



January-February 2011

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## Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Results and Update

The Federal Government made the results of Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) evaluations for the 2010 assessment exercise publically available on 31st January. The initial assessment by DVCS and cluster leaders is that the results for USQ are quite positive.

USQ has 4 results deemed at or above world class. The University is naturally pleased with the rating of 4 for Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, not least because it recognizes a core niche area of focus that is very relevant to our region and community. We are also pleased with the rating 3 for Physical Sciences, particularly given the small number of staff who contribute to the area, and the competition from larger comprehensive universities. Mathematical Sciences is also a major result and one that we expect can be improved upon in future exercises.

There are a further 10 at ERA 2 and many of those sit near the Australian average eg in the Business and Management cluster, USQ is on the same level as Newcastle, Curtin, Wollongong, Deakin, La Trobe, Murdoch, UTas, UNE and RMIT. There were 15 universities with a poorer result. Two of our Education clusters, and clusters for Law and Legal Studies, Creative Arts and Writing, Language, Communication and Culture and Public Health all ranked within the Australian average.

The ERA results align well with our chosen areas of focus, particularly the work of Centres, and so demonstrate their value to USQ. We will monitor the progress of Centres as ERA scores evolve to be sure we have the right focus areas. The ERA results may also help us in a strategic sense to build new and (perhaps) modified Centres to fulfil our Mission.

The census date for staff for inclusion in ERA 2012 is 31 March 2011; the reference period for research outputs is 1 Jan 05 to 31 Dec 2010 (6 years). In preparation for ERA 2012, the DVCS is convening a strategic steering committee which has already had its first meeting. ORHD has confirmed clusters leaders for the next round and they have begun providing input into the development of a web interface to assist them in preparing for the 2012 submission.

ORHD will keep all staff informed as further information is made available. In the meantime, you are urged to contribute to the public consultation on the ERA journal and conference listings (see next page).



## ERA 2012 Ranked Outlets Public Consultation

The [ERA 2012 Ranked Outlets Public Consultation](#) is now open. The review occurs in two phases:

1. Public Consultation
2. Contracted peak bodies and academic groups review the public feedback in (1).

The contracted peak bodies and academic groups will be responsible for making recommendations to the ARC regarding the final determination of the ERA 2012 ranked outlets.

Public consultation opened on the 14 February 2011 and new journal and conference submissions close **8:00am (AEDT), 21 March 2011** and public consultation closes **8:00am (AEST), 4 April 2011**.

Any submissions previously made to the ARC regarding changes to the ERA 2010 Ranked Journal or Conference list should be checked as there have been some competing requests. Feedback regarding rank or Field of Research (FoR) code changes have not been made to the draft list due as conflicting advice was received. This ensures the original ERA 2010 lists are available for broader public consultation.

All submissions to individual outlets **must be** made through the [Ranked Outlets Public Consultation webpage](#). The ARC will not accept any other forms of submission. This is to ensure details of your submission are accurately recorded and to minimise data entry issues when the ARC passes on the consultation information to contracted peak bodies and academic groups in Phase 2 of the consultation. Please read the ERA 2010 Ranked Outlets Consultation Fact Sheet before providing your input. The fact sheet outlines eligibility criteria for inclusion in the Ranked Journal List and the Ranked Conference List. Please note that only selected FoR codes with Computing and Information Sciences, Engineering and Built Environment will use ranked conferences as an indicator in 2012.

Further information regarding ERA 2012 is available at: [http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era\\_2012/era\\_2012.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_2012/era_2012.htm).

## Dr Ji Zhang is awarded \$23 500 Endeavour Research Fellowship



Dr Ji Zhang

Dr Ji Zhang from the Department of Mathematics and Computing, Faculty of Sciences and Centre for Systems Biology (CSBi), has been awarded the prestigious Australian Endeavour Award (Cheung Kong Research Fellowship) worth \$23,500, from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Australia in 2011. Dr. Zhang is one of ten recipients nationwide for this fellowship. The Endeavour Awards are a part of the Australia Awards initiative which was announced by the Government in November 2009. The Australia Awards have been established to maximize the benefit to Australia of its extensive scholarship programs, and to support enduring ties between Australia and our neighbors. Dr. Zhang will use this fellowship to conduct collaborative research with his colleague in

Singapore on anomaly detection. Anomaly detection, also called outlier detection, is an important research area in data management and data mining. It aims to detect those entities (data/objects) that are significantly dissimilar to the majority of the population. It has a wide range of applications in areas such as security surveillance, credit card fraud detection and environmental monitoring.

For more information about Australian Endeavour Awards, please visit <http://www.deewr.gov.au/International/EndeavourAwards/Pages/Home.aspx>

## USQ Research Publication Update

Submission of 2010 publications was due by the 4 March 2011. This is earlier than in previous years as the Office of Research and Higher Degrees (ORHD) is keen to engage in a thorough checking and follow-up process with Faculties, Centres and Departments. Thank you to all staff and students who have already submitted their 2010 publications into ePrints and forwarded the verification material to your Publications Administrator. Our publication counts this year are looking extremely good with an expected publication count increase of approximately 30% from last year. Please continue to assist us by ensuring that all outstanding 2010 publications are entered into ePrints and necessary verification material forwarded on. As ERA 2012 approaches we will also be asking that all 2005-2010 publications (USQ affiliation or not) also be entered into ePrints.

## Mandatory Higher Degree Research Supervisor Workshops

The schedule for the mandatory higher degree research supervisor workshops ([USQ Policy and Procedures relating to HDR supervision](#); [Developing Positive Research Supervision Relationships](#); and [Thesis Writing](#)) has been finalised for 2011. Accreditation as a research higher degree supervisor requires staff to complete these workshops or to provide satisfactory evidence to the faculty of 'equivalent experience or training'.

The schedule, aims of the workshops, and how to register can be viewed at the [HR Staff Development site](#).

## International Statistics Conference in Honour of Dr Shahjahan Khan

The 8th International Conference on RECENT ADVANCES IN STATISTICS: "Statistics, Biostatistics and Econometrics" was held on February 8-9, 2011 at National College of Business Administration and Economics (NCBA&E), Lahore, Pakistan. The conference was organised in honour of ISOSS President, Dr Shahjahan Khan, for his outstanding contribution in leading ISOSS as an international professional organisation of statisticians through the organisation of a number of international conferences and promoting statistics globally.

Delegates from various countries of Australia, Europe, Middle East, South Asia and USA presented their recent research outputs in diverse areas of statistics. A total of 320 participants from Pakistan and other countries took part in the conference deliberations. In various scientific sessions 142 research papers were presented highlighting recent advances in statistics, biostatistics and econometrics. Mian Shamim Haider, a former Federal Minister of Railways and Sports, Government of Pakistan, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest. The founding President of ISOSS, Dr Munir Ahmad, and Vice-President of ISOSS, Dr Mohammad Hanif Mian, spoke in the opening session. All the speakers spoke highly of the groundbreaking work of Dr Shahjahan Khan, and the chief guest presented a crest to him to mark his remarkable contributions to the promotion and development of statistics.

In his address of honour, Dr Shahjahan Khan highlighted how the perception of statistics has changed from a mere tool of calculation of numbers to making decisions in the face of uncertainty and taking the role of strategists for government and business. He emphasised the need for a more visible and dominant presence of statistics to the solution of complex issues that humanity faces today. Statisticians are uniquely positioned to contribute significantly in addressing the burning problems of our time. Statistics has come up with solutions to many problems where other disciplines have failed.

One of the main attractions of the conference was to officially open the ISOSS House which has been recently constructed by ISOSS. The participants reflected on the dream of the founding President of ISOSS, Dr Munir Ahmad, and thanked everyone who contributed to the project financially and otherwise. The office of ISOSS has now been shifted to the ISOSS House which has facilities for offices, library, computer lab, training and meeting rooms etc. In the next phase of the project, ISOSS plans to build facilities to accommodate visiting scientists and research workers to promote excellence in statistical teaching, learning and collaborative research.



**Dr Munir Ahmed (left) and former Minister Mian Shamim Haider presenting the crest of honour to Dr Shahjahan Khan, University of Southern Queensland, Australia**

## NHMRC Funding Opportunity Changes

Anyone applying for funding through NHMRC should note that RGMS has been closed again as applicants were not able to access RGMS to the standard that the research community requires. The data within RGMS remains safe and NHMRC are awaiting further advice from their providers about how to achieve stable RGMS performance.

All Fellowship applicants registered in RGMS should be contacted through the Office of Research and Higher Degrees and further information will be provided to potential Fellows on how NHMRC staff will help applicants complete their application.

The deadline for Project Grants has been extended until 5pm (AEDST) 5 April 2011. The new internal closing date for Project Grants will be the 15 March 2011. NHMRC will provide further information regarding the email submission process.

NHMRC will also provide further information about progress on RGMS and alternative submission arrangements for other schemes that are currently open.

## Future Fellowships for Funding Commencing in 2011

The Eligibility Exemption Request forms for Future Fellowships for funding commencing in 2011 are now available on the ARC website at [http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/ft\\_eligibility.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/ft_eligibility.htm). The closing date for submission of Eligibility Exemption Requests in the ARC Research Management System (RMS) is 5:00pm (AEDT), Wednesday 9 March 2011.

The ARC will provide further notification when the scheme opens and the RMS Proposal Form and other relevant documentation become available.

Further information regarding the Future Fellowships scheme is available at: [http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/future\\_default.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/future_default.htm). If you have any questions regarding the Future Fellowships scheme, please email [ARC-FutureFellowships@arc.gov.au](mailto:ARC-FutureFellowships@arc.gov.au) or phone +61 2 6287 6600.

## Grant Highlight of the Month: Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

The Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) scheme objectives are: to support and advance promising early career researchers; promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways; focus research effort in the National Research Priority areas to improve research capacity and policy outcomes; enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments. Eligible researchers are those who have been awarded a PhD within five years or, commensurate with significant career interruption for maternity or parental leave; carer's responsibility; illness; international post doctoral studies; or non-research employment have been awarded a PhD within eight years of the closing date for the scheme. The internal closing date for submission is Wednesday 27 April 2011 with an external closing date of 5pm (AEST) Wednesday 18 May 2011.

If you are interested in the funding opportunity, please contact Jill Albion or Tracey Burke on [ORHDgrants@usq.edu.au](mailto:ORHDgrants@usq.edu.au).

## Research Grants and Postgraduate Research Scholarships

Due to the large number of Research Grants and Postgraduate Research Scholarships opportunities that are now being received, a separate document with current listings can be found on the Research website ([www.usq.edu.au/research/researchnewsletter](http://www.usq.edu.au/research/researchnewsletter)) or by clicking on the [January-February Grants 2011](#) link. Further information regarding funding opportunities can be obtained by emailing [ORHDgrants@usq.edu.au](mailto:ORHDgrants@usq.edu.au) or by phoning Jill Albion (Grants Manager) on + 61 7 4631 1982 or Tracey Burke (Grants Officer) on +61 7 4631 1799.

**Please note that all research grant applications must be submitted through the Research Office.**

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