

Senate 18 August 2016

## LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

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### LEARNING

- L1** UQ [announced](#) its Student Strategy, [a five-year program](#) of initiatives designed to equip UQ graduates to be enterprising and to excel in the new-world workplace.
- L2** Approximately 4500 UQ students graduated in [July](#), including about 400 research higher degree students. Together, they bring the global community of UQ graduates to more than 236,000 - including more than 12,350 PhDs in at least 170 countries.
- L3** More than a million people are eager to learn from UQ experts, with the UQx Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) program accepting [its millionth enrolment](#) in July. UQ runs 16 MOOCs through its UQx program, a service that offers free online university courses to anyone with access to the internet.
- L4** Professor John Cook, the lead instructor of Denial101x, has [been selected](#) by edX as a finalist for the first edX Prize for Exceptional Contributions in Online Teaching and Learning. The winner will be announced at the edX Global Forum in November at the Sorbonne in Paris.
- L5** Brisbane high school student Shambhavi Mishra has been [crowned](#) the 2016 Queensland Brain Bee champion.
- L6** A free [Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education \(ICTE-UQ\)](#) online course helping non-native English speakers around the world kick-start their university education has attracted more than 200,000 learners in less than a year.
- L7** A team of UQ engineers has designed a cheap 3D-printable rocket, earning [first place](#) in the [NASA Brisbane International Space Apps Challenge](#) and an invitation to the international competition.

### DISCOVERY

- D1** Three UQ researchers [were recognised](#) at the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Research Excellence Awards in Canberra in July.
- D2** Collaborative research with leading Australian industry partners into nuclear medicine, hypersonic vehicles and sustainable agriculture production has attracted almost \$6 million in funding from the Federal Government's [Cooperative Research Centre Projects \(CRC-P\)](#). UQ was the [top-performing institution](#) in Australia, with three projects featuring in the inaugural round of the industry-led scheme – more than any other university.

- D3** Pain drug pioneer [Professor Maree Smith](#) [received](#) the prestigious [ATSE Clunies Ross Award](#).
- D4** UQ's strong focus and investment in engineering research has [secured](#) it a top-10 spot in engineering science in an international ranking released in June. UQ was the only Australian institution to make the international top 10 for engineering science in the [Shanghai Consultancy engineering rankings](#).
- D5** An international academic publisher has [confirmed](#) UQ's already laudable [research excellence](#) is continuing to improve, with the Nature Index 2016 Rising Stars placing UQ second in the Asia-Pacific region.
- D6** The [Queensland Brain Institute's #nobrainnogame](#) campaign will [raise awareness](#) of the dangers of concussion and fund ground-breaking research, with the backing of sporting codes across the country.
- D7** [UQ](#) researchers are [leading](#) an international effort to slow the emergence of antimicrobial-resistant superbugs through a new [Centre of Research Excellence](#).
- D8** UQ's expertise in plant breeding has been [recognised](#) by a \$3.8 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to evaluate and improve breeding programs in developing countries.
- D9** A \$10 million biopharmaceutical initiative [will be established](#) at UQ. Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) researcher Associate Professor Stephen Mahler will direct the Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Biopharmaceutical Innovation, which has received \$4.3 million in ARC funding and \$5.5m in cash and in-kind contributions from industry partners.
- D10** Researchers at UQ have contributed to the [discovery](#) of three new genes which increase the risk of [motor neurone disease](#) (MND), opening the door for targeted treatments.
- D11** [Meat & Livestock Australia](#) and UQ have [joined forces](#) to create the Northern Beef Collaborative Partnership, a multi-million dollar research and development program to a massive boost to Australia's vital northern beef cattle industry.
- D12** A new drug with the potential to reverse or slow the development of asthma is being tested by researchers at UQ. Developed by international pharmaceutical company [Pfizer Inc](#), the drug is being trialled by UQ's [School of Biomedical Sciences](#).
- D13** [IMB](#) researchers are seeking [public input](#) as they develop a mobile app to help chronic pain sufferers and healthcare providers manage and treat pain.
- D14** Quantum researchers from the UQ [School of Mathematics and Physics](#) have installed a new state-of-the-art super cooling facility that can almost reach [absolute zero](#) (-273.15 degrees Celsius), bringing new capabilities in superfluid study to Australia.

- D15** A UQ-led pilot program aimed at stemming antibiotic resistance has [successfully](#) reduced prescribing rates among participating doctors.
- D16** Asian chicken and duck industries will benefit from voluntary Association of South East Asian Nations poultry animal welfare guidelines [proposed](#) by UQ.
- D17** The [XL Catlin Seaview Survey](#) has wrapped up its Taiwan and Hawaii expeditions, which mark the conclusion of this part of the project. In total, the survey mapped more than 1000km of reef scape across 22 countries and collected more than 600,000 images for scientific analysis.

## ENGAGEMENT

- E1** UQ became the first Australian institution to be [invited](#) to join the US membership-based University-Industry Demonstration Partnership, an exclusive international organisation focused on driving partnerships between universities and industry.
- E2** Alumnus, university medallist and honorary doctorate recipient Mr Peter N Varghese AO has returned to UQ as its [14<sup>th</sup> Chancellor](#).
- E3** Six UQ students and four graduates will [take part](#) in the Rio Olympic Games. They will represent Australia in athletics, diving, rhythmic gymnastics, synchronised swimming, sailing and rugby sevens.
- E4** UQ hosted its annual Celebration of Giving Ceremony at Customs House in Brisbane in June, recognising its [generous supporters](#).
- E5** Almost 1500 high school students [flocked](#) to the St Lucia campus for the annual [Careers That Shape The World](#) experience.
- E6** UQ has teamed up with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hyne Timber, Lendlease, and engineering firm Arup, to create the [Centre for Future Timber Structures](#).
- E7** Customs House was [crowned](#) Caterer of the Year at the 2016 Queensland and Northern Territory Savour Australia Restaurant and Catering Hostplus Awards for Excellence. It also won the Function/Convention Centre Caterer category.
- E8** The UQ Art Museum celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in July with a [140 piece exhibition](#).
- E9** UQ hosted its [annual volunteer expo](#) on 17 August, which invites charities and non-profits to engage with students about their causes.
- E10** A new 500-bay car park [opened](#) at UQ St Lucia on 18 July.
- E12** More than 40 [top lifesavers](#) visited UQ for a three-day Surf Life Saving Queensland Leadership Excellence Program.
- E13** The Global Change Institute hosted the third [UQ Water Forum](#) in early July, a two-day event

that brought together UQ water researchers to discuss current and emerging water issues, and to consider sustainable water solutions. A GCI discussion paper into how Australia should address the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals was launched at the forum.

- E14** The Global Change Institute building has once again been recognised as a leader in sustainability. The Property Council of Australia presented GCI architect Hassells the [WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff Award for Best Sustainable Development – New Buildings](#) in June.
- E15** UQ placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 29 universities at the first-ever [University Men's Powerlifting World Cup](#) in Minsk, Belarus, with [UQ Powerlifting and Weightlifting Club](#) member Frank Zou winning a gold medal in the Classic Men 59-66kg event.
- E16** The 50m pool at the UQ Sport Aquatic Centre has been refurbished with the pool repainted, Olympic-standard blocks installed, and pumps and filters serviced.
- E17** UQ AFL Club has received a \$1.2 million [Get Playing Plus](#) grant from the Queensland Government to contribute to the redevelopment of fields 2 & 3, with new amenities to support AFL, cricket and soccer being played at UQ's St Lucia campus.

## VALE

The University was saddened by the recent deaths of UQ community members, including:

**Emeritus Professor Jiro Kikkawa AM**, former Head of Zoology, 30 May 2016

**Mrs Margaret Perel**, School of Veterinary Science, 5 July 2016

**Reverend Janice Hughes**, UQ Information Technology and Electrical Engineering alumna, 21 June 2016

**Sir John Pidgeon**, St John's College, 2 June 2016

**Dr Leo Ryan OAM**, UQ Dentistry alumnus, 9 June 2016

**Sister Noela Leamy**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, 24 June 2016

**Dr Thomas Mathews**, UQ Dentistry alumnus, July 2016