

FACULTY OF SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

April 2008

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

1. WORD FROM THE DEAN
2. AWARDS & SUCCESSES
3. FoS STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENTS
4. EMERITUS PROFESSOR TO NURTURE TALENTED CHEMISTRY STUDENTS
5. POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION WEEK
6. LINK CONFERENCE SUCCESS
7. WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS / LECTURES / SYMPOSIUM
8. LIBRARY UPDATE
9. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND 2008
10. FACULTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND 2008
11. OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
12. THINGS TO NOTE
13. FOR YOUR DIARY

1. Word from The Dean

***SciSpace* opens this week; Marsden preliminary announcements out shortly; Incredible Science is approaching fast; Sandra Jones retirement function is on Wednesday 23rd at 4.30pm in OGH**

This week will see the formal opening of our additional undergraduate facility *SciSpace*. Located on level 1 of Building 303, *SciSpace* is designed to accommodate the burgeoning demand for access to informal space in the #300 sector. The ~200m² space occupies the site of the former junior Physics laboratory and is accessed from the foyer. Hopefully the ~\$300,000 conversion is not the final configuration, because the long term intention is, amongst other changes, to connect this area to the foyer of the adjoining building by an additional corridor from the entrance way (near the flyover) that connects to Computer Science.

As part of the refit, the former Student Resource Centre has been shifted from the cramped and unsatisfactory site in the basement of Building 303 and this reception and student service facility is now sited upstairs in the newly renovated area. To the rear of *SciSpace* is a relatively large area that will be used for student assistance. Out of normal student hours, the facility overall will be available for those general functions where a large number of students and staff are likely to be involved.

On Thursday the outcome of the Preliminary Round of the Marsden Fund will be available. The envelopes for City-based staff will be available at the Faculty Office. Those for Tamaki and Leigh staff will be delivered in the mail. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff who have submitted in this round.

Inevitably there will be many staff who are disappointed, given the current low funding rate and the consequential negative impact on the number of invitations to submit a full proposal. Overall, the success rate is now below 10%. Clearly there is an urgent need for the Fund to be increased, perhaps three-fold. I do hope that staff will persist and be steadfast in continuing to submit their innovative research proposals, notwithstanding the low chance of success. If we are to persuade this Government (or its successor) to invest more in the Fund, it is really important at this stage for staff not to lose heart and to keep lodging applications. The need for

further investment in Science has been highlighted in a recent report which I recommend to you. The recently released *Science manifesto - or plan for the recovery of New Zealand Science*. This excellent short analysis has been published by the National Science Panel of the RSNZ and is available on the Web. I have arranged for hard copies to be distributed to each Department.

Shortly, *Incredible Science* will be upon us once again. 2008 marks our eighth year running this event and I believe it continues to be an important PR exercise for the Faculty. Departments will have recently received a request for information on your planned contributions to the 2008 Incredible Science programme.

Whilst Incredible Science is being held on Monday 7th July this year, Faculty staff spend a lot of time publicising the programme and the event beforehand. So could you please ensure you have sent details of your planned displays, shows and lectures to Nicole (n.depina@auckland.ac.nz) – the deadline for this was Friday 18th April.

We get a lot of repeat visitors each year, so we need to make an effort to ensure that our programme includes new initiatives as well as old favourites. I realise that it may be difficult coming up with new material, but I suggest that we can also recycle activities from a few years earlier. I have therefore asked Linda and Nicole to go through the draft programme with me, and look at how best we might fill any gaps we identify.

Finally, after many years service on behalf of the School of Biological Sciences, the Faculty and the University, Sandra Jones, School Registrar is retiring. Sandra's farewell function is on Wednesday 23rd April and staff who know her well are invited to attend. A detailed tribute to Sandra's work in the University will be published elsewhere. At this stage all that is required of me is to remind you that the function is on Wednesday at 4.30pm in the downstairs dining room of Old Government House.

– Dick

2. Awards & Successes

Laurie Melton (Chemistry) has been admitted into the Fellowship of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology (IAFoST), only the second New Zealander to be so honoured.

Christian Rover (Statistics) has received a **Best Doctoral Thesis Award** for degrees awarded in 2007.

3. FoS Staffing Announcements

We welcome ...

Chemistry

Carol Whyte – Administration Assistant

Computer Science

YeoJin Jo – Administration Assistant

Mathematics

Elizabeth Mealing – Department Secretary/PA to HoD

Optometry & Vision Science

Vivina Momoka – Department Secretary/PA to HoD

Psychology

Dr Donna Addis – Academic Staff Member – Donna starts 28 April. Her research interest is Neuroimaging (fMRI) and Neuropsychology of autobiographical memory

and future event simulation, with a focus on hippocampal function in healthy young and older adults and patients with temporal lobe epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease. Donna is based in HSB Rm. 626 ext 88552.

Faculty Office

Ellen McCormick – Financial & Administrative Assistant
Maree Shaw – Postgraduate Research Advisor

We farewell ...

SBS

Sandra Jones – School Manager. After over 20 years of service, Sandra is to retire from the University on 30 April. Sandra is a mad-keen amateur botanist and she is looking forward to waking up in the morning, seeing the sky clear, putting on her tramping boots and heading for the Waitakere bush. When we see rain again, she has a list as long as your arm of interesting places to go, things to do. Some of it will be voluntary work, none of it will be paid. She really is retiring.

Psychology

Associate Professor Jenni Ogden will retire from the University on 30 April. Jenni will be taking up fulltime residence on Great Barrier Island.

4. Emeritus Professor to nurture talented Chemistry students

This article is obtained from the April issue of *Advance* - an internal University of Auckland update from External Relations

Emeritus Professor of Chemistry Charmian O'Connor CBE is paving the way for an outstanding female Chemistry student to reach for the top - and to get there. On 1 April Charmian presented a cheque to The University of Auckland Foundation as part of the Leading the Way Campaign. The endowment gift is to be used to fund a new annual prize, to be awarded on merit to a first-year female Chemistry student who is about to embark on a second year majoring in Chemistry. As well as providing financial support, Charmian hopes to mentor future winners of the prize. Having taught first-year Chemistry students for more than 40 of the 50 years she has been at the Chemistry Department, she considers this stage to be crucial in influencing the students' decision to continue in the discipline or not. She spoke of a lack of women pursuing an academic career in Chemistry and hoped that by gifting financial support and giving time and energy to scholars, she would be able to continue to "make a contribution".

5. Postgraduate Information Week

The University will be hosting this event in the week of 12-16 May. The Faculty of Science activities will be held on Wednesday 14 May. An introductory lunch session is planned, followed by activities and tours based on subject groupings and finishing with an early evening social function.

Local students planning postgraduate study at any level are invited, and the Faculty is also seeking the participation of able students from elsewhere in the country.

Postgraduate Advisors are requested to encourage suitably qualified students considering postgraduate study at any level to attend.

Students need to register online if they are interested in coming to the Science session – <http://www.ourownwords.ac.nz/event-programme.html>

6. LINK Conference Success

The LINK conference was held at the University on 4 April and there was very positive feedback about the Faculty of Science sessions. This was our opportunity to profile Science to secondary school career advisors, the key people that take our message to our future student base.

We showcased our new SciSpace / Maths & Statistics space by holding expo-style sessions where the attendees could interact with department staff and students and gain insight into the range of options Science has to offer.

Shannon Johnston would like to extend a special thanks to the following staff and departments for their assistance on the day:

John Harvey - Physics/BTech

Kerry Loomes - BTech

Marie McEntee - SGGES

Michelle Burstall - Psychology

Bart Kay - Sports & Exercise Science

Peter Reid - Computer Science

Ihab Ramadan - BTech

Team Maths - Jamie Sneddon, Daniela Rovere, Judy Paterson

Science Student Centre staff

7. Workshops / Seminars / Lectures / Symposium

CAD workshops - April

Touch Typing \$60.00

Monday 28 April 1-3pm (3 x 2hr sessions)

Are you a two finger typist? This three-part workshop held over one week, will turn you in to a Touch Typist in just six hours. Combines tuition with practice.

Familiarise yourself with OOS prevention skills. Work towards a NZQA certificate in the future.

Objectives: Gain fluency and competency with the keyboard. Learn to touch type
Key Content

- Familiarise yourself with the keyboard layout
- Gain speed and accuracy skills
- Learn how to avoid OOS

Designed for / Prerequisites: All users, but particularly those wishing to learn or improve their keyboard skills

Note : Users attend three x two hour sessions in the same week, i.e. Mon 28 April 1-3pm, Wed 30 April 1-3pm, Fri 2 May 10am-12pm.

Vista (File Management) plus Office 2007 Introduction to Word, Excel & PowerPoint.

These four hands-on courses are FREE for a limited time to all University of Auckland staff. The participant's manual may include additional Office 2007 concepts or reference material not taught in the actual course. Refamiliarise yourself with the basics in this new software, and learn additional methods and tips to do the things you do most. NOTE: These are not upgrade courses. However, major differences between the versions may be pointed out during the session. Equivalent Office 2003 course notes are available on request to session participants.

[Access Intermediate \(PC only\)](#) - Monday 28th

[Photoshop Intermediate](#) - Tuesday 29th

[EndNote \(PC only\)](#) - Wednesday 30th

[SPSS Intermediate \(3 hours\) \(PC only\)](#) - Wednesday 30th

[PowerPoint Introduction \(PC only\)](#) - Thursday 1st

[Word Introduction \(PC only\)](#) - Thursday 1st

CAD timetable is available at [Http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz) and has full course details and is also where to enrol.

Seminar

Speaker – Graeme Steel, Executive Director, Drug Free Sport New Zealand

Title – Beating Sport's Drug Cheats – current issues and developments in anti-doping in sport

Wednesday, 23 April, 6pm

Venue – Room 407 Building 301

Graeme Steel, a New Zealand-representative sportsman, has been the Executive Director of Drug Free Sport New Zealand since its establishment as a Crown Entity in 1995. Drug Free Sport New Zealand is responsible for doping control in sports in New Zealand and conducts approximately 1600 drug tests each year, in addition to providing a comprehensive education programme. Graeme was Vice Chair of the World Anti-Doping Independent Observer team at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, and Chair of the World Anti-Doping Independent Observer team at the Doha 2006 Asian Games. Graeme is also currently the President of the Association of National Anti-Doping Organisations.

Cafe Scientifique

Speaker – Niki Harré, Psychology, UoA

Title – The Role of the Citizen in the Age of Climate Change

Wednesday, 23 April, 6.30pm

Venue – The Horse and Trap, 3 Enfield Street, Mt Eden – No booking required – The Auckland Museum Institute has located a comfortable lounge bar downstairs at The Horse and Trap, where participants are free to buy food and beverages from the bar and talk with the speaker and each other, exploring the latest ideas in science, technology and the arts.

Niki Harré is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Auckland and co-editor of *Carbon Neutral by 2020: How New Zealanders can Tackle Climate Change*. She has written numerous research articles and book chapters on a variety of topics including psychological wellbeing and community activists and volunteers. Climate change is one of the central issues of our time, yet it is weighed down by a pervasive sense of hopelessness about how we should respond. This session is based on the book *Carbon Neutral by 2020: How New Zealanders Can Tackle Climate Change* (Nov 2007), and discusses how we can shift our approach to everyday life to become part of the solution. Rather than a session based on 'how to' tips, the focus will be on coming to terms with what it means to be a responsible citizen in the current era.

Chemistry Seminar

Speaker – Professor Martin Albrecht – University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Title – Metal – Carbene Chemistry: Beyond the Classical Themes

Thursday, 24 April, 1pm

Venue – Room 407 Building 301

In recent years, catalyst development has greatly profited from the discovery of *N*-heterocyclic carbenes as ligands for transition metals. Typically, such carbene complexes are prepared from imidazolium salts via deprotonation and concerted or subsequent metalation at C(2). In some rare cases, non-classical carbene bonding

and metallation at C(4) has been observed. Although such non-classical carbene bonding has been shown to increase the catalytic activity of the metal center in some cases, formation of such complexes has been rather coincidental and few general procedures have been developed. In this presentation, rational synthetic approaches towards C(4)-bound carbene complexes will be discussed. A particular emphasis will be directed towards the electronic impact of these non-classical carbene ligands and towards the catalytic activity that emanate from such bonding, last but not least for activating otherwise unreactive bonds.

(James Wright)

Public Lecture – Department of Mathematics

Speaker – Professor Peter Cameron – University of London and 2008 Forder Lecturer

Title – Sudoku: Is it Mathematics?

Wednesday, 30 April, 5.30pm refreshments 6pm lecture

Venue – SLT1 Ground Floor Building 303

Like them or loathe them, Sudoku puzzles are everywhere. But are they mathematics, or are they just “logic and reasoning” as one national British newspaper suggested?

All the ingredients of Sudoku had been developed by mathematical scientists long before the puzzle made its first official appearance in 1979. This lecture will look at the mathematical origins of Sudoku and at a variant called “symmetric Sudoku” that has close links with finite geometry and error-correcting codes.

A highly entertaining presenter and expert in a wide range of mathematical fields, Peter Cameron was one of the London Mathematical Society’s Popular Lecturers in 2001, and has received various awards, including the Euler Medal. Peter is the 2008 Forder Lecturer, a distinguished Fellowship awarded by the London Mathematical Society every two years to visit and lecture at New Zealand universities.

Public Lecture – Department of Chemistry

Speaker – Professor Richard Schrock, Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Nobel Laureate (2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry) and Hood Foundation Fellow

Title – The Nobel Prize, Scientific Research, and Our Future

Thursday, 1 May, 5.30pm welcome drinks 6pm lecture, 7pm reception

Venue – OGGB5

Professor Schrock is a co-winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. His discoveries will allow many of the materials encountered in everyday life to be made in a more efficient and environmentally friendly manner. He will discuss the origin of the Nobel Prizes, their significance to the broader community, and how and why someone might win a Nobel Prize in chemistry. He will explain why chemical catalysis, the research field for which he won the Nobel Prize, is a key component of solutions to future problems concerned with energy and the environment. In discussing these issues he will address some of the key questions often posed to scientists: what is scientific research all about, what motivates the scientists who undertake it, and why is it critically important to our future?

High Performance Research Symposium (4 August)

The University of Canterbury’s BlueFern™ super computer facility is hosting its first high performance research symposium on 4 August 2008 at the Millennium Hotel in Queenstown, New Zealand .

The symposium will coincide with the start of the Asia-Pacific Advanced Network Consortium meeting (APAN26) in Queenstown, Asia Pacific's foremost event for showcasing advanced broadband networking applications and technologies for research and education.

APAN26, which will run from 4-8 August at the Millennium Hotel, will explore how ICT developments and advanced networks are changing research and collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region, and contributing towards environmental, regional and operational sustainability.

BlueFern's high performance research symposium will set the scene by showcasing best practice e-Research projects, programmes and tools.

The symposium will:

- demonstrate the benefits of e-Research projects currently underway in New Zealand, and introduce overseas best practice examples
- act as an informal catalyst for collaboration and further development of e-Research networks

Speakers at the symposium will include Professor Ian Foster, an expatriate New Zealander who pioneered the concept of grid computing and cyber-infrastructure. Known as the "father of the grid", he is currently Director of the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory's Computation Institute.

Details of other international and New Zealand-based speakers will be added to the symposium webpage as they are confirmed.

<http://www.bluefern.canterbury.ac.nz/hprs>

Registration information is posted on the webpage.

Enquiries can be made to:

Stuart Broughton

stuart.broughton@canterbury.ac.nz

APAN26 registrations can be made through the Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN) website: <http://www.karen.net.nz/apan26-registration/>

8. Library Update

GreenFILE — new database

http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/databases/learn_database/public.asp?record=GreenFILE

This is an online indexing service using the EBSCOHost platform. GreenFILE covers scholarly and general interest titles, as well as government documents and reports. Drawing on the connection between the environment and disciplines such as agriculture, education, law, health and technology, the database contains nearly 300,000 records, with full text for selected titles.

Auckland Bibliography now available

http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/subjects/geog/docs/auckland_bib.pdf

Following a request in 2005 to compile "a list of publications in the last 10 years dealing with aspects of Auckland that geographers might be interested in — range across books, journals, theses, reports", this bibliography was compiled, and is now available online. The bibliography is divided into three broad categories: human geography and environmental management, physical geography and environmental science, and the teaching of geography and environmental science. Within each category the arrangement is alphabetical by author. Included are monographs, journal articles, theses, and research studies and projects where copies have been housed in the University of Auckland Library. The list is constantly being updated with current material. While primarily of interest to geographers and environmental scientists and managers, it should be of interest to a variety of people in other disciplines as well.

9. Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund 2008 (2 May)

Purpose: The fund is to enable the Vice-Chancellor to meet development and capacity building opportunities that arise during the course of the year, support the University Strategic Plan, and are likely to be of sufficient impact as to justify an immediate investment of funds.

Budget: A sum of \$2.0m has been budgeted for 2008. Initially, \$1.5m will be allocated through a contestable process. Allocations may be drawn down until 31 December 2009. In exceptional circumstances an extension to 31 December 2010 will be considered.

The balance will be held for additional contestable allocations and discretionary allocations by the Vice-Chancellor.

Process: Allocations from the contestable pool will be made by the Vice-Chancellor after considering the recommendations of a panel appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. Grants will be available in the range \$30,000 to \$150,000.

Criteria: The principal criterion against which applications will be assessed is the extent to which they demonstrate the potential to contribute significantly to advancing the strategic objectives in the University's Strategic Plan 2005-2012, as approved by Council on 15 August 2005. In particular, applications are invited for projects which address the following strategic activities:

- attracting talented undergraduates and postgraduates from throughout NZ to the University
- enhancing the undergraduate student experience
- enhancing the postgraduate student experience
- enhancing teaching and learning
- curriculum development and rationalization
- enhancing the University's development programmes for academic and general staff
- enhancing the University's ability to attract offshore research funding

Within this framework, applicants should demonstrate:

- which of the Strategic Plan objectives the project will advance, and how
- the innovative nature of the project
- the potential for the project to succeed
- the potential academic and resource benefits to the University
- the extent to which successful outcomes might be transferred to other areas of the University.

The University's Strategic Plan 2005-2012 is available on the website at http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/about/uoa/publications/strategic_plan.cfm, and sets out the University's strategic objectives relating to: the international standing of the University; research and creative work; teaching and learning; the Treaty of Waitangi; community engagement; excellent people; and resources and organisation.

Applications will be considered in relation to Strategic Plan objectives in any of the above categories, and may be made by any individual staff member or group of staff, academic unit or service division. However, preference will be given to projects that offer progress in the strategic activities listed above.

Applications will not be considered for routine or recurring operating expenditure required to support existing or new programmes and activities. These costs should be prioritised within operating budgets.

With respect to research-related initiatives, the VCSDF is not intended to fund stand-alone research projects (which may be supported by funds such as the Faculty Research Development Funds), but may fund projects that seed future research or develop research capacity.

Because projects to be supported will be of a "seeding" nature, there should be no expectation of ongoing support beyond the term of the grant. Rather, projects should aim to become self-supporting.

Applications: Applications should be brief (a maximum of 2 pages, in 12 point), and should first give the project title, names and affiliations of applicants, the funding sought and the period over which the requested funding will be expended. They should then describe the project in terms of the criteria and priorities listed above. A costing of the project should be included, and must be sufficiently detailed and justified to allow proper assessment by the panel. Any other resources or approvals necessary for the project to proceed should be identified. Funding will not be provided for teaching buy-out.

Applicants must ensure that, if the proposed project would require resources from or have an impact on other units in the University, the other party has agreed to that before the application is submitted.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 2 May, and should be emailed to Karen Jackson, in the Vice-Chancellor's Office - ke.jackson@auckland.ac.nz

10. Faculty Research Development Fund 2008 (30 June)

Guidelines and application forms are now available on the Faculty of Science website for this year's FRDF round. There are three funds researchers can apply for:

New Staff Research Fund

[</uoa/science/about/research/research_dev_fund/new_staff_fund.cfm>](http://uoa/science/about/research/research_dev_fund/new_staff_fund.cfm)

- a maximum of \$30,000 to assist our new academic staff to establish a viable research programme as quickly as possible after their appointment

Staff Research Fund

[</uoa/science/about/research/research_dev_fund/staff_research_fund.cfm>](http://uoa/science/about/research/research_dev_fund/staff_research_fund.cfm)

- a maximum of \$30,000 to support a project that will enhance the research careers of staff

Post-Doctoral Fellowship and Large Project Research Fund

[</uoa/science/about/research/research_dev_fund/post_doc_fund.cfm>](http://uoa/science/about/research/research_dev_fund/post_doc_fund.cfm)

- a maximum of \$150,000 for a limited number of Post Doctoral Fellowships and/or large research projects to build research capacity in areas of strategic relevance to the Faculty/University and to enhance the research careers of the staff involved

Applications are due at the Research Office by 30th June 2008 but please be aware that you need to allow time for your Head of School/Department to write supporting comments.

Please go to:

http://www.science.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/science/about/research/research_dev_fund/research_dev_fund_home.cfm for more information.

If you have any questions please contact Wendy Rhodes on ext 86500 or w.rhodes@auckland.ac.nz

11. Other Funding Opportunities

Fullbright New Zealand (1 May)

Fulbright New Zealand invites applications for the US government's most prestigious and valuable education scholarships - the International Fulbright Science & Technology Awards. Valued at over NZ\$350,000 each, the awards are for promising graduate students to undertake fully funded PhD study at top American universities in fields of science, technology or engineering.

Approximately 40 awards are offered each year to graduate students from around the world who demonstrate unique aptitude and innovation in scientific fields, leadership potential and the ability to be a cultural ambassador for their country. Candidates are nominated by their home country's Fulbright commission and selected by rigorous international competition.

Fulbright New Zealand was successful in nominating three candidates in the competition's first two rounds - Irene Ballagh from Dunedin in 2006 and Alana Alexander from Auckland and Wynton Moore from Dunedin last year - and anticipates fielding more world class applications for this year's awards.

The closing date for applications to Fulbright New Zealand is 1 May 2008

See <http://www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nz-ifest.html>

or contact Kara Wood at Fulbright New Zealand for further information -

kara@fulbright.org.nz / 04 494 1504

Fulbright New Zealand - Study/Research/Teach in the US

Fulbright New Zealand's educational advising team are visiting the University of Auckland campus as part of their annual Outreach Tour to inform students and staff about options for studying, researching and teaching in the United States of America. Come along to hear unbiased, current and comprehensive information on educational opportunities in the US and an introduction to the Fulbright programme's range of awards to help you get there.

Fulbright New Zealand Outreach Tour

University of Auckland

11.30am-1pm, Monday 19 May

Room 423-342, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street

See www.fulbright.org.nz for further information

Charles Fleming Funds (1 May)

Below is a link to information about the Charles Fleming Funds - travel, senior scientist and publishing. These funds target activities that would not normally be expected to be funded through the applicant's institution.

<http://www.rsnz.org/funding/charlesfleming/>

Applications are due at the RSNZ on 1 May 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact

Wendy Rhodes, Research Advisor, Faculty of Science

Phone 09 3737 599 ext 86500

International Investment Opportunities Fund (8 May)

FRST staff recently came to the University and explained the International Investment Opportunities Fund (IIOF). There are two objectives to the fund:

Objective One - Building international research collaborations -

<http://www.frst.govt.nz/funding/research/IIOFfundsummary/objectiveone>

Objective Two - Developing international funding partnerships - linked to specific countries - currently only Japan -

<http://www.frst.govt.nz/funding/research/IIOFfundsummary/objectivetwo>

For Objective Two there is a two-stage process and the next dues date for concepts is *8th May 2008*.

IIOF Objective One will support proposals that:

- are out of cycle for the main funding rounds - timing is important to make the most of an opportunity
- are new projects that are genuinely international - must involve at least one international research team (can be building on relationships that already exist)
- broadly fit with one of the 18 FRST portfolios (see Appendix 3 in document via link provided above)
- are 1:1 leverage (cash or in-kind) from international sources

- provide significant benefits to NZ re science collaboration, capability build and/or economic
 - involve a leading national team with full support from the organisation
 - provide bridging funding - need to show how will submit to next funding round
- Proposals are supported for up to 3 years and can request between \$100,000 and \$600,000.

If you have any questions or would like assistance with preparing an IIOF application, contact Wendy Rhodes (x86500) or the FRST specialist at the Research Office Jonathan Lane - j.lane@auckland.ac.nz ext 84279.

Oxford Nuffield Medical Fellowship 2008/9 (9 May)

Applications close May 9, 2008

Applications are invited for an award under the Scheme for Oxford Nuffield Medical Fellowships in either a Clinical Medicine or Medical Science department of the University. The fellowship carries an allowance on the scale £39,207 - £41,001 - £42,795. This allowance is subject to United Kingdom tax. The Trustees will pay direct, economy class return air fares for the appointee, his/her spouse, and children up to the age of 18 years. A generous baggage allowance is also given. Applicants should have graduated from the University of Auckland or the University of Otago, and should *either* hold a medical qualification obtained in New Zealand or the United Kingdom, or have appropriate research experience. There is no limit as to age or status.

The fellowship is tenable for two years in the first instance, with the possibility of an extension for a third year. Fellows are expected to return to New Zealand at the end of the fellowship to continue to do work of a similar nature.

The award is available from 1 October 2008 or, subject to consultation with the University's Medical Sciences Office and the department concerned, from such other *later* date as may be agreed.

Applications should be in the form of a letter outlining the proposed course of study of research at Oxford, accompanied by a full curriculum vitae, including details of the applicant's academic record. Applicants are asked to provide the names and contact details of two persons whom they have asked to forward confidential references (by fax or email) directly to the Chairman of the Selection Committee. Further information, including details of the research interests of those departments in which the fellowship may be held may be obtained from <http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/departments>.

Applications are confidential. Please email your application to:

g.cooper@auckland.ac.nz and post one signed copy to:

Professor Garth Cooper, School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92 019, Auckland 1142, New Zealand.

A successful applicant who does not hold a British or EU passport, will need to obtain a visa through the British High Commission, PO Box 1812, Wellington 6140, NZ.

RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES for the week of 16 April 2008

Resources at your fingertips

- ResearchResearch – www.ResearchResearch.com UA has subscribed to ResearchResearch. Access is possible from any Internet-connected UA computer. By setting up a personal account, users can obtain emailed funding alerts.
- COS Funding opportunities database – <http://funding-gopps.cos.com>. A comprehensive source of funding available from any Internet-connected UA computer. If you wish to receive email updates for COS funding please subscribe to the mailing list <http://list.auckland.ac.nz/mailman/listinfo/roof>
- European Science and Technology website www.colab.rsnz.org provides information on funding for collaboration opportunities and associated funding.

18 Apr

University of Auckland Research Committee: Early Career Research Excellence Awards: Recognise and promote excellence and research leadership potential among emerging researchers at the University of Auckland. Refer: http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/fms/default/uoa/about/research/research_uni/docs/Early%20Career%20Research%20Excellence%20Awards.doc

21 Apr

NZ Families Commission: Blue Skies Fund call for proposals: Intended for new research, emergent ideas, 'ideas papers' and 'think pieces' which have the potential to lead to new research. Funding varies between \$5,000 and \$15,000 according to the type of study being proposed. Refer: <http://www.nzfamilies.org.nz/research/blueskies-call.php>

23 Apr

Ashburn Clinic: Research & education grants: support research in the areas of therapeutic community work, how treatment milieu supports & affects recovery, & field of psychodynamic psychotherapy. Refer: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/research/forms/Ashburn%20Clinic/Application%20Form%20&%20Guidelines.doc>

New Zealand Dental Research Foundation: Research grants: to support research in fields related to dentistry, particularly clinical dentistry and dental practice. Applications should not exceed \$15,000. Refer: <http://www.nzda.org.nz/pub/index.php?id=12>

New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage: Australian sesquicentennial gift trust for awards in oral history: providing financial help for projects using oral resources relating to the history of NZ and NZ's close connections with the Pacific. Refer: <http://www.mch.govt.nz/awards/history/oral.html>

Australian Spinal Research Foundation: To fund research and disseminate knowledge that furthers the understanding, development and effectiveness of chiropractic care. Expressions of interest due on 23 April 2008. For more information, please contact Dr Samantha Jones (si.jones@auckland.ac.nz or extn. 89778), Refer: <http://www.spinalresearch.com.au>

24 Apr

Education New Zealand: NZ postgraduate study abroad award: up to \$10,000 is available to cover up to six months' research abroad. Refer: http://www.newzealandeducated.com/int/en/institutions_courses/scholarships/outgoing/new_zealand_postgraduate_study_abroad_award

Fulbright New Zealand: International Fulbright Science Technology Awards: promising graduate students to undertake PhD study at top US universities in fields of science, technology or engineering. Refer: <http://www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nz-ifst.html>

Fulbright New Zealand: Fulbright-Cognition Education Research Trust Scholar Award in Education Research: to pursue research in the US. One award valued at up to US\$20,000 (plus travel expenses). Refer: <http://www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nz-cert.html>

The Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT): Agribusiness innovation grants: to provide seed funding for primarily farmer/ grower groups, 2 stages selection process. Applicant to submit a Project Inquiry. Refer: <http://www.agmardt.org.nz/page.php?pageID=5>

Neurological Foundation: Apply for Senior Clinical research fellowship and VJ Chapman research fellowship. Refer: <http://www.neurological.org.nz/html/appforms.php>

Auckland Medical Research Foundation: Travel grants: applications considered on merit and preference given to applicants presenting paper at meeting. May be provided to support a training course or research method and/ or visit to laboratory. Refer: http://www.medicalresearch.co.nz/grants_application_forms.html#a

2 May

University of Auckland Research Committee: Apply for Cross Faculty Research Initiatives Fund and Early Career Research Excellence Awards. Refer:

http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/staff/research/uarc_funds/uarc.cfm

15 May

Grand Challenges in Global Health: Register intent. \$US100 million Grand Challenges Explorations: a new initiative to encourage scientists across the globe to pursue ideas that have never before been tested for solving major health problems.

Refer: <http://www.gcgh.org/explorations/topics/>

19 May

The Department of Internal Affairs: Lottery Environment and Heritage Grants: to promote, protect and conserve New Zealand's natural, physical and cultural heritage. Refer: http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Lottery-Grants-Environment-and-Heritage?OpenDocument

ONGOING

New Zealand—European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST): Funds up to \$5,000 each to supplement travel and subsistence expenses for NZ and European researchers. Refer: <http://www.cost.esf.org/vademecum>

Michael J Fox Foundation: Rapid Response Innovation Awards is to support innovative research focused on the cause of and cure for Parkinson's disease (PD). No pre-proposal stage. Online submission of proposals. Funds up to \$75,000. Results in 6 weeks.

<http://www.michaeljfox.org/research/fundingopp.php?id=29>

Humboldt Research: Fellowships for Postdocs for scholars resident outside Germany who hold doctorates to carry out research projects of their own choice in Germany.

http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/programme_az.htm

Royal Society of New Zealand: ISAT Conference Funding—Applications will be treated on an ad hoc basis and will be subject to assessment and evaluation and dependent on the availability of funding. http://www.rsnz.org/funding/int_conf/

Sir Logan Campbell Medical Trust Awards: To assist with short-term postgraduate study & research abroad, travel & conference grants, sponsorship of visits to Auckland, other objects of an allied nature approved by the committee. Applications considered bimonthly. Refer:

http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/currentstudents/money/scholarships_awards.cfm?form=details&detailCode=801507

The Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT) - funding for conferences to assist with travel costs for overseas speakers for important agricultural conferences held in NZ.

<http://www.agmardt.org.nz/forms/346d368ae328a7a694e69ada4e98e519.doc>

More Funding Opportunities available on Key Dates Calendar.

http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/staff/key_dates/event-types/research.cfm

Seek further details on these and other funding opportunities from the Research Office – <http://www.researchinfo.auckland.ac.nz> or ext 87956

12. Things to Note

Bioinformatics Software Geneious Pro

The University of Auckland has a 60-copy site-licence for the bioinformatics software Geneious Pro, produced by Biomatters Ltd. The software runs on MacOS, Linux and Windows desktops, and performs a range of bioinformatics analyses, including BLAST, multiple alignment, phylogenetic analyses, and protein visualisation. To obtain a Licence Key valid until 28 Feb 09, please contact Prof. Allen Rodrigo (a.rodrico@auckland.ac.nz). The keys will be distributed on a first-in-first-served basis.

Contact Lens Open Day

Wednesday April 23rd – from 2pm-6pm

WHERE: Optometry Department – Grafton Campus - Room 2401 (fourth floor)

Drop-in for a free personalised consultation!

Contact Lenses could be a good choice for you!

The latest issue of *Entropy* - the Chemistry Department Newsletter - can be found at: <http://www.che.auckland.ac.nz/downloads/Entropy/entropy740.htm>

13. For Your Diary

23 April IT Academic Committee Meeting – 3pm
24 April Postgraduate Committee Meeting – 1pm
24 April Administration Induction Workshop – 3pm

1 May *SciSpace* Open Day
6 May Science IT Governance Board – 3pm
7 May SLT/Speech Science Board of Studies – 2.30pm
8 May Administration & Finance Meetings – 2pm/2.30pm
13 May Academic Committee Meeting – 9am
13 May Health & Safety Committee Meeting – 9am
13 May Faculty Staffing Committee Meeting – 2pm
13 May UG Staff/Student Consultative Committee Meeting – 1pm
14 May Food Science Board of Studies – 8am
14 May EO Committee Meeting – 10am
20 May PG Staff/Student Consultative Committee Meeting – 1pm
30 May Staff Professional Development Award Applications due
http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/staff/admin_services/hr/career/awards-scholarships-and-fellowships/awards-scholarships-and-fellowships_home.cfm