



October Newsletter

2011

Message from APCRC-Q's Directors

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2011.

It's packed with news and events to keep you up to date on all that's happening at our busy centre. Please enjoy!

The APCRC-Q has grown and we would like to welcome the following new staff:

- **Shiv Nagaraj** - Postdoctoral Fellow
- **Vandhana Bharti** - Research Assistant
- **Alice Wilce** - Masters Student
- **Kathryn Arthy** - Centre Coordinator
- **Mel Raassina and Kim Rasmussen** - Communications Coordinators
- **Mandy Chandler** - Scientific Writer
- **Amanda Awabdy** - Administration Officer



**Professor
Colleen Nelson**



**Professor
Judith Clements**

Both Colleen and Judith have recently returned from international trips, where they networked and attended events in various countries such as America, Canada, Scotland and England.

We look forward to continuing to update you with our latest news.

Professor Colleen Nelson and Professor Judith Clements

In this issue:

Message from APCRC—Q Directors.....	Page 1	PAH Symposium.....	Page 4
Mushroom Compound Targets Stemcells.....	Page 2	TRI Progress.....	Page 4
APCRC—Q Becomes Top Story.....	Page 2	Relocation Success.....	Page 4
Representing Prostate Cancer Research.....	Page 2	United Research Discussion.....	Page 4
Raise Your Awareness.....	Page 3	Events.....	Page 5
Movember Update.....	Page 3	Events Continued.....	Page 6

Australian Prostate
Cancer Research Centre
Queensland

A Brisbane-based multidisciplinary research centre dedicated to prostate cancer

www.australianprostatecentre.org

Administrative Offices
Level 1, Building 1 Princess Alexandra Hospital
199 Ipswich Road, Brisbane QLD 4102

P: +61 7 3176 7957
F: +61 7 3176 7440
E: prostatecentre@qut.edu.au

APCRC - Q news

Mushroom compound to target cancer stemcells

APCRC-Q researcher Dr Patrick Ling's PLoS ONE publication highlighting the effectiveness of a turkey tail mushroom extract in suppressing prostate tumour development received strong media coverage in May.

The compound, named polysaccharopeptide (PSP), was found to target prostate cancer stemcells—the initiators and spreaders of the disease—a feat that conventional treatments, such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy, do not achieve.

The turkey tail mushroom is used in Asian soups to boost health and the compound has seen no side effects in the trials.

"Our findings support that PSP may be a potent preventative agent against prostate cancer, possibly through targeting of the prostate cancer stem cell population," Dr Ling said.

Dr Ling's research featured in a **Channel 10** television news story on 24 May and **The Weekend Australian** newspaper on 25 June.



Dr. Patrick Ling

APCRC—Q becomes top story

Recent research findings from APCRC-Q were published in **Cancer Research** and featured as the top story in **Prostate Cell News**, an international prostate cancer news bulletin.

The headline-grabbing research findings implicate the role that high levels of insulin play in promoting prostate cancer progression. The project tested the hypothesis that insulin may also influence steroidogenesis in castrate resistant prostate cancer.

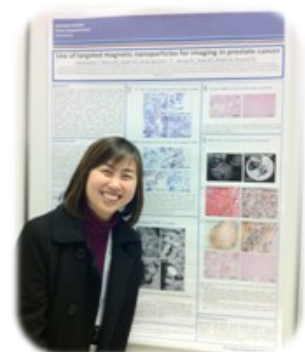
This recent research success follows on from a publication (co-authored by Professor Colleen Nelson and PhD student Amy Lubik in 2008), which ranked in the top 1% of papers published in the clinical medical field in 2008 for QUT, at the Faculty of Science and Technology publications award ceremony.

Professor Colleen Nelson and Professor Judith Clements will be featured in the *Women in Science, Technology and Innovation* section of the **Australia's Nobel Laureates, Adventures in Innovation** book, to be published in early 2012.

Representing prostate cancer research

APCRC—Q was strongly represented at the 5th PacRim Breast and Prostate Cancer Meeting held at Kingscliff in May and the 12th Australasian Prostate Cancer Conference (APCC) held in Melbourne in early August.

Professor Colleen Nelson, Professor Judith Clements and Ms Shirly Sieh gave presentations at the APCC's Translational Science Meeting and Dr Carolina Soekmadji won first prize in the Translational Science poster competition with her poster titled "Use of targeted magnetic nanoparticles for imaging in prostate cancer".



Carolina with her winning poster

Congratulations Carolina!

Raising awareness



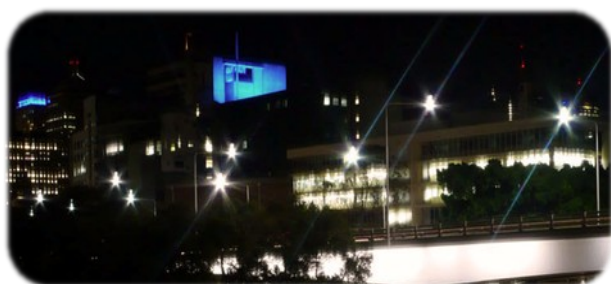
September was **Prostate Cancer Awareness Month** and APCRC-Q has been flat out raising much needed funds for research.

We held Barbecues at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and raised over \$500 in aid of this important cause.

QUT Gardens Point once again turned the cube on top of Z Block blue for most of September.

All funds raised throughout the events will help the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) to continue their vital research into the cause, treatment and prevention of prostate cancer.

Thanks to all who assisted and supported us.



Movember update

During November each year, men throughout Australia and the world grow moustaches to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer, and depression in men.

The funds raised are intended for programs run directly by Movember and their men's health partners, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and beyondblue: the national depression initiative.

Registrations for Movember 2011 re-open on September 15th.

If you would like to be involved, visit www.movember.com and select your level of interest from registering to participate, making a donation or involving your business.

The Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre—Queensland will be entering a team in the event this year, and we look forward to a great level of support. Please contact Mel Raassina at melissa.raassina@qut.edu.au if you would like to join APCRC—Q's Movember team.

Stay tuned for Movember news on our website www.australianprostatecentre.org, and the wrap up in our December newsletter.

GAP news

Professor Nelson (Chair), and Professor Pamela Russell (Member), have been actively engaged with Movember's Global Scientific Committee in order to develop a Global Action Plan (GAP) for prostate cancer research in 10 countries.

The key to this initiative is an agreement as ambitious as its goal: not just to fund collaborative global research, but also to share all data freely with the entire prostate cancer community and beyond, via the Movember website.



PA Hospital Symposium

APCRC-Q researchers recently participated in the annual Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) Symposium, held on site in Brisbane.

Executive Director of APCRC-Q, Professor Colleen Nelson, co-chaired the Cancer Lifestyle Session and spoke on *"Prostate: Collaboration with Micro Array Technology"*, during the Technology in Healthcare Workshop.

Urology Registrar, Dr Morgan Pokorny also spoke at the Symposium.

Professor Colleen Nelson

This year's symposium was entitled *"Health Problems of our Times – the merging of inheritance, indulgence and therapy"*, and proved a great opportunity for APCRC-Q to share some of their work with other leading experts in the medical field.



TRI progress

The exciting Translational Research Institute building has seen significant progress in its construction, despite being delayed by flooding in January and subsequent inclement weather in the following months.

The TRI building will house the University of Queensland's Diamantina Institute, Queensland University of Technology's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Mater Medical Research Institute and the Princess Alexandra Hospital's Centres for Health Research.

The TRI will allow – for the first time in Australia – biopharmaceuticals and treatments to be discovered, produced, clinically tested, and manufactured in one location.

APCRC—Q is looking forward to moving into the TRI building when it is ready for occupation (expected late 2012).

Relocation success

APCRC-Q's new office space has been completed and Professor Colleen Nelson, Professor Pamela Russell, along with the administrative and clinical staff, have settled in.

The new office is located on Level 1 of the main PA Hospital building and APCRC—Q's new postal address is Level 1 Building 1, Princess Alexandra Hospital, 199 Ipswich Rd, Brisbane QLD 4102.

Phone contact details for APCRC-Q staff have not changed.



United research discussion

APCRC - Q collaborations

In early August, APCRC—Q researchers met with counterparts from the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Victoria (APCRC-V) in Melbourne.

The workshop was a success, enabling staff to share their research activities and identify opportunities for future collaborations.

APCRC—Q will host a follow up meeting during December this year, in Brisbane.

Upcoming events

Seminar Series: APCRC-Q will be restarting their Seminar Series, a regular discussion bringing together high calibre scientists, researchers, and clinicians from a cross-section of disciplines.

This is a great opportunity for those interested in the area of prostate cancer research to attend sessions, enabling experts to share discoveries and discuss the significance of their work.

Seminars will be held fortnightly on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Russell Strong Auditorium at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, generally with a clinical and scientific focus.

Upcoming speakers include

- Dr Elizabeth Williams, Laboratory Head of the Cancer Metastasis Laboratory from the Centre for Cancer Research, Monash University;
- Dr Vasundara Venkateswaran, Associate Professor from the Department of Surgery, University of Toronto and Division of Urology at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; and
- Associate Professor Declan Murphy, Consultant Urologist & Director of Robotic Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne.

Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance (AC-PCRA) Symposium: This annual conference is a chance for researchers, clinicians, scientists, academics, and other professionals working in prostate cancer to share their work and future plans.

Sessions will favour a collaborative approach, and may include workshops, roundtable discussions, and panel-style presentations.

Planning is underway for the Symposium to be held in early 2012 and further details will be included in our next newsletter.



October

events

Event: APCRC—Q Seminar Series - 4:30pm - 6:30pm on each date

Dates: Tuesday 4 October, Monday 10 October, Tuesday 1 November, Thursday 17 November, Thursday 1 December, 2011

Location: Russell Strong Auditorium, Princess Alexandra Hospital, 199 Ipswich Road, Woollongabba

Contact: E melissa.raassina@qut.edu.au / P (07) 3176 1894

Event: 5th International Conference on Mechanisms of Action of Nutraceuticals (ICMAN) Conference

Date: 13 - 15 October 2011

Location: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Grey Street, Southbank, Brisbane.

Contact: E marketing@qctn.com.au / P (07) 3331 3999

Events Continued on next page

events

Continued

Event: AusBiotech 2011 – National Conference

Date: 16 - 19 October, 2011

Location: Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia

This year's theme is **Creativity, Capability & Capital**

Contact Details: P (03) 9828 1400 W www.ausbiotech2011.com.au



Event: Great Brisbane Duck Race

Date: Sunday 30 October 2011

PA Research Foundation's Rubber Duck Race down the Brisbane River to raise funds for research in the areas of prostate cancer, breast cancer, leukaemia and skin cancer research.

Contact Details: W www.greatbrisbaneduckrace.org.au



November:

November - Grow your Mo to raise funds for prostate cancer

Event: Clinical Oncological Society of Australia's (COSA) 38th Annual Scientific Meeting

Date: 14 – 17 November 2011

Location: Perth Convention Centre, Western Australia

The theme for the 2011 ASM is *"Partnerships against cancer—bridging gaps, breaking barriers"*, and will highlight the opportunities and challenges facing health care today and in the future. This year's scientific program will focus on urological, prostate and colorectal cancers, as well as the role of primary care in cancer.

Contact Details: P (03) 5983 2400 W www.cosa2011.org



Event: Southside Sports and Community Clubs 3rd Annual Breakfast

Date: Saturday 26 November 2011

Time: 8am

Location: Southside Sport and Community Club, 76 Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road, Upper Mt Gravatt.

Annual breakfast raising funds for Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia

Contact Details: P (07) 3219 1103 W www.southsidesportsclub.com.au



If you have an item that you think should be included in our next newsletter, let us know!

Contact Mel Raassina at melissa.raassina@qut.edu.au

Australian Prostate
Cancer Research Centre
Queensland

A Brisbane-based multidisciplinary research centre dedicated to prostate cancer

www.australianprostatecentre.org

Administrative Offices
Level 1, Building 1 Princess Alexandra Hospital
199 Ipswich Road, Brisbane QLD 4102

P: +61 7 3176 7957
F: +61 7 3176 7440
E: prostatecentre@qut.edu.au



Princess Alexandra
Hospital
BRISBANE • AUSTRALIA