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Message from the Executive Director

Congratulations to the many staff involved in our Science Week day - what a great success it was! Feedback from our invited HSQ guests was very positive and they left with a better understanding of our business, and a greater appreciation of the complexity of science we perform and the expertise of our staff.

The lunchtime Hypothetical was a real highlight - set in a 'future earth' where climate change has resulted in a series of environmental disasters; displacing entire communities, fueling conflicts over resources and global lawlessness, leaving our border security agencies pushed to the limit.

FSS scientists were tasked with identifying the cause of an outbreak of illness amongst a group of refugees from a series of clues presented by host, Brett Heron. It was an entertaining presentation that showcased the breadth of work we undertake - helicopters and all! Special thanks to Charles Naylor, Julie Bergeon, Eva Comino, Stewart Carswell, Drew Watson, Glen Hewitson and John Bates for being on the panel, and Ross Kleinschmidt and David Warrilow for helping with the scenario.

A timeline of FSS events, achievements and successes has been created and is currently on display in the conference theatre dining room. I encourage everyone to have a look at this display; to celebrate our successes and acknowledge the varied and great work which is undertaken by staff at FSS. If there is anything that has been missed please leave your suggestions in the box provided or email FSS_Research@health.qld.gov.au.

I would also like to remind staff in the forensic areas of the ANZPAA NIFS best paper award, held annually. The 2017 nominations close on 29 September. There are a number of award categories, including Best Chapter in a Book, Best Case Study etc. Find more information at http://www.anzpaa.org.au /ArticleDocuments/518/best-paper-application.pdf.aspx

BLISS is a one day symposium that focuses on issues pertaining to early-career researchers and mid-career researchers. Meet your peers, share your research, grow as a researcher, build connections. This symposium is FREE to attend. Find out more and register at http://www.bliss2017.org/
**Staff publications**


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**New research projects**

*Use of molecular typing and genomics to enhance surveillance of Neisseria gonorrhoeae and associated antimicrobial resistance in Queensland* - FSS Principal Investigator: Amy Jennison, Public Health Microbiology; Collaborators: PQ, UQ and MNHHS.  

*Analysis of environmental contaminants in Australian/Queensland Honey* - FSS Principal Investigators: Ujang Tinggi, Organic Chemistry and Benjamin Tan, Inorganic Chemistry; Collaborator: QAAFI.  

*Primordial radionuclide disequilibria in sediments – a tool for discrimination between natural and anthropogenic contaminant sources* - FSS Principal Investigator: Ross Kleinschmidt, Radiation and Nuclear Science; Collaborator: DNRM.  

*Development of GCMS methods to detect and quantify regularly detected volatile organic compounds (VOCs)* - Principal Investigator: Jeff Herse, Organic Chemistry.  

*Radium: Profiling and radioecology near Cooby Dam* - FSS Principal Investigators: Drew Watson and Sian Patterson, Radiation and Nuclear Science.  

*The determination of baseline concentrations of histamine and metabolites in post-mortem blood* - FSS Principal Investigator: Sarah Morey, Forensic Toxicology.
PA Health Symposium

The Princess Alexandria Hospital hosted their annual Health Symposium earlier this month. This year’s theme was *Personalised Medicine – the future of healthcare.*

The PA Director of Media and Communications hosted a panel discussion with guests from TV, radio and print media on the topic *Medicine in the media: personalise your media message.* They provided insight into what makes a story appealing to their media outlet and offered tips for getting a story (your research for example) picked up:

- An interesting research outcome, in itself, is not always enough – look for an emotional connection for listeners/viewers/readers to relate to.
- There needs to be a ‘story arc’ – the journey – and at the centre of it is an engaging personality.
- Timing is everything and it should be acknowledged that story priorities can change quickly in the media.

These tips are food for thought as we consider ways to promote FSS research.

FSS Human Research Ethics Committee welcomes three new members

**Dr Gemma Robertson** BAppSc(MedSc), MBBS, MPHTM, FRCPA joined the Public Health Microbiology team this year as our Clinical Microbiologist. She has a variety of research experiences in microbiology, ranging from descriptive epidemiology to sophisticated molecular techniques, has co-authored several publications and was an invited speaker at the Communicable Diseases Conference in Melbourne in July. Gemma also joined the FSS Scientific Review Panel, as an intern, during this years Grant Funding round and looks forward to working with the research community here at FSS.

**Kellie Chenoweth** is a Registered Psychologist and has been a FSS Coronial Counsellor for the last 2 ½ years. For the 12 years prior Kellie was a Genetic Counsellor with Genetic Health QLD. She has experience as a Senior Research Assistant at UQ working on a qualitative research project exploring the psychological impact of genetic testing, as well as a large multi-centre project researching genetic discrimination.

**Dr Jenny Jones** PhD (Applied Ethics) is a long standing member of the Metro South HREC and the Clinical Ethics Coordinator for Metro South Health. Her work within the service is primarily educational and advisory. She facilitates monthly forums on the often challenging ‘non-clinical’ aspects of providing best practice outcomes but is also called upon to offer ethical expertise in complex clinical cases/situations.

HREC members are volunteers and offer their time and expertise, providing robust reviews of ethics applications, in parallel with their own work and life commitments.

Thank you to all the HREC members who have supported R&D at FSS by providing this essential service.

Ian Mackay thinks this years flu season is nothing to sneeze at. [https://theconversation.com/this-may-not-be-the-biggest-flu-season-on-record-but-it-is-a-big-one-here-are-some-possible-reasons-82642](https://theconversation.com/this-may-not-be-the-biggest-flu-season-on-record-but-it-is-a-big-one-here-are-some-possible-reasons-82642)
Upcoming events


131st AOAC Annual Meeting and Exposition – 24-27 September 2017, Atlanta, Georgia USA https://www.aoac.org/aoac_prod_imis/AOAC_Member/MtgsCF/17AMCF/17AM_M.aspx

Full list is available at http://qhss-health-qld.libguides.com/research/conferences

CAHRLI

Collaborative for Allied Health Research, Learning and Innovation
Metro North Hospital and Health Service

'New to Research' Seminar Series 2017

The Metro North HHS Collaborative for Allied Health Research, Learning and Innovation (CAHRLI) is a strategic network of allied health clinicians and researchers that will formally link research, learning and patient care, capitalising on our existing resources to enhance capacity and output. CAHRLI will be driven by principles of innovation and translation of research into practice.

The 'New to Research' Seminar Series is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 12.30pm to 1.15pm

The next presentation is 27 September 'Writing for publication' - Dr Gai Harrison

Register to attend via Survey Monkey link in Mozilla Firefox https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DFK35B9

Video conference will commence promptly at 12:30 pm. Please dial in 5 minutes prior. Dial in 3634 6002

FSS staff collaborate with UQ and DAF to present at National Conference

Recently staff from Public and Environmental Health, Organic Chemistry have collaborated with the Qld Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) to prepare and present a paper at the RACI National Centenary Conference. This is the first official joint project between QAAFI and FSS and both groups hope to build on the collaboration.

Staff in the Organic Chemistry laboratory brought their highly skilled instrumental analysis and problem solving to the collaboration which identified alkaloids in honey that have potential health impacts on people.

The paper Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids - natural toxins from flowers to honey was presented at the RACI National Centenary Conference by Mary Fletcher. The FSS staff involved in the project were Steve Carter, Shalona Anuj and Kevin Melksham.

Let us know if you have any papers or posters that have been presented recently FSS_IRS@Health.qld.gov.au
The Scientific Skills Development Unit (SSDU) is responsible for managing clinical and research student placements for Forensic and Scientific Services (FSS), including nursing placements in CFMU. SSDU recently hosted representatives from the University of Queensland, QUT and Griffith University on the afternoon of Thursday 3 August to the pilot student placements program.

This program has been revised and will be developed in 2018 to allow for interested university students to submit expressions of interest for a selection of research projects.

Julie Burgeon and Amanda Thompson (Forensic Toxicology, Coronial Services) and Dr Jim Carter (Food Chemistry, Public and Environmental Health) are three of four project principals who outlined their projects to the university representatives.

The projects have been considered with respect to Strategic, Operational, Research and Development need and the value they will contribute to FSS as well as learning outcomes for the Honours student.

Student placements at FSS have been formally recognised using a Student Deed with the universities since around 2010. Research placements will be progressed using Collaborative Research Agreements, and guided by requirements as set out by the Student Deeds office, Department of Health.

There are numerous Department of Health requirements that need to be satisfied before a student can be placed at FSS. SSDU can be contacted through FSS_Placements@health.qld.gov.au or directly, to assist supervisors, Managing Scientists and others with undergraduate nursing (CFMU) and postgraduate research placements (FSS).

ANZPAA NIFS Joint SAG meeting August 2017

A number of Forensic and Scientific Services staff attended the joint specialist advisory group meeting held in Melbourne during August 2017.

The joint meeting facilitated an opportunity to provide input and discuss broad issues relating to leadership and research and innovation in the forensic science landscape of Australia and NZ.


Our professional ties with ANZPAA NIFS enable FSS to influence policy and recommendations in the forensic science area on a National and International level.

NHMRC is now on Facebook.

Connect to get timely updates about funding opportunities, program updates, targeted calls for research and NHMRC funded research outcomes. https://www.facebook.com/National-Health-And-Medical-Research-Council-NHMRC-126954487916391/