The error arose from failure to implement an established process that 'wipes' background data embedded in a review document that could be used to identify the reviewer.

'A comprehensive audit of all 2500 grant applications is now under way to determine the full extent of the error', NHMRC CEO Professor Warwick Anderson said today.

'Following the audit NHMRC will contact all applicants and reviewers to inform them of the audit outcomes.'

'We apologise for any instances where reviewers' identities have been revealed in the current round of NHMRC project grant applications'.

'We have now effectively closed this loophole through implementing additional mandatory checking.'

'I am confident of the continued support and goodwill of the health and medical research community as we pull out all stops to determine the extent of the problem, and to fix it for good.'

NHMRC is introducing a new online grants management and reporting system in 2008-09 that will enable researchers to have protected online access to review reports on their grant applications.

8 August 2007

The weblink to the statement is below:

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/news/media/rel07/statement_0807.htm

Regards

Research Grants, Contracts and Consultancy Unit
Office of Research and Development
Building 100, Level 2
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U1987
Perth WA 6845
Web: <http://research.curtin.edu.au>
CRICOS Provider Code: 00301J

Contact Details:

Research & Development Officers:

Dianne Jeffery - Tel: +61 8 9266 1013; E-mail: D.Jeffery@curtin.edu.au

Stuart Clarke - Tel: + 61 8 9266 4248; E-mail: S.Clarke@curtin.edu.au

Richard Pokonski - Tel: + 61 8 9266 4231; Email: R.Pokonski@curtin.edu.au

**Manager, Contracts, Committee Servicing and Curtin Research Fellowships
contact:**

Anne Wong - Tel: + 61 8 9266 3286; Email: Anne.Wong@curtin.edu.au

Administration Assistant:

Jennifer Gaugg - Tel: +61 8 9266 3272; Email: J.Gaugg@curtin.edu.au