

Media Release
American Australian Association awards Fellowships to leading Australian scholars for advanced research at top US universities

Tuesday, August 14, 2007 - The American Australian Association has awarded eleven Fellowships to leading Australian post graduate scholars to undertake advanced research and study at leading universities in the United States. The American Australian Association seeks to facilitate intellectual alliances and collaboration between Australia and the US. Since the Association's Education Fund inception in 2002, over \$1.4 million dollars has been awarded in Fellowships to facilitate advanced studies in the US and Australia.

The Fellows were selected from a pool of well-credentialed applicants in a range of fields, including business, science, international security and network engineering. Australian scholars will undertake cutting edge research at top US universities such as Harvard, Yale and Stanford. The Fellows will undertake research in retinal neuroscience, immunology, pharmaceutical policy making, gene functioning and telecommunications networking.

Australian scholars have taken an increased interest in the Fellowships since the announcement late last year of a joint initiative between the American Australian Association and the Australian Government to establish a United States Studies Centre (USSC) at the University of Sydney. The USSC opens its doors in 2008 and will offer a range of postgraduate research studies, facilitate academic exchanges and operate as a research centre of excellence on US studies.

"This year we have an extraordinary standard of Fellows in a variety of critical fields. These Fellows are not only leaders in their areas of research, but are also devoted to gaining experience in the US in order to further Australian research interests. The research conducted by Fellows in the US is a vital step in developing collaboration and interchange at the highest level," said Malcolm Binks, Association Chairman. "As an Association with a deep commitment to furthering strategic alliances between Australia and the United States, particularly on intellectual matters of mutual interest, we are proud to continue this fine tradition."

The American Australian Association is able to support its fellowship program through annual benefit dinners and other fund raising events, and through sponsorship from key corporate members.

Five of the chosen scholars are Sir Keith Murdoch Fellows, named after one of the Association's founders and father of Association Patron Rupert Murdoch. A further five scholars received Fellowships sponsored by corporations supportive of the Association and academic endeavours at the highest level.

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Sir Keith Murdoch Fellows

- Paul Giacomini
- Amanda Hutchinson
- Christine Lu
- Peter Moyle
- Theresa Puthussery

Macquarie Group Stanford Fellow

- Spencer Maughan

Merck Company Foundation Fellow

- Simon Corrie

The Dow Chemical Company Fellow

- Deanna D'Allesandro

Alcoa Foundation Fellow

- Nicholas Aberle

QANTAS Fellow

- Anna Dart

Sir Keith Murdoch Fellows 2007

Paul Giacomini
Adelaide University
University of Pennsylvania

Research interest: Biomedical Science and Physiology - determining how the immune system works. Paul's research focus is to understand how the immune system controls infections. In particular, how immune cells can be stimulated to kill parasites in the early stages of infection, assisted by proteins of the blood complement system.

Amanda Hutchinson
University of Adelaide
University of Colorado

Research interest: Psychology: Neuropsychology. How left brain/right brain work separately and together to complete everyday tasks. Amanda's research is focused on examining problems that may contribute to the cognitive functioning of people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults.

Christine Lu
University of New South Wales
Harvard Medical School

Research interest: Biopharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical policy evaluation. Christine is researching the nexus between public policy and the safe and effective use of medicines. Christine's current research examines the effects of a prior authorization policy on medicines use and outcomes among diabetes patients.

Peter Moyle
University of Queensland
Rockefeller University

Research interest: Pharmacy and Medicinal Chemistry. Investigating the role that histone protein modifications play in the regulation of gene functioning.

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Theresa Puthussery

University of Melbourne

Neurological Sciences Institute

Research interest: Medicine - Visual Neuroscience. In particular, the study of retinal photoreceptor diseases and developing drug therapies aimed at preventing conditions causing blindness.

Andrew Zalesky

University of Melbourne

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Research interest: Telecommunications and network engineering - the use of computational and numerical methods to solve issues in telecommunications networking and medical imaging. Andrew is developing tracking algorithms to chart the intricate network of neural fiber tracts in the human brain using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI's).

The Macquarie Bank Stanford Fellow

Spencer Maughan

Macquarie Group Stanford Fellow 2007

University of Melbourne - Stanford University

Research interest: Biotechnology, genetics and business

At Melbourne University, Spencer's research in genetics uncovered a novel group of plant genes that are also found in malaria parasites. Continuing this genetic research on plant growth at Cambridge University, Spencer's insights into the malaria drug resistance pathway paved the way for an entirely new class of anti-malarials to be tested as novel therapeutics. Spencer's MBA at the Stanford Graduate School of Business will maintain his focus on the science and biotechnology sector as a business driver for the advancement of society.

The Merck Company Foundation Fellow

Dr Simon Corrie

University of Queensland

University of Washington

Research interest: Chemistry - developing medical diagnostic devices using nanotechnology. Focusing on the development of a clinically applicable test for early cancer detection based on novel nanotechnology.

The Dow Chemical Company Fellow

Deanna D'Alessandro

James Cook University

University of California

Research interest: Physical Inorganic Chemistry. Deanna is studying novel materials with applications in hydrogen storage and catalysis in order to advance research into alternative energy sources.

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The Alcoa Foundation Fellow

Nicholas Aberle
University of Melbourne
Yale University

Research interest: Chemical Biology. Building on earlier research on chemical synthesis and cell biology, Nicholas is now focusing on synthesizing and determining the action of a natural immunosuppressant product.

QANTAS Fellow

Anna Dart
University of Queensland
Tufts University, Boston

Research interest: International security and terrorism.
Research will focus on intelligence led national security policy development and a study of methodologies for obtaining security intelligence from inside Diaspora communities.

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About the American Australian Association: Founded 1948, the American Australian Association is devoted to relations between the United States and Australia and New Zealand. Its goal is to encourage stronger ties across the Pacific, particularly in the private sector. The Association has an active program of corporate, educational, economic, cultural and social activities. www.americanaustralian.org

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