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Message from the Research News team

We would like to congratulate the winners of the HSQ Staff Excellence Awards and also to shout out to all of the nominated staff and finalists who each demonstrated great work and achievement. You can read about all our finalists here.

Helen Gregg (Quality Manager) and Dr Les Griffiths (Forensic Medical Officer, CFMU) received awards in the 'Integrity' and 'Customers and Patients first' categories. You can read more about them here https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/hsq-staff/recognition/staff-excellence-awards/winners

This year has been a big one with over 60 research outputs (publications & presentations), 21 new research projects and 71 active research projects. There have been 8 projects completed and 4 external proposals submitted. The Research Community of Practice has had a number of meetings and facilitated presentations and information sharing with DAF, UQ and QH legal teams. Our research was highlighted in onsite seminars, at our annual science week talks, and through a number of presentations nationally and internationally.

We've been working hard behind the scenes to publish a retrospective report of research activities at FSS (2016-17). This has been a big undertaking but we hope to streamline the tasks and have the 2018 report published within the first half of 2019. With your engagement we can do this! So please send us through any highlights of your research or development activities.

Have a very happy holiday and see you in the new year! Trish and the Library team and Lucretia.
Staff publications


Staff presentations

Chowdhury, Sadia Afreen and Anuj, Shalona and Carter, James F and Hungerford, Natasha L and Fletcher, Mary T (2018) Authentication of Australian honey (don’t believe the headlines). In: 3rd Queensland Annual Chemistry Symposium QACS 2018, 23 November 2018, Griffith University, Nathan Campus Kessels Rd, Nathan, QLD.


New book in the library

Bugs as drugs: therapeutic microbes for the prevention and treatment of disease (Click to request a loan)

In Bugs as Drugs, editors Robert A. Britton and Patrice D. Cani have assembled a fascinating collection of reviews that chart the history, current efforts, and future prospects of using microorganisms to fight disease and improve health. Sections cover traditional uses of probiotics, next-generation microbial therapeutics, controlling infectious diseases, and indirect strategies for manipulating the host microbiome.

Source: http://www.asmscience.org/content/book/10.1128/9781555819705

ANZPAA NIFS Research and Innovation Roadmap

The Research and Innovation Roadmap details the priority areas of focus for research and innovation in forensic science, which were identified through an extensive consultation process with forensic science service providers, academics and forensic technology providers from across Australia and New Zealand. This document is a resource for the forensic science community to focus research and innovation initiatives towards end user requirements and reduce duplication of effort by identifying opportunities for collaboration.

A list of the current project questions can be downloaded via the following link: Research & Innovation Roadmap - 2019 Annual Projects

Example questions:

* Could a technique be developed to identify and provide an indication of the quantity of skin cells on large items/areas to enable targeted sampling for DNA analysis?

* Could knowledge of drug manufacture, drug production trends and illicit drug markets predict the development of new psychoactive substances?

* How can waste water analysis data be used to inform multi-agency responses to illicit drug activity and forensic preparedness to drug analysis?
Upcoming events

2019 - February


2019 - April


12th International Conference on Genomics and Molecular Biology 15-17 April 2019, Berlin, Germany [https://genomics.insightconferences.com/](https://genomics.insightconferences.com/)

2019 - May


45th Annual American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) Symposium 19-23 May 2019, St Louis, Missouri, USA [https://www.ascldsymposium.com/](https://www.ascldsymposium.com/)

43rd Annual Scientific Meeting 31 May to 2 June, 2019, Sydney Australia [https://iap-aus-conference.org.au/](https://iap-aus-conference.org.au/)
NHMRC updates

2019 Investigator Grant opportunity
The Investigator Grant scheme for funding commencing in 2020 will open in RGMS on 5 December 2018. Applications will close 5:00pm (AEDT) on 6 February 2019 with minimum data due on 16 January 2019.

Development Grants scheme: call for commercial assessor nominations
Seeking self-nominations from experts to participate as commercial assessors for applications in the 2019 round. Peer review meetings are scheduled for late May 2019 via teleconference. If you have research commercialisation experience and would like to participate in the assessment process, please submit your nomination through the Development Grants self-nomination portal

Invitations for 2019 peer review
Invitations to participate in the 2019 round of several NHMRC funding schemes are currently being sent. NHMRC encourages members of the research community to contribute their expertise to the peer review process, particularly as we move to the new grant program. Further information on NHMRC peer review, including the new grant program, will be published in the coming months.

Targeted call for research into per- and poly- fluoroalkylated substances (PFAS)
As part of the Australian Government's response to potential per- and poly-fluoroalkylated substances (PFAS) contamination on or near Commonwealth sites, a national program into the human health effect of PFAS has been established. The Grant Opportunity will be available on GrantConnect shortly with the scheme open to accept applications in RGMS.

Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021

QHEPS fact sheets: surveys, privacy and personal information
Are you conducting a survey?
As most online survey tools transfer information outside of Australia, you need to ensure your survey meets the department’s privacy obligations, particularly if your survey will collect any type of personal information. Our new factsheet - Surveys and privacy considerations includes some handy tips for selecting and creating your survey tool, and includes two privacy notice examples.

Is it personal information?
Need help to determine what is, and what isn’t, personal information? Take a look at the new fact sheet – Is it personal information?

Staffing over christmas
Research office - CLOSED 24 December, reopens 14 January 2019

Merry Christmas and happy holidays