



MONASH  
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PHARMACY AND  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
SCIENCES

# Alchemy

ISSUE 30 • WINTER 2017

SPECIAL EDITION

**VCP and Monash:  
25 Years of  
Success Together**





## ***Fast Facts***

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**2017 CLARIVATE ANALYTICS  
HIGHLY CITED RESEARCHERS (2004-2014)**  
No.1 worldwide in Pharmacology and Toxicology

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**QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS,  
PHARMACY AND PHARMACOLOGY**  
No.1 in Australia and Asia-Pacific 2017  
No.1 worldwide for academic reputation 2017  
No.2 worldwide 2017  
Top 10 worldwide (average 2011 – 2017)

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**Excellence in Research for Australia 2015**  
Top rating of 5 in all sectors (well above world standard)

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**PharmAlliance**  
with University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, US,  
and University College London, UK

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**National Alliance for Pharmacy Education**  
with University of Queensland, University of Sydney,  
University of South Australia

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**NEW IN 2017:**  
Australia's first integrated Master of Pharmacy  
Enhanced doctoral program in Pharmaceutical Science

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Managing Editor: John Palmer

Writers: John Palmer, Brett Clark, Jessica Rostas,  
Ton Day, Rachel Ung, Larissa Dubecki

Design:  
Strategy, Brand and Marketing Communications,  
Monash University

Photography: Paul Philipson

Contact us:  
John Palmer  
Marketing Manager  
[john.palmer@monash.edu](mailto:john.palmer@monash.edu)

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*All detail images in this issue  
are taken from the Sissons Mural  
in Cossar Hall.*



# in brief

## Award caps *stellar year* for DDB

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*Professor Christopoulos and Professor Sexton*

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Professors Patrick Sexton and Arthur Christopoulos of MIPS have won the GSK Award for Research Excellence. One of the most prestigious accolades available to the Australian medical research community, it recognises the advances the pair have made in understanding the biology, pharmacology and operation of G protein-coupled receptors.

The award came at the end of particularly high-achieving year for the Drug Discovery Biology theme; 2016 saw a number of papers accepted into high-profile publications, including *Cell* (three papers), *Nature* (one) and *Nature Communications* (three), along with the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Cell Research* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (US).

Professor Christopoulos was also awarded the Gaddum Memorial Medal by the British Pharmaceutical Society, and was invited to deliver the American College of Psychoneuropharmacology's Distinguished Lecture for 2016. Professors Christopoulos and Sexton were also recognised as Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researchers.

DDB research gained substantial media coverage earlier in 2016 for the work of Dr Erica Sloan and Dr Caroline Le in uncovering the link between stress and cancer, profiled in *Alchemy* No.29.

The year was also productive from a grant and fellowship perspective, with an ARC Future Fellowship awarded to Dr Katie Leach, and a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award to Dr David Thal. Dr Leach also received an ARC Discovery Project grant, while five other members of DDB received NHMRC project grants as CIA. This follows a large international Wellcome Trust Collaborative Award grant earlier in the year to professors Christopoulos and Sexton and Professor Andrew Tobin of the University of Glasgow.





## Faculty staff, students feted

Several faculty members have recently been recognised for their contributions:

**Professor Tom Davis** has been awarded the prestigious Batteard-Jordan Australian Polymer Medal for his significant contribution to the Australian polymer science community. The medal is the highest award of the RACI's polymer division and has only been awarded 10 times since 1974. It recognises outstanding achievement in polymer science in Australia.

**Dr Elizabeth Yuriev** has been awarded the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. It acknowledges her career focus on innovations to improve learning and teaching of employability skills, with an emphasis on skill development in problem-solving, collaboration and study skills.

**Dr Michelle McIntosh** has received the Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Biomedical Research. The medal, from the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation, is presented every two years to a researcher under the age of 45 for their outstanding contribution to the development and advancement of a biomedical innovation related to the nature, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and incidence of disease and other health problems in humans. The award comes with \$50,000 of funding for the Inhaled Oxytocin Project, which Associate Professor McIntosh leads.

Wound care student **Camille Koch** won the 2016 HESTA Aged Care Individual Distinction Award. The award recognises her work in improving wound management through the establishment of a multidisciplinary wounds resource team, leading to improved practice, a reduction in the severity of wounds, and enhanced documentation.

## Monash honours Bill Scott



**Monash Pharmacy alumnus and long-time friend of the faculty Bill Scott has been honoured for his substantial contribution to the health of Victorian communities with the presentation of a Monash Distinguished Alumni Award.**

The annual awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and exceptional qualities of Monash alumni worldwide, and are bestowed upon a single alumnus of each faculty each year.

The award recognises Mr Scott's contribution to the profession and the wider community over almost 50 years, including service on the national council of the Pharmacy Guild. He chaired the health economics committee of the guild as the third and fourth guild government agreements were negotiated, and in 2015 was invited by the Minister of Health to be on the three-member panel reviewing pharmacy remuneration and regulation.

## New teaching and learning spaces



**The first floor of the Scott Building has been remodelled to accommodate the small-group teaching required of the new BPharm (Hons)/MPharm, which saw its first intake of students in February.**

The new layout features five connected classrooms, each capable of accommodating 30 students. The space is modular, allowing rooms to be amalgamated or separated depending upon the lesson requirements.

According to the Director of Learning and Teaching, Dr Ian Larson (above), the new space will promote the kind of teaching that educational research suggests results in students attaining a deeper, more nuanced understanding of their subject material.

"The roles of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists are evolving faster than ever. We need to ensure that our students not only learn the knowledge but also develop the skills necessary to excel in these new roles. These new teaching and learning spaces allow our students to practise and to be assessed on skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and communication," said Dr Larson.

# in brief

## **CMUS researchers get Helping Hand**

**Researchers from the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS) are partnering with South Australian aged care provider Helping Hand to conduct a new cluster randomised controlled trial of pharmacist-led medication regimen simplification.**



The research is being led by Associate Professor Simon Bell and is funded through the National Health and Medical Research Council (Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre).

A review of Australian and international research published by CMUS has shown that up to 74 per cent of residents of aged care facilities take nine or more medicines on a regular basis.

The intervention involves pharmacists working with residents and other health professionals to deliver a structured approach to consolidate medication regimens.

“Consolidating medication regimens has potential to provide a win-win. Complex regimens represent a burden to both residents and aged care providers,” said Associate Professor Bell.

## **Monash named No.2 in the world**

**The 2017 QS World University Rankings by Subject have placed Monash second in the world for pharmacy and pharmacology.**

The ranking means that Monash continues to be No.1 in Australia and within the AsiaPacific region. It has averaged a top 10 ranking in the discipline since the subject rankings were introduced in 2011.

The ranking represents an improvement of two places on 2016, when Monash was ranked No.4 behind Harvard University, The University of Cambridge and The University of Oxford. Harvard has retained the top spot.

The QS rankings are based on a series of qualitative measures. Academic reputation comprises 40 per cent of the ranking, with employer reputation comprising 10 per cent and quantitative measures of research excellence such as citations and staff H-indexes accounting for 50 per cent.

## **Grant success**

**Researchers at MIPS secured more than \$3.3 million in funding in the round of NHMRC and ARC grants announced last year.**

Research that could lead to further understanding of GPCRs, nanoparticles to combat cellular dysfunction, and small-molecule therapeutics for parasitic diseases were among the MIPS projects that will be enabled by the grants.

## **New doctoral training program**

**Commencing PhD candidates will from this year benefit from a new doctoral program designed to ensure they are equipped with a wider range of skills to complement their deep expert knowledge.**

The faculty's enhanced program now offers students two key components: an advanced course in drug discovery and development, and one of four additional research experiences.

“Students and supervisors nominate one of four options,” said Associate Professor Phillip Thompson, Associate Dean of Graduate Research.

“There's a laboratory rotation program, which sees students commence their candidature with a program of coordinated laboratory rotations before selecting their project and supervisor. There's an interdisciplinary research program, where students conduct their research in at least two clearly identified discipline areas to tackle a research question. There's a placement program, which offers students a period at an external institution. And there is a joint PhD program that recognises our existing joint award degree and doctoral training centre with the University of Nottingham, and the joint award degree with Warwick University,” said Associate Professor Thompson.





## Integrated journey begins

**The end of February marked the start of study for the first students of the faculty's new integrated BPharm (Hons)/MPharm.**

The 191 students in the inaugural cohort came from as far afield as Malaysia, Vietnam, the Solomon Islands and Canada to start their journeys as '#pharmacistsintraining'.

"We've been using the #pharmacistsintraining because it emphasises one of the major philosophies that underpins the new course," says incoming Course Director Professor Tina Brock.

"Our students start problem-solving about their first patients from enrolment day. We want to send a clear message that skills are the backbone of the course. As health care practice becomes more team-based, pharmacists will require ever more highly developed skills in areas such as teamwork, communication, empathy, and integrity."



In the new course – the first integrated double degree of its kind in Australia – skills in these areas are taught, practised and assessed. In addition to passing their written exams, students must meet hurdle requirements in these areas to proceed to the next year of the course.

To kick off the weekly workshops that form the basis of this hands-on instruction, there was a half-day active learning workshop in orientation. In a series of team-based exercises, students worked together to complete tasks such as designing a model pharmacy curriculum (pictured).

## Indigenous garden takes root

**The Indigenous garden located outside Building 404 is now complete. The garden, launched in late 2015, showcases plants used by the Indigenous people of Australia for medicinal purposes.**

Species include the blue flax lily, rough tree fern and the round-leaf mint bush, used to alleviate the symptoms of influenza.

All the plants are labelled with names and the ailments they may have treated.



# 25 years *since* amalgamation

# 25



*Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman, the dean who oversaw the merger.*

In 1992, the Victorian College of Pharmacy amalgamated with Monash University. In coming together, the two institutions set in motion a march to the very highest echelons of international research and education. In order to understand exactly how this happened, we spoke to some of the key players.





**You'd be hard-pressed to find a more compelling narrative in the tertiary world than the unexpected merger of the Victorian College of Pharmacy with Monash University. It laid the groundwork for transforming, in 25 short years, what had been a respected training college for pharmacists into a world-leading centre for research and education.**

As the song goes, from little things big things grow. To look at the faculty today, a quarter of a century after the merger with Monash, is to see glimmers of the Victorian College of Pharmacy's DNA in an entity that has changed vastly. It has swelled both in student cohort – doubling the number of students to about 2000 – and physical size, with the addition of the MIPS building giving a much-needed home to a thriving research hub.

But the most stunning changes cannot be presented physically – or, if they can, only through the expediency of the Fast Facts board near the MIPS ground floor elevator. One of the facts stands out: in the 2017 QS World University rankings in pharmacy and pharmacology, Monash is No.1 in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. Globally, it's ranked second (behind Harvard and ahead of Cambridge and Oxford) – the highest consistent ranking for any discipline or subject area in any university in Australia.

The message is succinct: the faculty has well and truly climbed to the highest levels of the international academic pile.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the merger, *Alchemy* talked to leading players in the faculty, both past and present, to explore the reasons behind its stratospheric rise.

It is, of course, impossible to chart the ascendancy of Monash Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with the scientific precision witnessed in its research laboratories. But themes emerge. The story is one of necessity running headlong into vision. It's about the practical realities of infrastructure and the more nebulous resource of people. Add that fortuitous merger, auspicious leadership and a degree of chutzpah and the rest is ... well, as they say, it's history. And like many good stories, it begins with a breakup.

The suitors in question were the Victorian College of Pharmacy and the University of Melbourne. It was the early 1990s – the tail-end of politically charged times for Australia's tertiary sector. The reformist federal education minister, John Dawkins, had sought to rationalise the sector by merging private colleges with universities. For two years the two had been dancing around each other as they negotiated the terms of their merger, which thanks to geographical proximity was considered a fait accompli. But the pharmacists were wary.

The University of Melbourne was keen to merge pharmacy into a broader faculty of medicine, dentistry and health sciences. The pharmacists were loath to subsume 120 years of history and traditions into what had every appearance of an unequal partnership.

"We decided it wasn't going so well," says Colin Chapman, who led the college through the period and was dean until 2006. We eventually knocked on the door at Monash and said: 'What about us?' Their vice-chancellor, Mal Logan, said something like: 'I wasn't expecting to see you guys, but great to have you.'"

After two years of discussions, negotiations were disarmingly simple. Monash would let the college keep its name, its location, and give it faculty status. The deal was done.

And thus the Monash University (Pharmacy College) Act 1992 was passed. It was the same year that the European Union was founded, Bill Clinton was elected president of the United States, and Australian prime minister Paul Keating was dubbed "the Lizard of Oz" for touching the Queen's back. On the leafy Parkville strip opposite Princes Park, occupied by the college since it moved from its legendarily malodorous digs on Swanston Street in 1960, the mood was jubilant.

"We all just agreed it was the right thing to do. Sure, it put a few noses out of joint, but to us it was the best possible outcome," says Chapman.

For Arthur Christopoulos, now one of the faculty's shining stars in pharmacology, then an early postgrad at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, "there were very real concerns among the students. The issue was whether pharmacy would retain its very strong and unique identity ... Once it happened, though, we all saw it was going to work and we just got on with it."

The story of the merger has attained the status of a fable. Weighted with significance, it acts as a kind of shorthand for the daringly iconoclastic approach that has come to define the faculty and its success.

The benefits of the merger for the college, however, were based in sober assessment. "Having joined Monash, we had access to the honours degree stream that we didn't have as a college, and we got the four-year pharmacy course up and running, which we'd been battling for," says Chapman. "We had the chance to run our own PhD program in a totally autonomous sense – we could bring in double degrees, pharmacy/commerce for example – and link into an organisation that had a lot more money allocated to it, with better access to research funding and collaboration."



And what was in it for Monash? Plenty. It acquired a significant presence in the prestigious Parkville strip, and a course that led to professional registration (joining medicine and law). The college had just 2 per cent of the University's students, but attracted 22 per cent of total research funds from industry in 1992-93. And, of course, the quality of entrants to the course proved to be another carrot. In 1993, the cohort of its students in the top 20 per cent of school leavers was 91 per cent; on the Clayton campus it was 51 per cent.

That's not to consign the Victorian College of Pharmacy to pre-history. Established in 1881 as one of the first dedicated pharmacy schools in the English-speaking world, the first unwritten rule of the merger was to avoid alienating the generations of pharmacists who had passed through its doors.

"One of the things we started early on was to get together a formal alumni association," says Chapman. "In the past we had an alumni organisation of sorts, but that was largely the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Most pharmacists became members of the PSA, and by default that was the alumni link. Once we joined Monash we were able to get ourselves early on a very strong alumni identity, a good foundation for fundraising and links with past graduates."

The ties with alumni were vital to maintaining networks that would make the new faculty a success, says Professor Susan Charman, Director of the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences. "It's part of our fabric, it's part of us, and you can't abandon the wealth of history that exists there. I think we continually learn from that history and we build upon the foundations that were set by the leaders of the past. Even though we were small, we were still strong in a much more subtle way."

Hindsight has the tendency to concertina 25 years of change into one supercharged leap. It suggests that the newly formed Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science quickly transformed into an international educational and research powerhouse. Change came not immediately, however, but incrementally.

A timeline of the faculty's ascendancy would take note of the arrival of the current Dean and MIPS Director, Bill Charman, in 2006; the launch of MIPS in 2008, which gave a home and a rallying point for a growing number of researchers keen to join its ranks; and the catalytic arrival of key staff whose longevity in their roles is testament to a catnip environment. (As Colin Pouton, head of Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics at MIPS, says: "Why would you go anywhere else? It's a nurturing, yet ambitious and highly competitive environment, but why would you get out of the kitchen?")

Located 25km from Monash's main campus in Clayton, the faculty has a metaphorical as well as physical remove from Monash that has benefited its autonomy.

It was a distance that had to be managed, says Chapman – "25km away, and miles apart in terms of age and philosophy" – but also freed space for the kind of blue-sky thinking championed by Charman. "In some ways it's the perfect distance," says the current Dean. "People look at the downside – you're 25km from Clayton, you've got to spend all that time driving – but there's also a level of independence. Because we are a single faculty, single campus we've got an amazing culture, whereas if you're part of a larger heterogeneous organisation, it's harder to get your own culture going. We've taken that distance and made it an advantage."

Those 25km also represented a vital connection to a major research university.

The college had housed a nascent research community but prided itself more on its educational achievements. In contrast, the story of the faculty is of a determinedly outward-facing approach forging connections between the faculty and industry, both at home and internationally – something commonly spoken of by universities but often honoured in the breach.

"The focus on industry and our broader stakeholders is one thing the faculty here has always been good at," says Associate Dean (Research) and incoming Director of MIPS Chris Porter. "It provides an important part of connection back to the pharmaceutical sciences community, and it's part of the reason for our success. Many of the academics and researchers who work here and who have been recruited over that period have been very aware of the multi-dimensional nature of pharmaceutical sciences. If you want to ... do significant things you have to suspend the thought that an individual academic has to do it all him or herself; that it's my lab. You have to suspend that, and think: 'What is the project going to be? What are the groups that are going to be involved in that project?' Our most successful projects across the faculty would almost all be collaborative, would almost all be international, or at least multinational, in nature. In the pharmaceutical sciences, Australia is a very small place, and there's very little of true global significance that would happen entirely in Australia. You have to be collaborative and you have to be international."

The most recent Thompson Reuters ranking of Highly Cited (HiCi) research authors featured seven MIPS researchers on its influential annual list of research impact. The highest concentration of HiCis in the field in the world, it codified MIPS as one of the world's leading centres of research in its field.



*The current Dean, Professor Bill Charman*



Those names? Arthur Christopoulos, Patrick Sexton, Peter Scammells, Colin Pouton, Roger Nation, Jian Li and Bill Charman.

In Charman's eyes, it's those individuals along with many others who make an exceptional team (there are 260 staff members and 150 PhD students working in research alone) that laid the foundation for a world-class institution.

"Ultimately, it all comes down to the people. I never for a single day forget that what's enabled the impact and achievements of this place are the people that are here. They are hand-picked; we have people

from all around the world wanting to be here because we work as a team. There are no sole operators here. Everything we do as much as possible as a team. It's that collective effort that allows us to undertake programs in education research and professional engagement in a way that many others are unable to."

So can the research trajectory be maintained? Pouton likens the long-term and continuing research achievements to Melbourne's overheated property market. "Everyone says it has to plateau at some point, but it just keeps going up and up and up. I can't see a ceiling."

For his part, Charman is confident the faculty can continue to grow, unimpeded by conventional barriers. ("Resources, I don't actually worry about too much, because if our ideas, aspirations and ambitions are correct, we will find where those resources need to be.")

He has little time for the ancient history of rivalry between Monash and Melbourne universities. The merger with Monash was auspicious, he's happy to concede, thanks to the University's youth dovetailing with the chance to build a faculty from the ground up.

# 25

*Professor Patrick Sexton, Theme Leader (front), and  
Professor Arthur Christopoulos, Drug Discovery Biology*



"I like the fact that Monash is young, because it's still working out its place in the world. It's the most international of Australia's universities, and part of what's given us the confidence to do that is that we're part of Monash University. It allowed us to lift our gaze. If we went along as the Victorian College of Pharmacy, no one outside of our immediate environment would really know who we are. If you go along as the faculty in Monash University, people are going to take you seriously. It's up to you once you've gotten through those doors to see the sorts of things you can do."

The relationship with Melbourne University has vastly changed from the days the rivals jostled over the College of Pharmacy. As Charman says, the relationship has evolved from competition into collaboration – as evidenced by BioCurate, a revolutionary partnership between the two, with former Victorian premier John Brumby as chairman, that will guide discoveries and developments from local biomedical researchers through the "valley of death" that often exists between the laboratory and the market.

"Our field and local biomedical ecosystem needed a game-changer – that's BioCurate," says Charman. "This is a new means by which the crucial early steps in life science commercialisation will be curated in a manner they never have before."

"This is an early stage of the transition from laboratory to potential company or product or technology. Cash is not the issue; it's about being able to catalyse what these programs are." And the moral of the story? "You will only ever see a ceiling if you continue doing more of what you have done."

His management style – described variously by colleagues as "always having our backs", "relentlessly supportive", and "giving us enough rope to hang ourselves" – is clearly not of the punctilious, i-dotting and t-crossing style. "Bill calls us 'Scientific Artisans', he leaves us alone to do our thing. He's not a micromanager. He just backs us," says Christopoulos.

A first-time dean, he started the job in 2006 with a simple guiding principle that necessitated some tough decisions: "We deliberately decided what our profile would look like, what we would keep and what we wouldn't keep. Unless we have the ability to have a leadership position nationally and a significant international position for the things we do – if we couldn't have brand leadership, basically – then we would exit those areas."

Charman is a fan of the notion of 'disruptive innovation', which translates more or less to challenging the status quo, and examples aren't hard to come by. There's MyDispense, an online pharmacy simulation that allows students to practise their dispensing skills in a virtual space, a program so successful that Monash has shared it free of charge with other tertiary institutions around the world.





There's also Australia's first integrated BPharm(Hons)/MPharm, introduced in 2017, with its architects confident it has the potential to produce graduates with different skill sets to change the industry. The new course will elevate the current pharmacy curriculum to a master's level so all students will graduate with a higher level of competency and skill set.

"We've completely redesigned the curriculum from the ground up," says the faculty's long-time manager, Marian Costelloe. "It's the first of its kind in Australia, with a lot of unique features. It's really going to be a game-changer for pharmacy and the sorts of pharmacists we produce here. It's a really nice bookend, in a way, to our education story and educational journey."

More changes are afoot with the recent purchase of a fifth building on the northern end of the Parkville strip, adding some much-needed infrastructure to a faculty that is currently at a tight 98 per cent capacity. In some ways it's an echo of the 10-year process that led to the empty lot where staff played kick-to-kick and occasionally parked their cars becoming Building Four, the home of MIPS, the jewel in the precinct's crown.

"The footprint of the campus has grown and we've done a huge amount of development and renovation – almost every cupboard and corner has been renovated," says Costelloe.

"To grow we need to look at redeveloping. Now we're looking at short-term leases of spaces and working on a long-term masterplan for this campus that will include the redevelopment, which will hopefully see it knocked down and something much bigger built in its place."

And what of other challenges for the future? The timeline already notes that Charman will stand down as Dean at the end of 2019. He will still be a figure on campus, however, with plans to remain in the faculty as a researcher and educator. "You've got to believe in the future and the people. Just look around – there are talented and happy people doing amazing things, so that's the most important thing our team has created. I know it will continue, and get better and better."

"I'm already planning for my own irrelevance," he says light-heartedly of being the leader of his own change. "We talk to the students all the time about leading change. One thing we are very clear about is we will never consider education a transaction. We view it as a means and a pathway for students to achieve things in the field that they choose to contribute to. All of us oldies, we've got to get out of the way. The key success for whatever we do and the ways in which it's measured will be by the generations of people who have been through here. We absolutely want to change health care, we absolutely want to change the way in which patients access medicine and the advice which goes with it, and we're going to do that one pharmacist and one pharmaceutical scientist at a time."

25



*Professor Peter Scammells,  
Theme Leader, Medicinal Chemistry*





# Parkville through *the* years

25

We've gathered together a few pictures from the past 25 years. They capture major events as well as the community that makes up the faculty. We'd love to see pictures from your time on campus – you can share them with us on social media using #monashpharm25 or by emailing [brett.clark@monash.edu](mailto:brett.clark@monash.edu).

Aerial view of Monash University Parkville campus.  
*Monash University Archives*

1992



The entrance to the Parkville campus in 1992 (*Monash University Archives*). The merger between Monash University and the Victoria College of Pharmacy was completed with the successful passage through the Victorian Parliament of the Monash University (Pharmacy College) Act 1992.

1995



1998



In 1998, the front of the campus was landscaped.



Acrux Limited was established in 1998, after researchers at the Victorian College of Pharmacy invented a method for delivering drugs through the skin. Pictured: Dr (now Professor) Barry Finnin (BPharm 1969).



2003

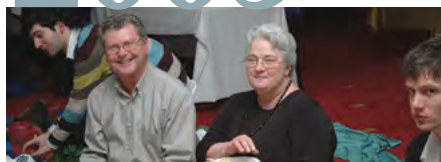
Professor Colin Chapman (BPharm 1970), then-Dean of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, and students.



The Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation was opened by then Victorian innovation minister, the Honourable John Brumby, in December 2003.



# 2005



Professor Peter Stewart and Professor Kay Stewart enjoying Remedy's Real World Dinner in 2005. Remedy was established in 2004 by students Jana Dostal (BPharm 2006) and Dhineli Perera (BPharm (Hons) 2006, BCom 2011, GradCertPharmPrac 2011, MPharmPrac 2014) with the aim of improving the standard of pharmacy in developing countries.

Fourth-year pharmacy students celebrating in style at the VPSSA farewell breakfast on the last day of classes for 2005 – Jaimee Anderson (BPharm 2006, GradCertPharmPrac 2001), Joanne Gross (BPharm (Hons) 2006, GradCertPharmPrac 2008), Sally Welsh (BPharm (Hons) 2006), Hayley Zarth (BPharm (Hons) 2006) and Jane Booth (BPharm (Hons) 2006, GradCertPharmPrac 2008).



Students participate in the clubs' carnival in orientation week, 2006.



# 2006



The front of the campus in the early 2000s. Notice the absence of Building 404 in this picture.



The then-innovation and state and regional development minister, the Honourable John Brumby, launched works on Building 404 on 15 August 2005.

Helen Noonan (BPharm 1969) performs at the 125th anniversary dinner on 8 April, 2006. The dinner was one of many celebrations to mark 125 years of the Victorian College of Pharmacy.



Fourth-year pharmacy students take in the sights at Broken Hill during their rural placement.



The Victorian Pharmacy Students' Association (VPSA) and the Bendigo Association of Pharmacy Students (BAPS) joined forces to host the 2007 NAPSA Congress in Melbourne.



In 2008, the first intake of students began their Bachelor of Pharmacy at Monash University's Malaysia campus. Jessica Rhodes (BPharm (Hons) 2013, GradCertPharmPraInt 2016) and Ann-Louise Slee (BPharm (Hons) 2013, GradCertPharmPraInt 2015) are pictured participating in an exchange program between the two campuses in 2011.



The faculty's bequest program, Cossar Club, was launched 10 years ago, in 2007. Pictured is the 2016 Cossar Club lunch (back, from left): Ben Mottrom, Professor Bill Charman, Nariel Ware, John Ware OAM (PhC 1950), Jenifer Liang (BPharm (Hons) 2013, GradCertPharmPraInt 2015), Deidre Mottrom, Dr Johnson George (PhD 2005). Front, from left: Darcy Brennan (PGDip (ClinicalPharm) 2001, GradDipCommunPharm 1986, PhC 1960), Shirley Lloyd OAM and Alistar Lloyd AO RFD (PhC 1956).

## 2008

In 2007, the construction of Building 404 was completed. The new building provided excellent facilities and laboratory space for the faculty's growing drug discovery and delivery research program, and became home to the faculty's new Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences.



The inaugural Retired Pharmacists' Group meeting was hosted by Professor Bill Charman on 31 July. The group, now known as the Senior Pharmacists Network, provides regular opportunities to socialise and keep up with the latest developments in pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical science and other general topics of interest.

The refurbished CL Butchers Pharmacy Library opened on the ground floor of the Manning building. The refurbishment was part of a \$50 million renovation of the Parkville campus. The refurbishment also included a new sports court at the front of the campus.



Professor Ho-Leung Fung (far right, standing) delivered the inaugural Barry L Reed Distinguished Lecture. The lecture acknowledged the many and significant contributions Emeritus Professor Barry Reed (front left) has made to the faculty, University and profession.





# 2009



Dr David Manallack (BPharm 1982, MPharm 1985) in the Virtual Practice Environment on Open Day 2010.

Pharmville 3052 is a fictitious community of 26 individuals, devised by faculty staff and used to bring 'real' people with 'real' problems into students' learning experiences. Pharmville was introduced in 2009.



# 2015



In 2015, Monash University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and UCL (University College London) joined forces to form the PharmAlliance. Together we aim to advance and transform research, education and practice in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences.

# 2012



MIPS and GlaxoSmithKline Australia (GSK) established the Australian Centre of Pharmaceutical Innovation. The partnership focused on pharmaceutical discovery and production in Victoria. Pictured: Doctor (now Professor) David Morton.



High-flying action from the 2012 staff vs student football match at Princes Park.



Staff and students participating in the 2016 One World Festival. From left: Yuling Huang, Nusaibah Abdul Rahim (BPharm 2009), Megan McGregor, Elena Schneider, Shaz Sivanesan (BPharmSci (Hons) 2014), Bo Yun and Ghizal Siddiqui.

# Where *will we be in 2042?*

Some of the key players in the journey of the past quarter-century speculate about what lies ahead in the next 25 years.



**Bill Charman**

*Dean, Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences*

The revolution that's occurring in education at the moment is immense. Students want to learn differently. That's why we've taken the best of the existing elements in our courses and invested an enormous amount of money, time and effort to allow the students to do things they've never thought possible.

I want to see future app designers, I want to see those entrepreneurs who are going to come up with new models of health care. If you think in terms of ageing populations, of chronic disease, the requirement for knowledgeable information around health care has never been greater, and will only continue to increase.

'Dr Google' provides all the information people can find, but it's the interpretation, it is the customisation and personalisation of that information, in a patient-by-patient context – that's where the criticality and the essentiality of the role of a Monash pharmacist will grow and grow.



**Professor Susan Charman**

*Director of the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation  
at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences*

I'm confident that over the coming decades the faculty will continue to grow in its prominence internationally. We're already highly ranked internationally – not that rankings are everything, but they are a recognition of your footprint on a global scale – and I would expect that we will maintain this growth and become a larger and larger contributor to the overall University standings. Collaboration is the way of the future and has grown substantially within the faculty over the past 10 or 15 years. Initiatives such as BioCurate will facilitate these initiatives.

Regarding BioCurate, it's amazing to think that two universities that are arch-rivals could actually come together in a unified way to support a strong program going forward. It shows what's possible for future collaborations – things that would have been dismissed out of hand only a few years ago are now being embraced.



**Professor Colin Pouton**

*Head of Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics at MIPS*

In 10 years, I'm looking at this precinct as a translational medicine precinct. We are really good at basic high-impact fundamental research, as evidenced by the fact we are publishing in the top journals, getting these awards, but Australia in general lacks the ecosystem to take fundamental discoveries and translate them into clinical trials and into medicines. I think the next step for this place as part of the bigger picture is associated with the recent Monash-Melbourne University agreement, BioCurate. We have to see how that plays out. Irrespective of that, my vision for this place at least in terms of research is to ensure that we translate the big discoveries we're now making in a more timely fashion.

That requires universities working together; consolidating our strengths but also being very strategic about translation. We can do better about translating our fundamental discoveries into real medicines. We have the capacity to do it; we just need to be able to support it. The next 10 years, we have to think: "We've done well but what are the gaps?"

Translation is one, but what are the gaps in terms of research areas? We need to think about those strategic types of recruitment that we might want to bring in, for instance engineering and biomaterial scientists. We've started, but we're just scratching the surface. For me as a researcher, it's strategic areas of complementarity.





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### **Professor Arthur Christopoulos**

I believe that we are doing the best work of our lives since coming here, and it's still ramping up. For the future, we have to consider that the faculty as a whole is already pretty close to capacity, which is why the purchase of the building next door was so important. It now needs to be developed appropriately and strategically both for education and research purposes. Bigger is not necessarily better; we need to acknowledge, however, that we are at a stage where we can still continue to grow successfully to a new set-point. The challenge going forward is that we have to think strategically about what the future (and success in a changing biomedical environment) looks like.

A lot of it also has to do with succession planning. We need to think about 'life post-Bill Charman', just as my people need to think about 'life post-me'. We have built something special here, and it is important to retain and grow its legacy. The reality is that the next Dean will need to be an accomplished yet different type of person to Bill, because they will have big shoes to fill. Bill casts a long shadow, and we thus need someone who has confidence in their own abilities and can take the best of what's here and not mess with it (I'm a big believer in the philosophy of, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'). But at the same time, that person also needs to strategically think of new growth areas that complement our existing strengths, grow the precinct and add even more value to the broader Monash family. Good luck to that person!

It's taken us a long time and a lot of hard work to build this place to what it is – literally the best facility in Australia (and indeed to whole Asia-Pacific region) to do what we do, and I really hope the students buy into the vision and appreciate the training they get. There's so much potential in this whole precinct. If we can get everyone along this street truly working together, each playing to their strengths, we'll seriously be as good as Harvard and Yale. I'm thinking here beyond pharmacy, of course, to biomedical research. If this entire precinct synergised – if we all worked together with, for example, Melbourne University, the Walter and Eliza Institute, the Peter Mac, with hospitals and MIPS, we could match any biotech hub in the world and grow the ecosystem ourselves. That's the challenge for the next generation of our leaders.



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### **Colin Chapman** *Emeritus Professor, former Dean*

I think that given its very strong research ethos and research-based teaching, the faculty is placed to be a dominant player for many years to come. It's got a critical mass. The staff size is the best in Australia by a long way, which allows it all this access to ideas and diversity and innovation.

Really, it's well-placed to be able to capitalise on all the hard work done by lots of people over the time to really retain its top-echelon ranking and be a leader in the region and beyond.

Pharmacy education needs to keep pushing beyond the current model to really enhance the role of pharmacists in primary health care. The role of health care they've had in pharmacy practice for years hasn't really been recognised in Australia fully. There's a resource of graduates who can go out there and make a difference, but the potential has never been fully realised in Australia, or even internationally, for that matter.

The leadership I'd love to see from here is to crack the mould, change the practice and get the primary health care role greatly enhanced such that we're not as a country reliant solely on medical practitioners to provide that primary health care interface. There's a role for others to pitch in and be part of it. We've had this promise for years, and we need to break beyond the promise into reality.



Continued from previous page



**Marian Costelloe**  
*Faculty Manager*

Our new curriculum reflects where the role of pharmacists is heading – not what they're doing today or tomorrow, but what they need in 10 or 15 years. What are the future medicines going to be? What are the future health care needs of our society?

It's about providing students with a really solid base of knowledge around the enabling sciences and then all of the skills and competencies they need as a pharmacist.

A major focus is the developing of the non-cognitive skills such as teamwork and problem-solving, critical thinking and communication. They're the key elements for the future. That's the feedback we get from the profession – it's no good having students who are really clever in their rote learning; we need them to be able to communicate well with their patients and work well in a team situation.

In early 2017, we separated the role of Dean of the faculty and Director of MIPS. It's an opportunity for MIPS to perhaps move into new areas of growth.

We have an aspiration and plans to really extend the footprint of the campus. That will allow us more growth opportunities. Internationally, that's where we've really had a big impact, and will continue to. We feel like the journey in the past 10 years has been amazing, but we're only really getting going in some ways. There's so much potential, and as long as that opportunity is there to continue to achieve and strive for excellence, that journey will continue.

We're still the smallest faculty at Monash, and there's a lot of potential for us to grow and to continue to increase the revenue we attract for research and grow our education program. It's a story that's not even halfway there in that sense.

The 25-year celebration is an important marking of what's been a fantastic journey so far, but we're very much still on that journey.

# Formulating a stronger economy

## MIPS' key role in Victorian growth

**Thanks in part to its collection of world-class universities, education is so firmly entrenched as Victoria's leading export that even our number plates spruik it ('Victoria – The Education State'). But it's the potential of the research conducted by those universities to drive growth that is becoming an ever-greater focus of government policy.**

The past year has seen MIPS play a leading role in two major initiatives aimed at strengthening the Victorian economy – BioCurate and the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MMIC).

In doing so, it's contributing to a paradigm shift in the role the higher education sector plays in Victoria, as awareness grows that the world-class research conducted here has a largely untapped potential to translate into jobs and growth.

BioCurate and the MMIC both operate in a space where Victorian research leads the world, but where that research has thus far failed to reach its economic potential.

In characteristic MIPS style, both initiatives are collaborations.

### BioCurate: building a stronger pipeline

Headquartered at MIPS, BioCurate is a joint venture between Monash University and the University of Melbourne, a historic first that sees long-time rivals coming together to tackle one of the most persistent problems in the Australian innovation sphere – the 'Valley of Death' that sees many promising medicines fall by the wayside on the long, tortuous path from benchtop to bedside.

BioCurate aims to shepherd pharmaceutical discoveries through two early stages of the valley: translation and early commercialisation. These stages struggle to attract investment because they often extend beyond the remit of traditional university funding structures, and tend to be too high-risk to attract venture capital.

BioCurate is a venture catalyst, a new model that's consistent with emerging leading-edge global practice. The company's key focus and objective is to translate drug discoveries to a form that attracts investors or other commercialisation partners. This will be done through the provision of independent specialist expertise in drug development and commercialisation, and the required funding targeted specifically at this critical phase. BioCurate will work across various therapeutic modalities, including small molecules, biologics and antibodies.





*Staff members of the new MMIC (from left): Andrew McArthur, Dr Charlie Dong, Dr Tri-Hung Nguyen, Ruth Howell, Nicole McMillan, Associate Professor David Morton (formulation and process), Dr Paul Wynne (centre manager).*

However, it's not a venture fund; success will be gauged by the number of follow-on investments that are made, not the eventual exits that will occur. It therefore aims to create a network of therapeutic discoveries that can be commercialised, and so its activities will complement rather than compete with the venture capital funds. The scale provided by two large, research-intensive universities, plus funding from the state government, means it can take the attitude to risk that the sector needs, but venture capitalists cannot always adopt.

BioCurate is operationally independent of the universities and has an independent board chair, the Hon John Brumby, who will be supported by a highly experienced board of directors with specialist backgrounds in biotechnology and/or drug development commercialisation, investment and corporate governance.

From an initial \$80 million investment, the enterprise is expected to generate about \$360 million in activity, support new companies, increase investment and exports, and create specialised jobs in the sector. Further funding is being sought from Commonwealth, philanthropic trusts and charities.

#### **The MMIC: helping medicines get better**

The MMIC will work at the opposite end of the process from BioCurate, helping Victoria's pharmaceutical companies find ways to improve the manufacturing processes of existing medicines. Born of a collaboration between MIPS and long-time partner GSK, the vision is for the MMIC to be a resource for Victorian pharmaceutical manufacturers, and has the potential to expand to bring on board other university partners.

The MMIC will provide access to specialist scientific capabilities to solve technical challenges, as well as encouraging investment in research and development, high-tech manufacturing, skills development and collaboration.

It will be based on the successful model pioneered by MIPS and GSK, which was funded by the Victorian government from 2009-2012. That centre's success played a key role in the decision by GSK to remain in Victoria and to invest an additional \$7.7 million in its 'blow-fill-seal' advanced manufacturing capability located in the Melbourne suburb of Boronia, a decision that will create almost 60 highly-skilled jobs.

The MMIC will support education by offering internships within manufacturing companies, giving students invaluable experience and training so they can confidently enter the workforce.

Since 2010, 85 students from the Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences have undertaken internships at GSK. Due in part to this valuable experience in the workplace, 100 per cent of these students gained employment in the pharmaceuticals sector within six months of graduation.

The centre will be led by Associate Professor Michelle McIntosh, who works on MIPS' Drug Discovery, Disposition and Dynamics themes, and is the driving force behind the Inhaled Oxytocin Project.

"Pharmaceutical manufacturing in Victoria presents a unique economic and social growth opportunity," Associate Professor McIntosh said. "Victoria is home to 22 manufacturers who between them employ many thousands of workers directly, and create many times more jobs in the allied support areas."

# Leaping *into* industry

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Work-integrated learning in the  
Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science

Rachel Ung



*Cassie Pham at her new workplace, Vitality Brands.*

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*Laurence Orlando (centre) in her element with some of her students.*

**D**r Laurence Orlando bounds up the stairs before me, petite but with obvious energy. When I compliment her effortlessly cool, beautifully tailored shirt, she says: “Oh, thanks! I made it ... actually, the pants, too. I actually wanted to be a fashion designer.”

The faculty’s certainly grateful the universe had other ideas. Tunisia-born Laurence studied pharmacy in France before moving on to further studies in pharmaceutical science. “In France, once you have a certain level of study, you become a manager straight away,” she explains. “My first job, I was a manager – I had 10 staff and no idea what to do. My degree had taught me nothing for the job.”

It’s Laurence’s own experience that has shaped the way she teaches the faculty’s pharmaceutical science students, as well as her work with the degree’s industry program. The Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science currently offers a compulsory placement in its third year for students who choose to undertake its formulation science stream. Laurence has built the program and still manages it from end to end: instigating and maintaining relationships with companies and industry contacts, matching students with placements through a labour-intensive process that mimics real-world recruitment, and preparing students for the experience through her teaching. “Knowledge is easy to teach. What isn’t easy to teach is the attributes. That’s why I focus on the attributes needed to succeed in the workplace, based on what I didn’t know when I started working.”

The results speak for themselves.

Laurence shows me a text she’s just received from a student who gained employment from her placement. While I don’t read it word for word due to privacy, it’s clear that Laurence’s impact on the student, Cassie Pham, has gone far beyond helping her secure a job.

“I’ve been working with Vitality Brands full-time for just over a week now,” Cassie tells me later. “It’s intense, but I’m really enjoying it.”

I ask her about the placement project that led to this job.

“My project consisted of me working with the current team here on a theoretical new product development plan. We had a six-month deadline from our client to improve one of our brands with the aim of increasing sales. Taking into consideration factors such as existing products and plans, brand essence, market positioning, opportunities and competitors, I developed a plan and presented my findings to the team and Laurence – a requirement of Laurence’s assessment. It was daunting, making a presentation, but I received such good feedback, and I’m sure it contributed to the fact that I’m now working here.”

Apart from securing a job, how did the placement benefit her?

“The placement really changed my perspective of the industry. Vitality outsources its formulation work, so there’s no labs, and I didn’t expect to not be working in a lab. I was also able to attend company meetings and be privy to idea discussions and future planning, which gave me an insight into pharmaceutical business operations, which is something we don’t see at uni.”

And what does she think of Laurence? “All the students love Laurence – she does so much for us,” Cassie confirms. “Many of my peers have gained summer scholarships from their placements, which means that they have three months instead of one in industry – Laurence administers this program, too. I also really appreciate how she taught us analytical and problem-solving skills in her classes.”

The aim is to incorporate an industry placement into all streams of the pharmaceutical science degree (drug discovery biology and medicinal chemistry being the other two), not just formulation science. And the good work has already started. I meet Alex Song, a third-year DDB student who has just completed an industry placement with AXT, Australia’s leading supplier of high-tech scientific equipment for sample preparation and analysis for academic and industrial applications.

“I did a research placement over summer, and decided research wasn’t for me,” Alex says. “So I told Dr Erica Sloan, one of my lecturers, and she found me an industry placement. She’s kept in touch with all the DDB third-year students, and placed us according to our interests.”

Alex’s role at AXT was to design a subscription package for high schools that centres on use of the Nanolive microscope, an innovative 3D cell explorer. Alex researched the VCE biology curriculum and developed lesson plans that incorporated the Nanolive, and maintained a blog that showcased its features. As part of the process, he went back to his high school and talked to his former science teachers about how they use technology in the classroom.

“My industry experience was definitely beneficial,” he says. “It gave me greater exposure to where my degree could take me – and the mentorship I received from my supervisor was invaluable. I was also able to demonstrate my problem-solving skills, and see how my scientific knowledge was integral in a context outside of academia.”

AXT is planning to roll out the package next year, and Alex is aspiring to a career in consulting. For someone who in his spare time is writing a children’s book about wealth management, it’s not particularly surprising.

# New talent *at* Monash

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*Professor Tina Brock*

## **Jessica Rostas**

In the previous issue of *Alchemy*, we announced our new pharmacy course, Australia's first BPharm (Hons)/MPharm. The new degree will educate students to the higher standard of scientific knowledge and clinical skill required to improve patient outcomes in a rapidly evolving health care environment.

To develop and help implement the course, the faculty has recruited experienced new staff, including internationally renowned education innovator Tina Brock. Professor Brock has joined us as Professor of Pharmacy Education and Practice (Education Focused), and has become the Director, Pharmacy Education, from the second quarter of this year (Professor Carl Kirkpatrick, who formerly held that role, remains as Director of the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety).

A clinical pharmacist with additional training in educational systems and social/behavioral sciences, Professor Brock will be responsible for guiding the faculty's new BPharm (Hons)/MPharm.

Here, she shares her vision with us.

"I'm so excited to be joining the faculty's pioneering team at such a critical time. Monash has a strong a legacy of achievement, but it's the vision for the future that I find so compelling.

"Change can be scary, but as sci-fi author William Gibson says: 'The future is already here – it's just not evenly distributed.'

"Everything that can be automated will be. In many industries it's already happened. In pharmacy, what can't be automated (at least entirely) are things like communication, empathy, inquiry, integrity, critical thinking, teamwork and reflective practice. Automation will free pharmacists to contribute to health care in new ways, using these non-automatable skills to improve patient experiences.

"I really admire how much work has gone into the course's development so far.

"The BPharm (Hons)/MPharm has been built on the 'flipped classroom model', underpinned by active learning principles. The faculty has invested in a team of educational designers who have collaborated with staff to develop ways to actively engage students, and scaffold them towards taking responsibility for their own learning.

"Screening tests will provide students feedback on their professional, non-cognitive and communication skills, and a mentor will help them build this feedback into personalised learning plans.

"Learning tasks and assessments designed to develop these skills will ensure that every student develops the skills required in their future careers as pharmacists.

"I'm interested in interprofessional education, team-based care and technology-enhanced learning. I've recently been working with a mobile application [app] called Practice Improvement using Virtual Online Training (PIVOT) to teach critical thinking and problem-solving skills to medical and pharmacy students who are connected virtually. It's exciting to think about what's possible when we train health professionals to practise together from the outset, and I'm looking forward to developing interprofessional education opportunities at Monash.

"I am by nature a collaborator, and I do my best work as part of an empowered team. I am proud to be the first member of PharmAlliance who will have worked at all three institutions, and I am absolutely convinced that what these strong institutions can do together is much greater than just the sum of their parts.

"The future of pharmacy practice in Australia is bright. I have been overwhelmed with the vision for the pharmacy profession and the spirit of innovation here. I have no doubt that the BPharm (Hons)/MPharm is absolutely the right thing to do for our students, the profession and for the citizens of Australia."

**You can follow Tina on Twitter @tmpbrock**



# Introducing: Drs Bruno, Mak *and* Landersdorfer



In addition to the leadership of Professor Tina Brock, the faculty has welcomed the expertise of Drs Andreia Bruno, Vivienne Mak and Cornelia Landersdorfer.



## **Dr Andreia Bruno**

Dr Andreia Bruno began in February as a lecturer and project manager in the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, where she will be managing the rollout of the new pharmacy double degree.

Andreia joins us from the International Pharmaceutical Federation Education (FIPEd), where she was a project coordinator and researcher in the education development team. In that role, she worked in areas including competency development (both at foundation and advanced practice levels), global workforce, interprofessional education, and the academic institution membership.

She has particular expertise in workforce and practitioner development, needs-based health services development and competency-based approaches. Concurrent with her role at FIPEd, she was the technical lead for professional development in Ordem dos Farmacêuticos (Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society), where her areas of responsibility encompassed the development of competency-based frameworks for the available specialisations and the accreditation activities and processes for the continuous education of Portuguese pharmacists.



## **Dr Vivienne Mak**

An experienced pharmacy practice academic, Vivienne joins us from Monash Malaysia, where she showed leadership in pharmacy practice education and was the active learning coordinator for the pharmacy program. Before that, she was the pharmacy program director at the International Medical University in Malaysia.

Hailing from Malaysia, Vivienne trained and practised as a pharmacist in Australia, and has a PhD in pharmacy practice from the University of South Australia. Vivienne is an active contributor to the profession and was the recipient of the 2010 PSA Young Pharmacist of the Year award.

Vivienne shares our interest in investigating new models for the practice of pharmacists, and ensuring future pharmacists are prepared for these roles. Her health services research will be embedded into CMUS's research programs.

Vivienne brings this experience and innovative thinking to the development and delivery of our professional practice units, and will embed her expertise in professional communication into the course.



## **Dr Cornelia Landersdorfer**

Connie Landersdorfer is prominent in the research fields of infectious diseases and pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic modelling of various therapeutic areas. Her work optimising drug therapies has already improved the treatment of infections in critically ill patients, osteomyelitis and bipolar disorder.

A pharmacist, Connie trained at the University of Regensburg, Germany, and Charing Cross Hospital, London.

Her research group utilises experimental in vitro infection models that expose bacteria to antibiotic concentration time profiles as observed in patients and, together with mathematical modelling, enable the optimisation of drug treatments for specific patient groups.

Connie is already part of the team, but has taken up a combined teaching and research role. Students will benefit from her significant expertise in infectious diseases, pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics and pharmacometrics.

Her research receives significant support from the NHMRC, including a NHMRC Career Development Fellowship, as well as NIH contracts.

# *For the opportunity, for appreciation, four stories*

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Scholarships have helped shape the faculty into the leading educational and research facility you see today, and will prepare our future generations for successful and fulfilling careers in pharmacy and pharmaceutical science. For students who are academically gifted or experiencing disadvantage, a scholarship can provide the opportunity for an individual to fulfil their potential and make a lasting contribution. We share the impact stories of four recipients, and those who were inspired to give back to their community in the form of scholarly support.

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*Georgina Pennefather  
at the 2016 Cossar Club  
Luncheon*

## **Thea Pärnamäe Rural Pharmacy Bursary**

**Student: Georgina Pennefather, BPharm 2018**

“I have always been a rural student and endeavoured to do my best at school. Since Year 10, I have had my heart set on studying pharmacy, as it combined my love for physiology, chemistry and health. To find out I then got accepted into my dream course filled my heart with joy. I can remember both Mum and I crying with pure happiness.

“All set and ready to begin first year, I started discovering the difficulties that came with being a rural student. Firstly, the time needed to be set aside to travel to university. If I had a lecture at 9am, I left the house by 6.30am, which became quite difficult during winter when it was freezing-cold outside, still pitch-black and bed seemed like a better option. The 30-minute drive to Geelong Station, followed by the hour-long V/Line train to Melbourne, then the various trams and trains to get to campus, became secondary when I realised how much money this travel was costing me a week.

“Also, because of the amount of time I spent travelling, I didn’t have much time to work during the week and therefore worked on the weekend instead, sustaining both a position at a local pharmacy on Saturday morning, then at the local bakery on Sunday.

“This is where the bursary helped me. This extra money helped cover my travel expenses, and allowed me to reduce my outside work to just the pharmacy role. I will continue to work Saturdays at the pharmacy, but have Sunday free for study. I can’t emphasise enough how much this extra day of study helped me achieve the high academic results that I wanted.

“In the future, I aim to finish my Bachelor of Pharmacy and then complete a graduate degree in medicine at Monash.”

**Donor: Dr Kersti Nogeste**

Thea Pärnamäe was a great believer in the value of education and pharmacy to improve lives. Thea was born in rural Estonia in 1927 and fled to Sweden as a refugee of World War II. After completing secondary school, she enrolled in pharmacy college because she considered a career as a pharmacist to be promising in terms of personal and societal benefits.

Thea’s niece, Dr Kersti Nogeste, generously funds the bursary to honour her aunt’s extraordinary life, and their shared belief in the value of tertiary education and giving back to the community. While not herself a pharmacy graduate, Dr Nogeste felt that a bursary to support female students from isolated areas was the best way to honour her aunt’s life, values and influence on her. Kersti’s mother, Malle Nogeste, echoed her daughter’s commitment and established a bequest to support the Thea Pärnamäe Rural Pharmacy Bursary.





## The Peter Beaumont Scholarship

**Student: Andy Tran, BPharm (Hons) 2020**

“What I find quite interesting about universities is the opportunities they provide for their students in a vast range of aspects, from social to financial and, most importantly, education. These opportunities are not possible without the continual support of donors.

“I was born and raised in Melbourne, completing Year 12 at Wellington Secondary College in 2015. My parents are both from Vietnam and came over to Australia to start a new life and to start a family. We’ve never been financially well off, but we’ve managed to make do with what we have and what this beautiful country provides us with. My parents would always remind me of how lucky I am to be born in Australia and that I shouldn’t take it for granted.

“What led me to study pharmacy? Well, it’s actually quite funny. My uncle owns a pharmacy, which I occasionally work in. His wife is a pharmacist. All three girls from my cousin’s family are studying pharmacy in Queensland. My cousin here in Melbourne is in her fourth year of pharmacy at RMIT, Bundoora. My brother, who is in second year at Monash, is studying pharmaceutical sciences. I guess the number of people studying the course attracted me towards it a little bit, but that wasn’t all. I’ve always enjoyed working with people, and I find great satisfaction in helping others when they’re most in need. Being a pharmacist will enable me to help them.

“I hope to work in a community pharmacy with my degree and, one day, open my own shop. My parents have always worked so hard to be able support me through my studies, and through life. I want to be able to give back. I want to be able to pay off their mortgage, buy a new car for them, spoil them whenever possible. That will bring me the greatest joy, and the Peter Beaumont Scholarship has given me the first step in helping them.”

**Donor: Peter Beaumont, PhC 1958**

Peter Beaumont knows what it’s like to be a country kid with big dreams. In the early ’50s he was living in Daylesford, where he completed the first two years of his four-year pharmacy degree by correspondence. By 1954 he was working for local pharmacist Tom Lane, juggling a 40-hour week, studying, and playing football with Daylesford for the Ballarat league.

What followed was an inspiring career in pharmacy that spanned five decades. Peter’s scholarship was inspired by a similar act of generosity from fellow pharmacy alumnus Michael Halprin, but it was also personal. “I’ve had a successful career and I wanted to give back. My family was not in a financial position to pay for my tertiary education. I won a Commonwealth Scholarship in 1953, and without that, well, it would never have happened.”



*Andy Tran*

*“I’ve always enjoyed working with people, and I find great satisfaction in helping others when they’re most in need.”*



*Jenifer Liang addressing attendees at the 2016 Cossar Club Luncheon*

## Cyril Tonkin Scholarship

**Student: Jenifer Liang, BPharm (Hons) 2013, GradCertPharmPracInt 2015**

**PhD candidate, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS).**

“Not long after completing my internship at Austin Hospital and working as a registered pharmacist, I encountered an advertisement from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia outlining an NHMRC-funded project. Our team evaluates the effectiveness of an interdisciplinary model of care provided to patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (or COPD) in the community setting. This model explores the collaboration of various health professionals within the primary care setting, including general practitioners, pharmacists, physiotherapists, practice nurses and respiratory scientists.

“The research venture was in line with my interests in chronic disease management and clinical pharmacy, but, more specifically, I saw this project as a way to improve the care of chronic disease patients through this interdisciplinary approach. Our study emphasises the key role of pharmacists in this team and the knowledge we share in optimising medication therapy for patients – we’re placing pharmacists alongside general practice clinic staff, with a major trial concurrently analysing the effects of this partnership. We’ve already started providing home medicines review and exercise programs to patients, and the feedback has been extremely positive – receiving handwritten messages of thanks is further validation of the work we are doing.

*“We’ve already started providing home medicines review and exercise programs to patients, and the feedback has been extremely positive – receiving handwritten messages of thanks is further validation of the work we are doing.”*

“The Cyril Tonkin Scholarship has allowed me the financial support to undertake my PhD studies. I have attended various workshops and seminars offered through Monash and other institutions on research skills and methods. These have been immensely useful in developing my ability as a researcher. Participating as an educator has also been enlightening and rewarding, giving tutorials on hospital pharmacy and MyDispense at the faculty.

“So, what’s next? I’d like to go into the policymaking field. Something else I’ve considered is having a role at the National Prescribing Service or at the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee. But with a doctorate degree from Monash and my pharmacy background, I am sure that opportunities are numerous.”

### **Donor: Sarah Amy Lloyd**

A major scholarship, named in honour of Dr Cyril Tonkin, was endowed in 1976 to promote innovation and leadership in the profession of pharmacy. Miss Sarah Amy Lloyd, whose father conducted a pharmacy business in Geelong, established the fund to honour her family doctor and great friend Dr Tonkin, who had first qualified as a pharmacist from the college in 1910.

It was Sarah’s belief that the profession of pharmacy and the health professions generally would benefit if young pharmacists with leadership potential could be given an opportunity early in their careers to advance their studies. In endowing the scholarships, Sarah expressed the wish that the selected scholars should be informed of the selfless service rendered by Dr Tonkin during his lifetime, and that they be asked to regard that service as an inspiration to aspire to the highest professional standards in their own service to humanity.





## Michael Keith Halprin Scholarship

**Student: An Thuy Nguyen, BPharm (Hons) 2020**

"I am the youngest child of four in my family, therefore the last one to go through Year 12. My parents, having seen three children through high school and into university before me, didn't put as much pressure on me to do well as they did my siblings. However, being someone who takes great pride in their work, I still worked hard to ensure that I had a lot of pathways open to me at the end of Year 12.

"My two sisters both did pharmacy at Monash. Being two of the people I look up to the most, their choice of doing pharmacy influenced mine as I watched them study hard over the years and become seasoned pharmacists. However, this is not the only reason I ultimately chose pharmacy. In high school, I was always someone people came to for help with both schoolwork and personal problems. I found that I derived great satisfaction from helping people, and knew that I wanted my future career to be based around this. Naturally, I gravitated towards pharmacy, as pharmacists have a great role in helping the community.

"As I live in the eastern suburbs, it takes quite a while to commute to and from the Parkville campus in the city every day. The funds from this scholarship will allow me the peace of mind of attending university without worrying about the cost of travel. The scholarship will also help me access school supplies that would otherwise have been too costly.

"At this point in time, community pharmacy seems like a more attractive option than hospital pharmacy, but that may be because I don't know too much about hospital pharmacy just yet. However, in the future I hope to open a pharmacy with my sisters."

**Donor: Michael Halprin, BPharm 1968**

Michael comes from a family of pharmacists, including two uncles and his own father, Harry, under whom he completed his traineeship. Having initially owned a pharmacy in East Brunswick, Michael joined forces with fellow college graduates Didimo Tonelli and Luigi Pierri to purchase pharmacies in Broadmeadows, Essendon and Ripponlea.

A very generous gift established the Michael Keith Halprin Scholarship, allowing academically talented students wishing to study pharmacy but without the financial means to do so, to be able to pursue their dream. Michael said it was his hope to be able to fund the scholarship in perpetuity, and has made provisions in his will to accomplish this.

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Can you help our future students fulfil their aspirations of a pharmacy or pharmaceutical science profession?

Could your support launch the next big career or facilitate our next research breakthrough?

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# Where *are they* now?

'10s

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## Dr Mark Agostino *BMedChem (Hons) 2007, PhD 2011*



### Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Curtin University

I work on a variety of research projects, largely focused on using computer-based methods to understand the structural basis of ligand-receptor interactions. I am particularly focused on ligand-receptor interactions of immunological interest, but am more recently extending my focus to cancer. My research skills have also allowed me to amass a fantastic record collection!

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## Alex Bongers *BPharm 2010, GradCertPharmPrac Health Economics 2012*



### Consultant, United Nations

The Bachelor of Pharmacy course provided a solid foundation for different roles in the pharmacy industry. I have been lucky enough to work as a pharmacy advisor in Fiji, a teaching associate at Monash University and a pharmacy manager at Priceline Melbourne. Having recently finished at EBOS Group Limited, I have just commenced work with the UN in East Timor strengthening their procurement and distribution of medications. I am a member of the pharmacy advisory and stakeholder group and Mathew Peck Travelling Scholarship committee at Monash University.

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## Catherine Downey *BPharm (Hons) 2011*



### Pharmacist, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

I currently work in two different areas of the hospital. I split my time as a medical oncology ward pharmacist and as an outpatient clinic pharmacist, where I see patients receiving radiotherapy for head and neck cancers. This is a brand-new role this year so has been both exciting and challenging to set up. Outside of work I really enjoy training in circus arts – especially the aerial hoop.

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## Franky *BPharm (Hons) 2012*



### Senior Pharmacist, Institute of Mental Health, Singapore

My role at IMH spans from providing pharmaceutical care to inpatient wards at the hospital, to overseeing the day-to-day operation of the inpatient satellite pharmacy and its team of pharmacy technicians. I am actively involved with the young pharmacist chapter at the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore, and I am currently volunteering for the 26th congress as public forum chairperson.

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## Simon Furletti *BPharm 2010, MPharmPrac 2015*



### Professional Practice Manager, TerryWhite Chemmart

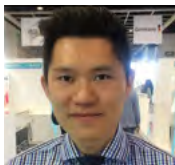
Working in community pharmacy after the completion of my degree, I later returned to study the Master of Pharmacy Practice, opening up a range of opportunities for me. My current role sees me responsible for the professional practice and development of over 500 pharmacies. Outside of work, I enjoy playing music and seeing live bands, and am starting to put my practical pharmacy skills to use in brewing beer!





## Howard Heng *BPharmSci (Hons) 2010*

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### Senior Business Manager, Baxter Laboratories

After starting my career as a formulation chemist, I progressed within Baxter Laboratories and undertook a variety of roles. These included product development supervisor, as well as the research and development manager. Currently my role allows me to head up R&D, as well as manage both local and international customers. In my spare time, I enjoy travelling and the unique coffee culture of Melbourne.

## Lisa Hui *BPharm (Hons) 2011*

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### Pharmacist, Austin Health

After my internship, I continued working at Austin Health as a clinical pharmacist in haematology, oncology and palliative care. In my spare time I organise summer student placements for the Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia (SHPA), Victorian branch – or find me whitewater rafting, skydiving, travelling or thrill-seeking!

## Vey Kann *BPharm (Hons) 2011*

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### Pharmacy Manager, Lim's Pharmacy

I started at Lim's as an intern in my first year of pharmacy school. I've been here for 10 years and have grown up with our customers and the team. I went from being called little, to big, to Uncle. I focus on staff training and customer service. We want to help each other help our customers see us as a health centre and resource for them and the community. Last year I rode in the Oxfam 100 and raised \$6500, including a generous gift from the pharmacy. My wife and I have one child, and one on the way.

## Seang Khov *BPharm 2013*

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### Pharmacist, Ormond Amcal Pharmacy

My love for helping people and passion in health care led to my selection for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Ignite Leadership Program. As one of six participants selected nationwide, this eight-month program is designed to develop early-career pharmacists, and I hope to use the knowledge and experience gained towards a long-term career in government or clinical pharmacy.

## Gemma Lay *BPharm (Hons) 2010, GradCertPharmPrac 2012*

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### Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Latrobe Regional Hospital

I help provide pharmacy services to inpatients and outpatients at Latrobe Regional Hospital. We provide clinical services to the acute and subacute wards (rotating between medical, surgical, rehabilitation, intensive care, psych etc.), as well as dispensing for day oncology and hospital outpatients. My hobbies outside of work include sewing, baking and CrossFit.



### **Katie Le** *BPharm 2012*

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#### **Pharmacist, Lim's Pharmacy**

I joined Lim's Pharmacy last year having moved from the west side of Melbourne. I like the team atmosphere here, as it is allowing me to grow as a pharmacist; I have more interaction with customers. Last year I married another pharmacy alum, John Huynh (BPharm 2012), and we are planning a trip this year.

### **Kevin Lov** *BPharm 2014*

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#### **Pharmacist, Lim's Pharmacy**

I interned full-time at Lim's Pharmacy and love the energy of the people – staff and customers. We are here to help, and people come to us for advice. My favourite meal is brunch!

### **Deepak Prakash** *BPharm 2010*

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#### **Director Market Access, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Policy at R&D Policy, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Solutions**

I am a practising accredited pharmacist and currently consult to provide policy, pharmacy and pharmaceutical access (HTA) solutions. I previously worked at the Australian federal Department of Health, where I assisted the completion of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Access and Sustainability Agreement and the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement. I maintain established networks at the DOH and have particular interests in reimbursement strategy, clinical application, pharmaceutical policy, access to medicines and quality use of medicines. My interests outside of work include photography and playing the drums.

### **Dr Glen Swinburne** *BPharm (Hons) 2010, GradCertPharmPrac 2012, PhD 2014*

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#### **Continuing Professional Development Manager-NSW, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia**

Over my seven years of professional life, I've had the opportunity to work across a number of areas of pharmacy practice, including community, hospital, industry and academia. I have a passion for education and training, particularly working with early-career pharmacists, identifying their unique training needs and helping meet those through my work at the PSA in NSW. Recently, my spare time has been taken up studying for my MBA.

### **Amanda Wanniss** *BMedChem 2006, BPharm 2010*

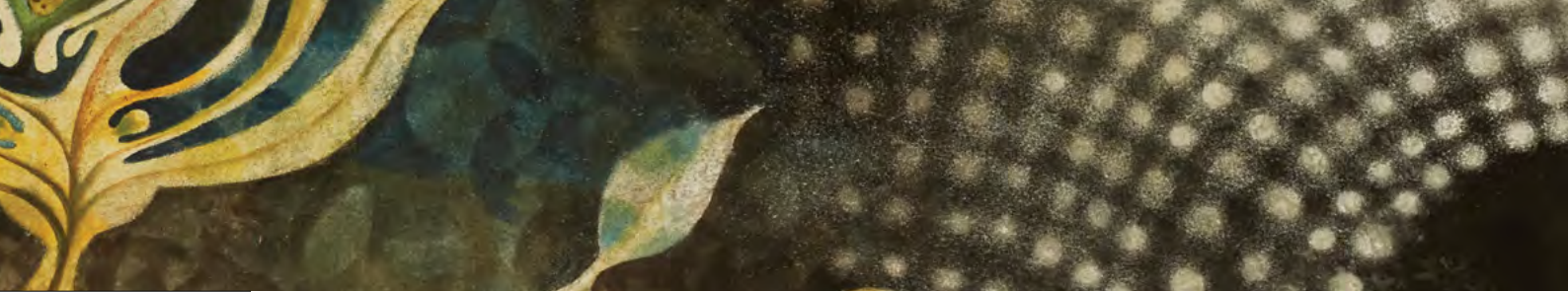
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#### **Territory Manager, Cook Medical**

I work for an American-based medical devices company attending surgical procedures and assisting with clinical product support. We manage hospital accounts and ensure product awareness and safety. I also work as a pharmacist on Sundays to maintain my knowledge and registration. In my spare time I enjoy travelling, spending time with family and friends, and catching up on my favourite TV shows – *Game of Thrones*, *Suits* and *The Walking Dead*.





## Wai Yum Wong *BPharm 2013*



### Pharmacist, Lim's Pharmacy

I not only completed my degree but also continue studying and have received my graduate certificate in dermatology and geriatrics. I enjoy working with the team of pharmacists here. We all focus on customer service. I speak English, Cantonese and am learning Korean. In my spare time I tend to my hermit crabs – a hobby started in primary school show and tell.

## Christine Wun *BPharSci (Hons)(FormSci) 2015*



### Vaccine Formulation Scientist, Vaxxas

After graduation, I jumped at the opportunity to work for Vaxxas, a Brisbane-based company that is changing the face of vaccine delivery technology. I joined a team of scientists working on the Nanopatch, a needle-free vaccine-delivery platform that aims to eliminate the need for cold-chain transport of vaccines. Outside of work, I enjoy travelling and kayaking, and feel at home out on the water.

## Jane Booth *BPharm (Hons) 2005, GradCertPharmPrac 2008, MPH 2013*

'00s



### Senior Medicines Information Pharmacist, Austin Health

I coordinate the medicines information and pharmacovigilance services at Austin Health. We provide comprehensive evidence-based therapeutics advice to clinical staff and patients. Our service actively uses and promotes social media as a health care tool. We use Twitter every day to keep across the latest medical literature and to collaborate with our colleagues around the world. I'm also co-presenter of the Purple Pen Podcast, an educational podcast for clinical pharmacists. In my spare time I can be found enjoying good food and wine with my friends and family, or exercising outside very early in the morning – even in winter!

## Marco Chiu Pak Ho *BPharm 2002*



### Pharmacist in Charge and Business Manager, Pharmasave Pharmacy Watsonia

With over 10 years of pharmacy experience, I now have a professional interest to advance pharmacy management, as I believe pharmacists can become management experts. I extended my studies with a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and recently completed my MBA. Any spare time I have is to spend quality family time with my lovely wife and two daughters. I also enjoy relaxing in front of my home cinema and hi-fi.

## Dr Darren Creek *BPharm (Hons) 2002, PhD 2008*



### Researcher, Drug Delivery, Dispositional Dynamics, Monash University

After a brief stint of locum work in rural pharmacies, I returned to MIPS to complete a PhD in pharmaceuticals, which led to the discovery of new drugs for malaria. Before commencing as a researcher and lecturer at the faculty, I worked in clinical research in Uganda, and in laboratory-based research in the UK and Melbourne. Outside of work, I coordinate fundraising for an education program for orphans in Uganda, and enjoy playing tennis and kicking the footy with my son.



### **Dr Tan Doan** *BPharm 2008, PhD 2016*

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#### **Research Fellow, University of Melbourne; Global Consultant in Tuberculosis Epidemiology and Surveillance, World Health Organization**

Prior to my PhD I worked as a pharmacist and product specialist for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals in Vietnam. I am now a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, where I use mathematical modelling and quantitative methods to investigate the transmission dynamics of tuberculosis and the efficacy of TB interventions. When not at work, I enjoy cooking and spending time with family.

### **Daniel Gilbertson** *BPharm, 2004*

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#### **Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting**

Beginning my pharmacy career at the Royal Melbourne Hospital as a trainee pharmacist, I spent nine years as a hospital pharmacist, including two years as Deputy Director, combining this with experience in community pharmacy. I now work in the health care consulting team at PricewaterhouseCoopers, working with clients across the health care continuum. In my spare time I play competitive water polo and watch the Bombers play in the AFL.

### **Dr Carol Gee** *BFormSc (Hons) 2008, PhD 2011*

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#### **Formulation and Process Development Scientist, Hospira, a Pfizer company**

As a formulation scientist, I backward-engineer a product currently selling on the shelves by a competitor to develop a generic version. It is a challenging and dynamic role, as I'm constantly learning and doing different tasks every day.

### **Dr Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali** *PhD 2006*

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#### **Professor of Social and Administrative Pharmacy, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia**

In 2013, I was honoured to receive the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society's Outstanding Pharmacist of the Year Award for Excellence in Academia. I'm actively involved with many international organisations and head the country group for the International Network for Rational Use of Drugs. I have worked in medical and pharmacy institutions in Nepal, India and Pakistan, and I'm external postgraduate thesis examiner for universities in Australia, NZ and the UK.

### **Colin Hui** *BPharm 2001*

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#### **Senior Head, Procurement Program Delivery, Health Purchasing Victoria**

Three years after graduation I became Deputy Director of Pharmacy at Sunshine Hospital, before taking on the role of Deputy Director of Pharmacy, Pharmacy Operations Manager at Alfred Health in 2006. I joined Health Purchasing Victoria (HPV) in 2011 as Pharmaceutical Advisor through a secondment arrangement with Alfred Health. I also hold a joint position at Monash University as a sessional lecturer and mentor for undergraduate students.





## **Kamakshi Kale** *BPharm 2005, MPharm.Sci 2008*

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### **Regulatory Affairs Associate, Ego Pharmaceuticals**

Securing a role at Ego Pharmaceuticals soon after completing my master's, I initially worked as a customer service/technical information officer, which was the perfect stepping stone into my current position comprising dossier preparation, quality assurance of marketing materials and product labelling for dermatological products. Various hobbies keep me busy outside of work. More travel is also on the cards, with Egypt and an African safari on the top of my travel bucket list.

## **Dr Cik Yin (Cikie) Lee** *BPharm (Hons) 2004, PhD 2013*

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### **Research Fellow at Royal District Nursing Service Institute, Melbourne; Affiliate Research at Monash University Centre for Medicine Use and Safety; Community Pharmacist at Country Wellness Pharmacy Rosanna**

My research interest is in developing innovative collaborative programs that aim to promote safe and effective person-centred medicines management for older people. I have also continued to practise as a clinician while I pursue my career in research, as I believe the clinical experience helps to inform my research work and further enhance my research experience. I am passionate about translating our research findings into practice to improve medicines care for the community.

## **Eric Luong** *BPharm (Hons) 2008, MClInPharm 2016*

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### **Pharmacy Manager, Rosebud Hospital**

Spending eight years at Peninsula Health as a clinical pharmacist, I later returned to study my master's. I was the manager at Mornington Centre (geriatric evaluation and management facility) for four years before becoming Pharmacy Manager at Rosebud Hospital. Outside of work, I enjoy travelling across the globe with memorable activities such as skydiving, bungee jumping, exploring the Amazon and trekking to Machu Picchu in South America.

## **Shanshan Lu-Shirza** *BPharm 2003*

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### **Proprietor, Kinglake Community Pharmacy**

In 2008, my husband, Simon Shirzad (BPharm 2002), and I started Kinglake Community Pharmacy. Six months after opening, the Black Saturday fires came through Kinglake, which resulted in the loss of our business. However, eight years after rebuilding our business, we continue to operate, thanks to support from our loyal community customer base.

## **Vida McLaren** *BPharm.Sci 2008*

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### **National Quality Systems Coordinator, Carlton and United Breweries**

After completing my degree, I joined Musashi as a laboratory analyst at Nestle's Performance Nutrition Division. This was the perfect stepping stone into a number of different roles within the company, which included working as a consumer quality coordinator, food safety coordinator and a secondment as a QA manager. In 2014, I moved to CUB, where in a short period my role has transformed into a strongly food safety and quality systems-focused position as National Quality Systems Coordinator. And when I'm not taste-testing beer for quality purposes at work, at home I do enjoy good wine, nature walks and shopping.



## **Dr Sreeja Sudhakaran** *BPharmSc (Hons) 2001, PhD 2006*

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### **Documentation Manager, Bristol-Myers Squibb**

I have worked extensively in community pharmacy, as well as hospital pharmacy. For the last 10 years, I have been working in the pharmaceutical industry in the areas of medical information and drug safety. I continue to enjoy my time as a sessional lecturer and tutor for pharmacy students at Monash.

## **John Ta** *BFormSc 2005*

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### **Supply Chain Network Manager, BASF**

After graduation from Formulation Science, I joined BASF as a graduate chemist. Since then, I've focused on developing a wide experience base and, with the support of BASF, have worked in product development, sales, business development, operations management, strategic projects and supply chain management. I think that a technical base is a great springboard into all aspects of business, and I always encourage graduates to be adventurous in their career choices.

## **Erica Tong** *BPharm 2003, MClInPharm 2009, PhD candidate*

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### **Chief Pharmacy Information Officer, Alfred Health; Teaching Associate, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety**

I've been at the Alfred for more than 13 years after beginning with my internship and working up to my current role. My current PhD focuses on a partnered pharmacist medication charting model, allowing collaboration between pharmacist and physician to chart patients' medication. We have just secured funding to roll out across eight locations in Victoria. I currently work and study part-time, as I have an active toddler to look after as well.

## **Amelia Trethowan (nee Davis)** *BFormSc (Hons) 2006*

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### **Project Manager, Pfizer**

I currently manage a number of global projects at Pfizer, working with various teams around the world to successfully take new pharmaceutical products from concept through to launch. I have my own business with my husband, Adelia Fine Foods, handcrafting delicious breakfast and snack foods, and recently had a baby girl, Zeila Rose.

## **Rory Thompson** *BPharm 1995*

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### **Owner, Chiera Pharmacy, Lalor, and Bants Amcal Pharmacy**

I worked in community pharmacies for several years before taking on my own operation. I have a strong interest in aged care, Parkinson's disease and pharmacotherapy, and am on advisory committees at two aged care facilities, giving regular lectures on caring for patients with Parkinson's disease. I married another pharmacist and have two children, and am a keen runner who participates in lots of fun runs.

**'90s**





## **Sandip Manku** *BPharm 1995*



### **Managing Director, Pro Pharmaceuticals Group**

In the early 2000s, I relocated to the UK and completed my MBA while working as a hospital pharmacist. On returning, I bought a rural pharmacy in Tatura, Victoria. The clinical knowledge from pharmacy, combined with my business experience, provided the basis to my current role as Director of Pro Pharmaceuticals Group, a company focused on hospital products, special-access medicines and clinical trial sourcing. I currently live in bayside Melbourne with my wife, who is a GP, and two children.

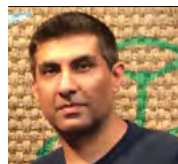
## **Peter O'Connor** *BPharm 1991*



### **Proprietor, Carnovale and Soul Pattinson Chemists, Yarraville**

My appetite for study saw me continue with a Bachelor of Laws (London, external). I worked as a judge's associate in the County Court of Victoria for three years, and then as a barrister for about three more before deciding that the grass was indeed greener in pharmacy. I now own two pharmacies in Yarraville, Melbourne, and won a DHHS Supercare Pharmacies tender (24-hour trading, plenty of headaches!) at Carnovale, which has been embraced by the community. Some of my fondest memories are of my days at Parkville – and the BWC t-shirt still fits!

## **Puneet (Sunny) Rewal** *BPharm 1998*



### **Partner/Site Manager at HPS Pharmacies**

Having completed my internship at the Austin Hospital, I worked in community pharmacy until an opportunity with HPS Pharmacies came about at the Melbourne Private Hospital. After a successful tenure there, I was offered a partnership. I have recently undertaken training in oncology compounding and have been working as an oncology pharmacist for the last two years. I am also a Pharmacy Board examiner and a consultant pharmacist with the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy.

## **Leonie Wohl (nee McKeogh)** *BPharm 1980*

'80s



### **Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan**

In 1983, I moved across the globe to San Francisco to marry lawyer and long-term pen pal Steven Wohl. Updating my qualifications at UCLA in San Francisco, I was the first clinical pharmacist in the Northern California Kaiser Region, and held various roles during my career with Kaiser Permanente, spanning more than 30 years. I have two boys and currently work on-call in retail pharmacy.

## **Ann Lim (nee Diep)** *BPharm 1986*



### **Owner, Lim's Pharmacy**

The most important part of the pharmacy is customer service. We work with our team on thorough training. We want to show our customers we care about them. I speak Vietnamese, Cantonese and, of course, English. I enjoy swimming in our local pool and am very proud of our two children. We enjoy our family holidays together.



## Richard Lim OAM *BPharm 1987*

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### **Proprietor, Lim's Pharmacy**

After a number of years working in a hospital pharmacy, I opened my own pharmacy in Springvale in 1991, which employs 11 pharmacists, many of them Monash graduates who speak a variety of languages. I founded the Cambodian Youth Association to help young people resettle into Australia, and established Cambodian Vision, a not-for-profit that provides eye surgery for people in Cambodia. My daughter is studying pharmacy, and my son, who is in Year 12, has indicated he would like to study pharmacy at Monash.

## Carolyn Rutherford *BPharm 1989*

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### **Senior Health Economist, KMC Health Care**

I have had the opportunity to work in various retail and hospital pharmacy positions at the Alfred, GSK and CSL. I continued my education and now hold an MBA, a Graduate Diploma of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and a Certificate of Health Economics.

## George Tambassis *BPharm 1986*

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### **National President and Director, Pharmacy Guild of Australia**

In 1988, I purchased my first of five pharmacies, and have accumulated over 25 years' experience working in community pharmacy. I joined the Guild Branch Committee in 2005 and have held the position of National President since October 2013, and recently negotiated the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement. I was a member on the Australian Community Pharmacy Authority (ACPA) for six years, working closely with the pharmacy location rules. I have a keen interest in wound care management, harm minimisation programs and continuing education. When not working you can find me playing soccer or cycling.

## Michael Halprin *BPharm 1968*

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### **Retired**

I am a 'Skeptic' by nature and I think that's why I enjoyed learning to be a pharmacist. I have to ask questions and find solutions. Although I 'retired' a few years ago, I enjoy filling in at my old pharmacy when my former business partner takes a holiday. My travel takes me all over the world, including most recently to continuing education opportunities in South Africa.

## Judy Wilmot *PhC 1966, BPharm 1969*

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### **Retired**

I spent over 40 years working part-time in both community pharmacies and hospitals, with one of my most rewarding jobs being within the outpatients area at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. I have been fortunate to be able to travel, and continue to do so with my husband both overseas and four-wheel-driving in Australia, and love spending time with my 11 small grandchildren.

'60s





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## John Bohn *PhC 1958*

# '50s



### Hypnotherapist and retired pharmacist

After 36 years of working in community pharmacy, I realised as I talked with customers that each of us is an individual and require tailored health care. This led me to undertake further education and explore my interest in hypnotherapy and psychotherapy. Outside of work I volunteer at the information centre once a week, and I am in U3A involved in certain activities. I enjoy bushwalking and socialising.

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## Beverly Gorr *PhC 1954*



### Retired

I was fortunate to be apprenticed to my mother, Jean Cohen – a pioneering female pharmacist in Melbourne who owned her own business in Malvern East. After graduation, I managed a pharmacy in Ashburton. Marriage, travel and children followed. In 1982, I completed a graduate diploma in health education, exploring patient compliance in drug administration for my thesis. Having retired officially in 2014, I am now busy with family commitments and travel. I am involved in a Recycle Sound project with Toorak Rotary and Better Hearing.

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## Alan Hibberd *PhC 1952*



### Retired

After some years conducting my own pharmacies, I relocated to the UK in 1974. After completing a postgraduate diploma in biopharmacy at the University of London, I was appointed a research fellow and received my PhD in 1979. Following a joint university-hospital appointment as organiser/supervisor of a new MSc in Clinical Pharmacy, I later established a referral practice in toxicology/clinical ecology in London from 1985 to 2009, when my wife, Lois, and I returned to Melbourne.

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We would love to hear what you have been up to since graduation. Please contact the Alumni Engagement Officer on 9903 9087 or email [pharmacy.foundation@monash.edu](mailto:pharmacy.foundation@monash.edu) to share your story with your fellow alumni.

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# 1992-2016 Honour Roll of Donors

Your generous contributions and shared commitment to the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences allows our educational excellence and pioneering research to continue and expand. Thank you for your support.

## Individuals

The following individuals have generously supported the faculty with a gift since 1992.

*\* In recognition of gifts from those who are no longer with us, we offer thanks and remembrance.*

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