From the Dean of Graduate Studies

In this issue, a couple of our colleagues have been kind enough to contribute some tips on publication. I would encourage all our research degree students to dwell carefully on these wise words, because publications are now the universal currency of academia. When coins were first introduced in ancient Mesopotamian trade more than 3000 years ago, people began to accepted ‘represented value’ rather than bartering goods directly. In much the same way, researchers now accept the ‘represented quality’ of publications as an indication of the ‘worth’ of a researcher – be it for the purposes of getting a job, a research grant, or a promotion. So please: go forth and publish!

Prof Phil Weinstein

Publishing your research

Dr Steve Milanese, Lecturer in Health Sciences

Getting published is a bit like fishing. The people who make it look easy have often spent a lot of trial and error working out the process. If you just turn up with any old gear and bait, you are likely to stay sitting on the jetty watching the sunset.

I have three tips for catching that publication.

1. Find yourself a mentor...someone you respect who has a decent publishing record to provide you with guidance and motivation when the first rejections arrive.

2. Practice...writing is a skill, so take every opportunity to practice it. When reading an article think about how it is written – not just the technical content, but the structure and format.

3. Learn to play the publishing ‘game’...accept the rejections and learn from them; it’s not personal.

Gemma Paech, PhD candidate

As I near the end of my PhD into the effects of sleep restriction on the regulation of sleep, I have come to understand the value of publishing my research. I have actively presented my work at national and international conferences, treating these presentations as an ‘instant peer review’ of my research. I try to keep my writing simple, refraining from using complex words and phrases. When responding to reviewers’ comments, I try to:

- answer as many as I can
- do revisions as quickly as possible and make it clear where revisions have been made
- be diplomatic in my responses.

Research and publishing can be a harsh journey, but it’s all worth it when you get a letter saying ‘I am pleased to inform you that your original manuscript has been accepted for publication’.

See Gemma’s UniSA homepage for her list of publications.

Hear the full story

Attend the ‘Publishing your research – don’t lose your rights’ workshop, Thursday 29 November, 9am–12.30pm, City West Library Function Room (Level 1). Details coming soon.
Health science successes

Ian Davey Thesis Prize

Katina D’Onise (pictured right with Prof Ian Davey and VC & President Peter Høj) was awarded this prize for the most outstanding research thesis leading to a PhD. Her thesis title is ‘Early childhood education: does preschool attendance reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease?’

Katina undertook her PhD with the Sansom Institute under the supervision of Prof Adrian Esterman, Prof John Lynch and Prof Robyn McDermott.

Maurice de Rohan International Scholarship

Lauren Frensham (pictured right) was awarded this international travel scholarship. Her thesis title is ‘Online lifestyle intervention for cancer survivors living in rural South Australia’.

Lauren will travel to the USA to visit the Duke Center for Cancer Survivorship and the Pennington Biomedical Research Center. She will have the opportunity to network and work closely alongside world-leading researchers. She will incorporate aspects of the world’s best practice into her own intervention study, to aid optimal outcomes for cancer survivors in Australia.

Three Minute Thesis Competition

The winner of the 3MT™ Competition held Thursday 6 September in the Bradley Forum was Carla Daunton, Mawson Institute (pictured right). Her presentation was titled ‘A diagnostic test for chronic wounds’. She is in the 2nd year of her PhD.

The runner up was Emily Reeve (pictured left), School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Health Sciences. Her presentation was titled ‘I rattle when I walk’. She is in the final year of her PhD.

The People’s Choice was awarded to Najmeh Hassanli, School of Management, Division of Business. Thanks to the Library for organising the prize for this award.

Congratulations to all nine participants on their excellent and engaging presentations. Thanks go to the audience for their support. Thanks also to the judges, chaired by Dr Paul Willis, who had the very hard task of deciding a winner.

Carla will compete in the 3MT™ National Final at the University of Queensland 11 October. Good luck!

Videos of the nine contestants in the UniSA Final

Magnificent seven to battle for a place in 3MT UQ final (Campus Daily article)

Scholarship opportunities

Swiss Government Excellence Research Scholarships

These scholarships enable selected applicants to undertake research in the realm of their PhD or medical specialisation in one of the 10 Swiss public universities, the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, the public teaching and research institutes, or the universities of applied sciences. Applications close 16 November.

More information

Introducing Cara Bourne

Ian Gould Experimental Science Grant recipient Cara Bourne speaks about researching sociality in the Desert Skink population of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia (video).

Study away from UniSA

Do you wish to study at another institution as part of your research degree?

Normally the maximum period of study away from the University is six months. Application forms must be submitted at least four weeks prior to your study away commencing.

More information and application form

ATN e-Grad School courses

Upcoming courses

Critical and creative thinking: 5 Nov–3 Dec (MORE research methodology)

More information and to enrol

Upcoming events – keep your diary free!

Three Minute Thesis National Final

Thurs 11 October

9am–1pm, University of Queensland. You can connect to a livestream of this event. See article on this page.

More information

EAS Postgraduate Information Session

Wed 17 & 31 October

Education, Arts and Social Sciences host postgraduate information evenings where you can find out more about our postgraduate programs. More information

Business Postgraduate Expo

Wed 24 October

5–7pm, Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, Hawke Building. Information on how to fast-track your business career with a postgraduate qualification from UniSA. More information

Domestic research degree applications

Wed 31 October

Closing date for Australian scholarships. More information