

27 April 2017

LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

LEARNING

- L1** The Honourable Susan Kiefel AC, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, officially opened the \$35 million renovation of UQ's Forgan Smith building west wing on 13 March.
- L2** UQ's new Faculty of Science Executive Dean Professor Melissa Brown plans to work towards making science more engaging, impactful and relevant. The molecular biologist and experienced academic leader is the Faculty's first female Executive Dean.
- L3** Students can identify study locations across UQ with the newly developed MyUQ Spot Finder. UQ Space Manager Barbara Robinson said little-known study spots were barely being used while other areas faced huge demand.
- L4** UQ ranks at number three in the world in two subject areas and highest in Australia in another two, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017. It is ranked first nationally for environmental sciences and agriculture and forestry, and at three globally in mineral and mining engineering and in sports-related subjects.
- L5** UQ leads Australia and places 42nd globally in a new subject ranking that encompasses more than 26,000 higher education institutions. The Center for World University Rankings says UQ has 13 subjects in the global top 10 – more than any other Australian university.
- L6** Three-time Grammy award winner and UQ alumnus Tim Munro will return to the School of Music in May for a two-week residency thanks to a generous bequest from the late Paula and Tony Kinnane.
- L7** Playwright and UQ drama lecturer Dr Stephen Carleton has received the prize for Best New Australian Work at the 2017 Matilda Awards.
- L8** The Australian Academy of Science's Science and Industry Endowment Fund awarded a fellowship for Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) research higher degree student Andrew White to attend the 67th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany in July.
- L9** IMB research higher degree student Samantha Nixon was selected to join the second biannual Homeward Bound expedition in 2018. Homeward Bound is a groundbreaking leadership, strategic and science initiative and outreach for women, set against the backdrop of Antarctica.

DISCOVERY

- D1** UQ is serving up a smorgasbord of opportunity for the food industry, with a \$1 million facility, the Food Science Innovation Precinct, opened at the St Lucia Campus in February.
- D2** School of Mathematics and Physics researcher Associate Professor Holger Baumgardt was part of an international team of astronomers that announced new evidence for the existence of a middleweight black hole in space, the first black hole of its mass known to science.
- D3** Cobalt has been recorded in the blood of Queensland turtles at potentially harmful levels. The Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Services – a partnership between UQ and Queensland Health – undertook the study.
- D4** Large numbers of threatened species already have been affected by climate change, an international study has found. Co-author Associate Professor James Watson of UQ’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences said the impacts had been under-reported previously.
- D5** Research from the School of Biomedical Science has described the cell physiology of human muscle recovery after fatigue for the first time. Dr Bradley Launikonis took thigh biopsies during an exercise cycle and found the muscle fibres changed structure dramatically.
- D6** A remarkable 250 million-year-old “terrible-headed lizard” fossil found in China shows an embryo inside the mother – clear evidence for live birth.
- D7** Cars and chlamydia were the top causes of a dramatic rise in south-east Queensland koala deaths over the past two decades, according to a new study led by the School of Veterinary Science.
- D8** UQ School of Biological Sciences’ Professor John Pandolfi was part of a research team that conducted Great Barrier Reef aerial and underwater surveys in March as coral bleaching occurred for the second year in a row.
- D9** IMB researchers have developed a faster and more accurate method for assembling genomes which could help clinicians rapidly identify antibiotic-resistant infections.
- D10** More open-heart surgery patients could be diagnosed with a rare bacterial infection stemming from contaminated heater-cooler units, according to Dr Paul Griffin from the Mater Research Institute - University of Queensland (MRI-UQ).
- D11** QBI researchers have linked a condition which forces people to involuntarily mirror movements in opposing limbs to a common developmental brain disorder.
- D12** Women who maintain connections with their social groups after having a baby are at lower risk of developing postnatal depression, according to UQ School of Psychology research.

- D13** Many Australians living with multiple sclerosis do not receive adequate oral health care or access to dental services, according to a study led by UQ School of Dentistry researcher Dr Kelsey Pateman.
- D14** The age at which girls start menstruating could flag a later risk of diabetes during pregnancy, according to UQ School of Public Health research.
- D15** Older Australian women taking cholesterol-lowering statins face a significantly increased risk of developing diabetes, according to a UQ School of Public Health study.
- D16** A UQ-led international study has explained for the first time how cobras developed their potent venom.
- D17** More breast cancer patients could benefit from treatments currently used only for patients with a faulty BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene, an international research collaboration involving UQCCR researchers has shown.
- D18** More support services are needed for pregnant women who have previously suffered miscarriage, stillbirth or the loss of a newborn, according to a study led by the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.
- D19** Researchers at UQ's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology have designed a virus-like nanoparticle that could deliver cancer drugs directly to the cells where they are needed.
- D20** An increase in alcohol taxation, a reduction in the hours of alcohol sales, and changes to how alcohol is promoted are all needed to reduce alcohol-related harm, according to UQ's Professor Wayne Hall, a public health policy expert.
- D21** UQ and Monash University researchers have discovered a small protein that could minimise the effects of brain damage after a stroke.
- D22** Giving vitamin D supplements to mice during pregnancy prevents autism traits in their offspring, UQ researchers have discovered.
- D23** UQ scientists have made a significant advance in cardiac disease research by creating a functional "beating" human heart muscle from stem cells.
- D24** A quarter of Australian women over 70 will develop dementia, according to UQ researchers.
- D25** A publicly owned national electricity grid is the logical solution to Australia's energy crisis, according to UQ economist Professor John Quiggin.
- D26** IMB Centre for Superbug Solutions Deputy Director Associate Professor Lachlan Coin and IMB Postdoctoral Researcher Dr Minh Duc Cao have developed a faster and more accurate method for assembling genomes which could help clinicians rapidly identify antibiotic-resistant infections. The discovery was published in *Nature Communications*.

- D27** IMB Group Leader Professor David Fairlie and colleagues created a highly stable version of the molecule that triggers MAIT cells, which play a key role in our immune response. The discovery was published in Nature Communications.
- D28** IMB Industry Fellow Dr Markus Muttenthaler was awarded a 2016-2017 Ferring Innovation Grant for his research into mapping the location and function of oxytocin and vasopressin receptors throughout the gut.
- D29** IMB Group Leader Professor Paul Alewood was awarded the 2017 Murray Goodman Scientific Excellence & Mentorship Award, which recognises an individual who has demonstrated career-long research excellence in the field of peptide science.
- D30** New cancer-fighting drugs and devices could emerge from UQ, thanks to a research program comparing cancers in pet animals and humans in a state-of-the-art imaging facility opened in March.
- D31** Twenty-five University of Queensland researchers are celebrating a combined multi-million-dollar success in the Queensland Government's Advance Queensland Fellowships scheme.
- D32** The Down Syndrome Research Program at the School of Education has been internationally recognised with a Down Syndrome International award.
- D33** Work by a trio of UQ researchers and their teams advancing natural resource management knowledge in the tropics has won them Malaysia's 2016 Mahathir Science Award.
- D34** A fearless fanged coral reef fish that disables its opponents with heroin-like venom could offer hope for the development of new painkillers.
- D35** A drug with the potential to delay the progression of motor neuron disease could be in human trials within three years.
- D36** An unprecedented 21 different types of dinosaur tracks have been identified on a 25-km stretch of the Dampier Peninsula coastline dubbed "Australia's Jurassic Park". A team of palaeontologists from the School of Biological Sciences and James Cook University unveiled the most diverse assemblage of dinosaur tracks in the world.

ENGAGEMENT

- E1** Queensland philanthropists and tourism entrepreneurs Graham and Jude Turner have joined forces with UQ to establish a conservation project at Hidden Vale, an hour west of Brisbane.
- E2** Queensland Chief Entrepreneur and UQ alumnus Mark Sowerby has officially launched new, state-of-the-art facilities for the UQ Idea Hub.
- E3** The Australian Research Council has appointed Professor Joanne Tompkins as Executive Director for Humanities and Creative Arts.

- E4** A new St Lucia Parklands is the centrepiece of a Draft St Lucia Campus Master Plan released for public comment in March.
- E5** UQ's Forgan Smith building was bathed in orange light on the evening of 21 March for Harmony Day, an annual celebration of Australia's cultural diversity and achievements.
- E6** UQ's Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg and his bold new plan to save coral reefs from extinction featured on an episode of ABC-TV's Australian Story in February.
- E7** The UQ Art Museum is celebrating the value of arts patronage in a new exhibition, *Philanthropists and Collections*, featuring 61 artworks donated over more than 160 years.
- E8** Dr Karen Lam delivered the 2016 Fryer Lecture in Australian Literature on her biography *Thea Astley, Inventing Her Own Weather* (UQP).
- E9** A decade after fleeing his native Iran, UQ Bachelor of Dental Science graduate and childhood refugee Dr Hooman Baghaie, is giving back to disadvantaged communities.
- E10** The creative life of artist and writer Helen Haenke (1916-1978) was celebrated in March at the historic home Rockton in Ipswich. Honorary Senior Research Fellow Dr Bronwen Levy led a conversation about Ms Haenke's works and life.
- E11** Hebei Iron and Steel Group will partner UQ in sustainable metals research. The company will invest AU\$5.25 million over the next five years in the HBIS-UQ Innovation Centre for Sustainable Steel.
- E12** IMB and Community for Open Antimicrobial Drug Discovery hosted the Solutions for Drug-Resistant Infections conference at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 3-5 April.
- E13** Group leaders Professors Wray, Visscher and Yang hosted a two-week Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics which was attended by 190 participants and featured national and international speakers.
- E14** IMB hosted *EndoWhat? Unravelling the mystery behind endometriosis*, a free community event held during Endometriosis Awareness Month. More than 200 people attended the event at the State Library of Queensland.
- E15** Two UQ researchers, Dr Nasim Amiralian and Ms Jordan Debono, won awards in the Queensland Women in STEM competition in recognition of their work paving the way for young women to enter science careers.
- E16** A record 56 University of Queensland students – including five Olympic and Paralympic representatives – have received 2017 UQ Sporting Scholarships.
- E17** The UQ Sport Athletics Centre hosted March's UQ Twilight Running Festival, with a portion of entry proceeds donated to fund UQ Sports Achievement Scholarships (total contribution: \$18,000). Additionally, more than 60 Team UQ student volunteers assisted in the running of the event.

- E18** The debut fiction book from School of Communications and Arts alumna Melissa Ashley is about the life of artist and illustrator Elizabeth Gould. *The Birdman's Wife* began as a PhD project, but became a "labour of love".
- E19** UQ Sport Academy and UQ Athletics Club competitors combined to win more than 20 medals at the 2017 Australian Athletics Championships.
- E20** UQ Bachelor of Business Management graduate and triple-Olympian, Alana Boyd, received Athletics Australia's 2016 Female Athlete of the Year award.
- E21** Twenty-two UQ students represented Team UQ in the University's maiden Group of Eight (Go8) Intervarsity AFL match against Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.
- E22** The Global Change Institute's (GCI) annual photography competition is on again. The competition's theme for 2017, 'Urban Food', has already attracted a strong interest from India.

VALE

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

- Associate Professor Lesley Williams AM**, UQ Chemistry & Molecular Biosciences alumna, died 5 April 2016
- Mr Thomas Beck**, UQ Mechanical & Mining Engineering alumnus, died 10 February 2017
- Mr Terence Betts OAM**, UQ Business alumnus, died 4 February 2017
- Mr Nigel Brammer**, UQ Architecture alumnus, died 28 March 2017
- Mrs Valmai Browne**, died 20 February 2017
- Mr Robert Coleman**, UQ Agriculture & Food Sciences alumnus, died 8 March 2013
- Mr Neville Copley**, died 26 September 2015
- Dr Brian Courtice**, UQ Medicine alumnus, died 21 March 2017
- Mr Darrald Cox**, UQ Mechanical & Mining Engineering alumnus, died 14 March 2017
- Dr Laurie Delbridge**, UQ Medicine alumna, died 26 March 2017
- Mr Robert Goldsbrough**, UQ Information Technology & Electrical Engineering alumnus, died 18 March 2017
- Mr Richard Kennedy**, UQ Business alumnus, died 18 March 2017
- Professor Alan Knight**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumnus, died 20 February 2017
- Mr Lionel Ledlie**, UQ Economics alumnus, died 9 February 2017
- Mr Damien Ledwich**, UQ Architecture alumnus, died 22 March 2017
- Ms Mui-Ling Moo**, died 22 February 2017
- The Hon Martin Moynihan AO**, UQ Law alumnus, died 2 April 2017
- Dr Heather Patrick**, UQ Medicine alumna, died 25 March 2017
- Mrs Susan Pegg**, UQ Faculty of Science alumna, died 17 March 2017
- Mr William Pitt**, UQ Geography, Planning & Environmental Management alumnus, died 23 February 2017
- Ms Sheila Shearn**, died 12 February 2017
- Emeritus Professor Peter Spradbrow AM**, UQ Veterinary Science alumnus, died 31 March 2017
- Mrs Joan Strachan**, died 26 March 2017
- Mr Robin Thomas**, UQ Education; Business alumnus, died 20 March 2017
- Mr Donald Turnbull**, UQ Education alumnus, died 9 March 2017
- Mrs Joan Urquhart OAM**, UQ Faculty of Science alumna, died 27 February 2017
- Mr Richard Walker**, UQ Education alumnus, died 5 February 2017
- Ms Grace Warren**, UQ Education alumna, died 9 February 2017

Mr Scott Warrington, UQ Public Health alumnus, died 9 February 2017

Mr David Watkins, UQ Agriculture & Food Sciences alumnus, died 14 March 2017

Dr Keith Wilkinson, UQ Medicine alumnus, died 18 February 2017

Mrs Ailsa Wilson, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, died 28 February 2017

Mr Arnold Winter, UQ Economics alumnus, died 12 February 2017

Brother John Wright, UQ Education alumnus, died 6 February 2017