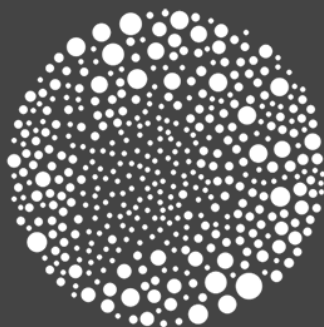


AITHM NEWSLETTER: 2015



AITHM | AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
OF TROPICAL HEALTH & MEDICINE



JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA

Cairns

Singapore

Townsville

In this issue:

- [AITHM news](#)
- [Research news](#)
- [Events and community engagement](#)
- [New starters](#)
- [Awards and congratulations](#)
- [Other news](#)

AITHM news

2015 Australasian Tropical Health Conference

Emerging Priorities in Tropical Health Research

AITHM hosted the 2015 Australasian Tropical Health Conference where leading international researchers presented on topics relevant to the Conference Theme of "Emerging Priorities in Tropical Health Research", including:

- Chronic infectious and non-infectious diseases in the tropics
- Molecular approaches to drug design
- Vaccine discovery
- Immunobiology
- Tropical Public Health in SE Asia
- Vector biology
- Tropical parasitology



[Find out more>>](#)

Redefining Townsville - A world of tropical opportunity

Professor Louis Schofield joined Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Professor Sandra Harding, Vice Chancellor and President, James Cook University, Dr Geoff Garrett, Qld Chief Scientist, Mauro Balzarini, CEO & Managing Director, Wellard and Mr Kim Hai Lim, Executive Director, Rex Airlines at the recent Redefining Townsville summit, 'A World of Tropical Opportunity', to discuss Townsville's future in the tropical economy.



[Find out more>>](#)

Construction update - Townsville

Construction of the AITHM Townsville building continues to rapidly progress, with construction work on track for completion date of May 2016.

Construction at the roof is now complete and internal fit out has commenced. When completed, the Townsville building will include clinical translation facilities and a PC3 laboratory with a focus on microbiology research.

Check out the [Townsville construction web-cam](#).



Construction update - Cairns

Ground works have commenced in Cairns and once complete, the building will house PC2 laboratories and a QC2 insectary, with a focus on parasitology and vector biology research.

Check out the [Cairns construction web-cam](#).



Research news

US military joins forces with AITHM's Dr Geoffrey Dobson

The US military is supporting work by a team at AITHM in Townsville led by Dr Geoffrey Dobson who has recently returned from Fort Lauderdale's Military Health System Research Symposium with an award for his work in trauma medicine and acute care surgery.



[Find out more>>](#)

New grant expands hookworm treatment

AITHM's Dr Paul Giacomini will study a revolutionary treatment for coeliac disease.

40 patients will be injected with hookworm larvae as a follow-up to a pilot study that suggested the parasite is effective in treating coeliac disease.



[Find out more >>](#)

AITHM researchers develop app to warn of food dangers

PhD candidate Michael Sheridan and his supervisor Associate Professor Andreas Lopata have developed a unique app to warn the user of food dangers and recalled products.



[Find out more >>](#)

Scholarship winner to research malaria

Painful memories of quinine injections to treat malaria have spurred AITHM student Edgar Pollard to undertake a Doctor of Philosophy researching the vector-borne disease.



[Find out more >>](#)

Events and community engagement

JCU Open Day

AITHM hosted information sessions at JCU's Townsville and Cairns Campus Open Days.

Cairns campus featured tours of the aquarium and an in-depth look into parasitology. The feedback received from activities was incredibly positive with an estimated 2500 visitors to AITHM exhibits.



[Find out more >>](#)

National Science Week

National Science Week was celebrated from the 19-23 August and for the first time, Queensland's National Science Week program was launched from Cairns by Queensland Chief Scientist Dr Geoff Garrett, who opened proceedings by performing an experiment onstage at The Tanks Arts Centre in Edge Hill.

AITHM researchers were involved in a number of science events that were open to the public across the week, including a collaboration between JCU parasitologists and artists resulting in a performance that combined dance, visual arts and multimedia to tell the story of some of the parasites that can threaten our quality of life in the tropics.



[Find out more >>](#)

Launch of Anton Breinl Research Centre for Health System Strengthening

The Anton Breinl Research Centre for Health Systems Strengthening, AITHM, held its launch on the 11 August 2015.



The Centre has a focus on working in partnership to make health systems work better for people in the tropics, with a particular focus on Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, rural and remote populations and our near tropical neighbours.

[Find out more >>](#)

Grant Writing Workshop

How to apply smarter not harder

16 December 2015, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Obtaining project funding is critical for a successful career in research. This workshop will offer the essential insight and skills needed to develop a funding application in an important area of research.

Different types of grants (including fellowships and research project schemes offered by government and industry) will be discussed.



[Find out more >>](#)

New starters

Top infectious disease expert joins AITHM

One of Australia's leading infectious disease experts, Professor Emma McBryde, has joined AITHM to lead research into tuberculosis and hospital-acquired infections.



[Find out more >>](#)

Leading health economist adds strength to AITHM

Dr Emily Callander has recently joined the team at AITHM and has commenced in the role of Research Fellow - Health Economics.



[Find out more >>](#)

Welcome to the team

Julie Woodward, Operations Manager, Cairns

Julie Woodward has joined AITHM in the role of Operations Manager. Based in Cairns, this is a joint position between AITHM and the Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention. Julie comes to the role with extensive experience in management roles within Australian universities.

Laura Males, Communications Coordinator, Townsville

Laura Males has joined the AITHM team in July as our new Communications Coordinator. Laura comes to us with significant experience in communications and has previously worked with the Cancer Council Queensland and the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation. Laura is based in Townsville and has already produced a number of significant communications pieces on behalf of AITHM.

Dana Melling, Communications Officer, Cairns

Dana Melling has commenced as a short term 6 month appointment in the role of AITHM Communications Officer. Dana comes to the role with significant experience in communications, most recently with the Victorian Health Association and previously with the Victorian Department of Health. Dana is based in Cairns and commenced in November.

Awards and congratulations

Outstanding Alumni Award

Congratulations to AITHM research Dr Dylan Morris who received the Early Career Outstanding Alumni Award for the College of Medicine and Dentistry.

Dr Morris' main research interests are in peripheral vascular disease, identifying ways to improve the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease.



[Find out more >>](#)

Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation grant recipients

Congratulations to Dr Michael Smout and Associate Professor Jamie Seymour, who have won a Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation grant for their work on jellyfish venom.

Congratulations as well to Dr Sandip Kamath, who also won a Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation Grant to improve allergy diagnostics for adults and children in Far North Queensland with shellfish allergy.



[Find out more >>](#)

Other news

AITHM Seminar Series

The AITHM Seminar Series for 2015 has focused on the exchange of research in the field of tropical health and medicine. Regular seminars have been scheduled throughout the year and have formed a critical component of AITHM's strategy of fostering collaborative research opportunity. In order to further strengthen collaboration between researchers and enhance the Seminar Series, AITHM is seeking your feedback.

This is your opportunity to provide any feedback and ideas and importantly shape the Seminar Series for 2016. Please email aithm@jcu.edu.au with your Seminar Series feedback.

AITHM Cohort Doctoral Program welcomes new members

The Cohort Doctoral Studies Program, provides additional support to higher degree by research (HDR) students, particularly those who are isolated by distance or by low numbers of other HDR students enrolled in their discipline.

The program is targeted at health professionals working either full time or part time in areas of medicine, health, chemistry, and biomedical, molecular or veterinary sciences.

The program supports and nurtures doctoral students through their studies by providing workshops, seminars, coursework, peer learning facilitation and writing workshops in a cohort model where students commence and progress through their program as a group.

[Find out more >>](#)

In short...

- **[AITHM proud to host the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade international delegation of journalists](#)**
- **[AITHM congratulates Dr Petra Buttner and Dr Reinhold Muller for the recent release of Epidemiology 2nd Edition](#)**
- **[If you have any feedback on the new style of our newsletter please get in touch with us via email: \[AITHM@jcu.edu.au\]\(mailto:AITHM@jcu.edu.au\)](#)**
- **[AITHM wishes everyone a Merry Christmas! We look forward to working together next year.](#)**

Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine
Division of Tropical Health and Medicine
James Cook University
Townsville QLD 4811 AUSTRALIA

P **[\(07\) 4781 3122](tel:(07)47813122)**
F **[\(07\) 4781 4655](tel:(07)47814655)**
E **aithm@jcu.edu.au**



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