## Dean’s Report December 2013 Transcript

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Dean’s Message

Welcome to final Dean’s report for 2013.

We have been recognised for our excellence in international education, receiving two of nine *Victorian International Education Awards*.  We were awarded best in Victoria in the *student experience* category for our volunteer program for international students and in the *innovation* category for our China health program. Congratulations to all staff involved; we are extremely proud of these programs and are excited to be recognised for our efforts.

Congratulations to Georgina Wheeler, a Health Sciences and International Development student who is part of La Trobe’s representative team in the Big Idea.  The Big Idea is a “pitch and plan” competition where students come up with a concept and business plan for a social enterprise. Georgina teamed up with two other students and their concept, Revegetate, beat 12 other La Trobe teams in our internal judging round in October.

The winners of the 2013 Professional Staff Awards have been announced. Congratulations to Lyn Walker, Noreen Dyer and Mary Walsh for receiving the Teamwork award, Tanya Thornton for the Customer Service award, Bhavani Singh for receiving the Leadership award and Nicole Brooks for the Innovation award.

The ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research has awarded the 2013 international exchange scholarship for the Emerging Researchers in Ageing to Karen Teshuva. Karen is a Research Fellow in the Lincoln Centre for Research on Ageing, AIPCA and PhD candidate in the Faculty of Health Sciences. She will be hosted for six weeks in 2014 by The Herczeg Institute on Aging at Tel Aviv University in Israel.

The Faculty of Health Sciences had a very strong representation at the recent Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) Conference in Sydney (Nov 27-29). The strength of our Research on Ageing group was clear through multiple presentations from staff in the School of Nursing & Midwifery (including the AIPCA).

Congratulations to Associate Professor Anne Holland for winning the La Trobe Mid-career Research Excellence Award. Associate Professor Anne Holland leads an internationally acclaimed research program in rehabilitation for chronic lung disease. She has more than 90 peer reviewed publications and her research is cited in every international treatment guideline for pulmonary rehabilitation. She has received over $4 million in competitive research funding from granting bodies in Australia, Norway and the USA.

Congratulations to Dr Jodie McClelland for receiving the La Trobe Mid-career Research Excellence Award. Jodie has developed an international reputation as a researcher of biomechanics and musculoskeletal disorders and has 20 peer-reviewed publications and over 20 presentations at leading international conferences, including as an invited speaker.

Sue Shepherd was nominated for the Australian Financial Review’s 100 Women of Influence Awards 2013 because of the global impact of the Low FODMAP Diet. **FODMAP**s are found in the foods we eat. **FODMAP**s is an acronym (abbreviation) referring to **F**ermentable **O**ligosaccharides, **D**isaccharides, **M**onosaccharides **a**nd **P**olyols\*. She developed this diet in private practice in 1999 and proved it with a PhD research and subsequently the efficacy of the diet has now been supported in an ever-growing number of high quality research studies. The low FODMAP diet is now used internationally as the primary dietary management for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and has been incorporated into the university teaching curriculum for dietitians and doctors throughout Australia and many other countries.

On Saturday 23rd November Felicity presented a session at an education forum focused on working with refugees and asylum seekers, toward positive mental health outcomes. 'Healing in a new land; an update in refugee mental health for GPs and primary care providers' was held at Foundation House in Brunswick and Felicity presented a 90 minute workshop  with Melanie Block - physiotherapist and team leader in refugee health at Western Region Health Centre -titled 'Where’s The Pain Coming From? Managing Pain in Refugees'. The session attracted mainly GPs and the biopsychosocial approach to understanding pain was well received.

It is a real pleasure that I announce that two of the four projects recommended for funding in the recent round of Local Innovations Funding from the Victorian Government were submitted by members of the Loddon-Mallee Clinical Training Network. The successful projects were:

1. "Student Orientation Space" which expands the learning management system previously developed by Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) with its partner, Latrobe University. This state-wide project, led by BCHS, aims to provide a tool for the orientation of students to both traditional and extended clinical placement settings ($148,000)

2. A project to develop and pilot an inter-disciplinary student-led feedback model that will improve the quality of clinical supervision at sites in the Loddon-Mallee and Hume regions. This project is led by Bendigo Health with its partners Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative, Inglewood District Health Service, Goulburn Valley Health and Latrobe Rural Health School ($104,900)

These successes build on the many other projects that have been funded in the Loddon-Mallee CTN since the inception of Clinical Training Networks in Victoria . They enhance the reputation of our network and reinforce the pathfinder role that our region has played in the development and management of clinical training opportunities in Victoria.

Lastly, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dewar opened the $22.4 million Clinical Health School building today, which is located in the heart of the new Bendigo Hospital precinct. The school will be used by our students studying nursing and midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, and speech pathology.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work this year and I hope you all have a wonderful safe Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.