Message from the Executive Director

During my recent holiday in the United States I was given the opportunity to tour the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, NYC, specifically the Charles S. Hirsch Centre for Forensic Sciences. The Centre houses the Forensic Biology department and is the largest DNA crime laboratory in North America. I met with staff, and had the opportunity to speak to the Chief of Laboratories and the Assistant Director Forensic Biology. The new[ish] (built 2007) facilities were built as part of the initiatives brought about by then Mayor Guiliani and have a similar structure to our forensic areas, in that they are part of the Department of Health and Coroner’s systems. The Medical Examiner system within the US is very different to the role of Forensic services in Australia, but it was an enlightening visit and I was pleased to note that our facilities, services and expertise were at the very least on par with those I visited in Manhattan.

The eHealth expo is being held on the 17 May, where the winners of the eAwards ceremony will be announced. I would like to extend a ‘good luck’ to Amy Jennison and her team for their submission in the ‘Foster Innovation’ category.

Research and Development and the Library are able to facilitate the promotion of our successes via various channels. Please send through notification of client feedback, successes, acknowledgement, publications, presentations, collaborations or any good news relating to the business through to FSS_Research@health.qld.gov.au or FSS_IRS@health.qld.gov.au

New research projects

A review of pregabalin involvement in coronial cases - Primary Investigators: Amanda Thompson, Sarah Morey, Andrew Griffiths, Forensic Toxicology.

Review of rapid testing results - Primary Investigator: Michelle Johnston, Forensic Toxicology.

Staff publications


Staff publications


Upcoming events


RNS & Radioecology

A routine consultancy work program for Radiation and Nuclear Sciences (RNS) has identified a unique radioecology study area near Toowoomba. The site has elevated concentrations of naturally occurring radium radioisotopes in a small terrestrial and wetland environment making the site an ideal study zone to investigate the uptake of radium by local native plants, molluscs and crustaceans.

Toowoomba Regional Council has allowed RNS staff to undertake a comprehensive survey and sampling program at the site prior to remediation. To take full advantage of this unique opportunity, an intense survey and sampling plan is being developed by RNS to collect soil, sediment and biota samples.

The radionuclide data will be included in the International Union of Radioecology’s (IUR) transfer factor database. The IUR http://www.iur-uir.org/en/ is an international ‘think tank’ of scientists and professionals which aims to foster data, communication and capability on radioecology issues. This information and advice is provided to the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) human and environmental health programs.

RNS will undertake this project as a Team Based Research project funded by FSS, highlighting the importance of maintaining these funding avenues.

FSS Information Research Services 07 3274 9159 FSS_IRS@health.qld.gov.au
FSS Research Governance and Human Ethics 07 3000 9363 FSS_Research@health.qld.gov.au
Science & Technology

Australia is accepting applications for the inaugural Superstars of STEM program. The program strives to: support and build the public profile of women employed in STEM to become highly visible public role models through training in public speaking, media and communicating with influence and through creating opportunities to practice their newly acquired skills. Stage one closes on 23 May. View the information here: https://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/what-we-do/superstars-of-stem/

FSS staff content on QHEPS


All requests for updates or content additions to this page should be directed to trish.murphy@health.qld.gov.au

Chemistry in Australia - May 2017 issue

Access features, news and views from the latest issue and from our chemistry archives. Download full PDF

Expert Evidence - ONLINE

This resource is available to FSS staff. Access is available here (enter your QH payroll number and surname when prompted, then click on ‘Sign In by IP Access’ at the site.) Training is available - contact SSDU FSS_Training@health.qld.gov.au

The 6th Annual NHMRC Symposium on Research Translation will be co-hosted by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Lowitja Institute. The Symposium is for anyone with an interest in improving the health and wellbeing of Australia’s First Peoples through the better use of high quality research in practice and policy. It will include researchers, policy makers, health care practitioners, community health workers, community members and consumers

https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/events/2017