Message from the Executive Director

This research newsletter is just one of the activities being conducted as part of our new FSS communications strategy. I would encourage all staff to have a look at this document. We have worked hard to develop a communications strategy that promotes the OneHSQ and FSS vision and enables us to be better positioned to expand national and international links and collaborations, and to strengthen the public communication - and thus the awareness of - our successes, and our research outputs and capabilities. I would like to thank everyone who attended the launch of our Communication Strategy, including the speakers, Jenny McGowan from Forensic Chemistry, and Lawrence Ariotti from PH Microbiology. An online feedback form has been created at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VSR3PGG. Any feedback provided is anonymous and I encourage anyone who attended this event to complete the survey in the link above.

Over the next few months we will look at individual components of the communications strategy, such as the tools and channels available to us, and workplans and activities. In the meantime I would encourage all staff to consider how we can promote our business and our outputs and to reach out to Helen, Lucretia or Trish to discuss your requirements.

2017/18 Grant Pool Funding Projects - Announced

I would like to congratulate those staff who submitted an application for funding support through the 2017/18 Grant Pool Funding Round. The quality of applications this year was outstanding. I am pleased to announce that of the 7 applications submitted I have approved 3 projects for grant pool funding and 1 project for team based funding (57% success rate).

I would also like to thank the Scientific Review Panel and the Interns who participated in this process. I acknowledge the level of commitment required and appreciate the time and effort you volunteered to support the growth and development of research at FSS. Your contribution is very much valued by the organisation.

A strong research culture is vital to advance our organisation’s strategic priorities, and to help us pursue innovation in our business. I wish you every success with these projects and look forward to learning of the outcomes.

QAEHS Funding

I would also like to encourage interested staff to submit an application for QAEHS Research Funding. This funding is only open to QH and UQ staff, and therefore should provide a higher success rate than other external funding programs. The closing date for the next round of submissions is the 31 July 2017. Further details are provided in this newsletter.
Staff publications


New research projects

Authentication of Australian orange juice – Primary Investigator: Dr Jim Carter, Food Chemistry, Organic Chemistry.  
Development of methods for detection of potential cyanotoxins BMAA and DABA – Primary Investigator: Rebecca Catanzariti, Organic Chemistry.  

2017/2018 R&D Grant Pool Funding Round

Thank you to all staff who participated in this year’s Grant Pool Funding Round. All applications have now been reviewed and assessed by the Scientific Review Panel in accordance with our strategic objectives and research and development goals and priorities.

The Executive Director has approved the following projects for funding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Collaborators</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Funds awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of Molecular typing and genomics to enhance surveillance of Klebsiella pneumoniae and associated antimicrobial resistance in Queensland</td>
<td>Dr Amy Jennison, Public Health Microbiology PEH</td>
<td>UGCC, MNHHS</td>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>$102,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of environmental contaminants in Australian/Queensland honey</td>
<td>Dr Benjamin Tan, Organic Chemistry, PEH</td>
<td>QAAFI, DAF</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>$86,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primordial radionuclide disequilibria in sediments – a tool for discrimination between natural and anthropogenic</td>
<td>Dr Ross Kleinschmidt, Radiation and Nuclear Sciences, PEH</td>
<td>DNRM</td>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>$74,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funding awarded</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$212,769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ongoing opportunities for research and development team based projects requiring a cash contribution less than $10k are available throughout the year.

All team based applications are to be submitted on the Research and Development Short Form (QIS 33017). Please refer to the FSS Research and Development Funding Guidelines (QIS 33705) for further information or contact Leisa or Lucretia in the Research Office.

Presenting a poster at a conference?

A0 size poster template available here or contact the library.
Monday 24 July 2017 9:30am-10:30am, Conference Room 103 - QAEHS PhD Candidate Jack Gao will be presenting his Mid-Candidature Review entitled ‘Evaluating in-sewer process of biomarkers to understand the uncertainty of sewerage epidemiology’.

**QAEHS Project Funding**

Through its partnership with Queensland Health, QAEHS has $200,000 available per year for environmental health science research projects.

This funding is only open to QH and UQ staff. Project applications can be led by QH staff however must have as a co-investigator a QAEHS theme leader or key personnel.

A factsheet summarising the guidelines and application process has been provided for your information. Together with the QAEHS Policy and Guidelines and ‘QAEHS Project Funding Application Form’.

Link: [QAEHS project funding guidelines](#)

Link: [QAEHS project funding application form](#)

Applications can be submitted at any time. However, the **closing date for the next round of assessments is 31 July 2017**

All staff wishing to submit an application for funding need to seek approval to do so via the FSS Research and Development short form **QIS 33017**.

If you have any questions please contact the Research Office on 3096 2609 or [FSS_Research@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:FSS_Research@health.qld.gov.au)

**Upcoming events**


PAH Health Symposium – 1-4 August 2017, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane.


Full list is available at [http://qhss-health-qld.libguides.com/research/conferences](http://qhss-health-qld.libguides.com/research/conferences)
NEISSERIA REFERENCE LABORATORY, by Vicki Hicks.

The State Government has recently announced funding aimed at reducing the incidence of gonorrhoea in Qld, and the PHM laboratory is hoping to participate in several projects in the future.

All isolates of gonorrhoea from cases in Queensland are referred to Public Health Microbiology (PHM) for characterisation and antibiotic profiling. The PHM laboratory tests for resistance to 6 antibiotics for epidemiological purposes. Results are generated for monitoring rather than treatment purposes, and they provide a useful benchmark for clinicians on the levels of resistance in individual strains. Reports are prepared and reported as part of the National Neisseria Network’s (NNN) surveillance of gonococcal resistance in Australia and the Western Pacific Region.

The PHM laboratory has been a member of the Australian Gonococcal Surveillance Programme (AGSP) since its inception in 1982. This Australia-wide group, which is part of the NNN, was set up to monitor the rates and antibiotic resistance profiles of Neisseria gonorrhoeae, the causative agent of gonorrhoea. The NNN has the most complete and detailed dataset of gonorrhoea antibiotic resistance of any country in the world.

In recent years, the number of gonorrhoea isolates referred to PHM has been on an upward trend. This is a reflection of increased molecular testing without culture being performed. However, in the first three months of 2017, there has been double the number of gonorrhoeae cases compared to 2016 and we are seeing an increase in antimicrobial resistance, particularly to Penicillin, Tetracycline and Ciprofloxacin, and Azithromycin.

The isolates PHM receives are approximately 24% of cases notified state-wide (again reflecting the high numbers of cases that are diagnosed by PCR alone without culture). Trends that have been seen recently include an increase in the number of female patients and in patients over the age of 40. A large number of gonorrhoea isolates are received from men who have sex with men (MSM); the standard site of the urethra and also throat and rectal swabs, which are increasing in representation.

The results of this surveillance are published in the Communicable Diseases Intelligence Bulletin.