

ATN INPROFILE

BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS

FINDING
SOLUTIONS



AUSTRALIAN
TECHNOLOGY
NETWORK
OF UNIVERSITIES

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University of South
Australia

Curtin University of
Technology

RMIT University

University of
Technology, Sydney

Queensland
University of
Technology

Volume 1, Issue 2

From the Director

The last 8-weeks have been a busy time for the ATN with the development of guidelines for an ATN Research Quality Framework trial, the launch of the **ATN Centre for Metabolic Fitness** and the signing of an agreement between the ATN and the Chinese based International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA).

As the Government's reform agenda and the implication of those changes begin to emerge, the ATN is positioning itself to ensure it maximises opportunities and meets challenges posed by the changes.

Critical in this process will be the outcomes of the Government's Research Quality Framework assessment.

The anticipated changes to research assessment have prompted the ATN to hold its own assessment of research quality across the network in order to both prepare for the upcoming changes, and to provide useful input into the Research Quality Framework (RQF) drafting process.

The ATN is joined by Murdoch University in this trial, which runs from July to October 2005. The key objectives of the ATN trial will be to:

- Obtain information and data on research quality across key research groups in participating universities
- Develop and test a robust and efficient mechanism for

the assessment of research quality and impact across the ATN, informed by relevant national and international approaches

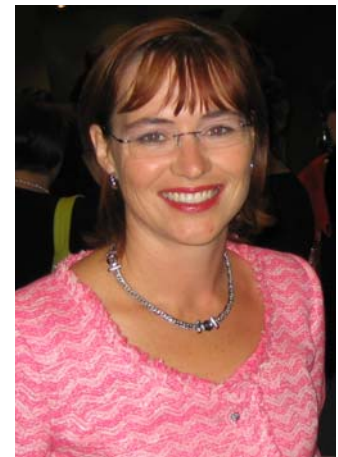
- Assist research groups in meeting the challenges of the RQF which is planned for implementation nationally toward the end of 2007.

The ATN is committed to forging partnerships with industry and government to deliver practical results through focused research and it is against this backdrop that the ATN launched its Centre for Metabolic Fitness in July. (see page 2)

An increasingly competitive academic research environment calls for productive research concentrations based on effective collaboration between disciplines and across institutions.

There is much expertise in the ATN universities in biosciences, behavioural science and public health and the focus of this Centre on diet and lifestyle will be attractive to both industry and consumers alike. The Centre's scope will extend well beyond the ATN, with its 33 key investigators building active research partnerships, both nationally and internationally, with the support of the private and public sectors.

Still on the research front, but with an international perspec-



Ms Vicki Thomson
Director
Australian Technology
Network

tive, the ATN has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese-based International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA). The MOU will focus on research and development opportunities. The signing in Hong Kong by the ATN Chair and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Australia, Professor Denise Bradley, AO, came just a week after the Federal Government announced an agreement between Australia and China for the Australia-China special fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, to raise the level of collaboration between the two countries.

ATN signs collaboration agreement with Chinese university group

In a landmark move, the five universities of the ATN have signed an agreement with the Chinese based International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA).

The International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA), is an institutional network initiated by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) to foster applied research and technology transfer among 22 leading tertiary institutes from the Chinese mainland, U.K. and U.S.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Hong Kong by Dr Lui Sun-wing, Chairman of ISTA and PolyU Vice President (Partnership Development) and Professor Denise Bradley, Chair of ATN, Vice Chancellor and President of University of South Australia. The signing was witnessed by Mr Alexander Tzang, Honorary Founding Chairman of ISTA and PolyU Deputy President.

Under the agreement, ISTA and ATN will work together to establish a mutually beneficial and cooperative partnership for the promotion of strategic exchange, applied research and development, technology transfer, and institutional improvement in areas of common interest at both alliance and individual member levels.



**Professor Denise Bradley
Chair
Australian Technology
Network (ATN)**

**Dr Lui Sun-Wing
Chairman
International Strategic Tech-
nology Alliance (ISTA)**

The goals of ISTA – to foster applied research and development, technology transfer and commercialisation of technologies and products through international collaboration – strongly support the objectives of the ATN and its member institutions.

ATN members already share linkages with members of ISTA in a range of collaborative projects. For example, the RMIT, Curtin University and the University of Technology, Sydney each have student exchange agreements with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University; RMIT has academic exchange programs in place with Purdue University and Nanjing University; and there are collaborative research programs in place between Curtin University and the South China University of Technology, the University of

South Australia and the Wuhan University of Technology and Peking University – to name a few.

ATN Chair and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Australia, Professor Denise Bradley said the MOU is a reflection of the ATN's desire to promote international collaboration and broaden our international perspectives.

The MOU signing coincides with recent announcement by the Federal Government of agreements between Australia and China for both the *Australia-China Special Fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation* and the *Young Scientist Exchange Scheme* to strengthen ties and raise the level of scientific and technological collaboration.

“the MOU is a reflection of the ATN’s desire to promote international collaboration and broaden our international perspectives.”



**Mr Alexander Tzang
Honorary Founding
Chairman
International Strategic
Technology Alliance
(ISTA)**

New national diet & lifestyle centre opens for business

A national centre supported by the ATN and dedicated to researching the impact of diet and lifestyle on obesity, heart and general health was officially opened in July.

The Centre for Metabolic Fitness com-

prises more than 30 specialist researchers and their teams with expertise in nutrition, exercise physiology, psychology, epidemiology, and health economics from the Curtin, Queensland and Sydney Universities of Technology, UniSA and RMIT University.

The Centre is dedicated to undertaking research that will provide scientific evidence about what to eat and how to exercise to stay fit and healthy.

(continued page 3)

Led by Professor Peter Howe, the Centre was a recipient of the inaugural ATN Research Challenge. The aim of the Research Challenge is to promote and support collaboration between the universities of the ATN and to demonstrate the value of our relevant and applied research. Our intention is to develop relationships that will build research capacity and concentration, enabling ATN universities to compete nationally and internationally in areas of shared expertise.

As a group the ATN is well positioned within the sector - nationally networked, industry-focussed and collaborative and, importantly, we are recognised as such. We are marked by our flexibility, our

ability to maximise collective expertise, our valuable links with industry, and our use of new and emerging technologies.



From left: Professor Rod Wissler (Director, Research & Research Training, QUT), Professor Sue Rowley (PVC Research, UTS), Professor Neil Furlong (PVC Research & Innovation, RMIT), Professor Ian Davey (PVC Research & Innovation, UniSA) and Professor Barney Glover (PVC Research & Development, Curtin)

ATN LEAPs into MORE for research students

The ATN LEAP (Learning Employment Aptitudes Program) is specifically aimed at improving the employment skills of higher degree research students whilst they study.

An initiative of the five ATN Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies ATN LEAP is a series of on-line training modules, designed to help higher degree research students develop generic skills that will assist them in their research as well as in their future employment fields. The six modules are offered twice a year and include Project Management, Leadership and Communication, Research Commercialisation, Entrepreneurship, Public Policy and Sustainable Development.

More than 1500 students have participated in the program. The modules have been popular as they have enabled par-

ticipants to acquire content and knowledge in an area beyond their research topic. The sharing of research ideas and strategies are popular topics of discussion on the chat rooms and discussion fora. Participant comments from evaluation have included; "I enjoyed the free spirited nature of the interactions", "I have improved my skills and knowledge", "I learned how to increase the value of my present work" and "I am less fearful of technology and online learning"

As a result of the success of ATN LEAP, and the development of a system that enables HDR students and staff from all the ATN Universities to access the program, a new set of modules is currently being developed. The ATN MORE Program (Modules On-line for Research Education) will offer a suite of research education modules in an online work-

shop format. The focus is on research skills such as writing and ethics, and is due to be rolled out from September 2005.

For information about ATN LEAP or ATN MORE, please contact the Coordinator, Elizabeth Greener on e.greener@qut.edu.au, or 07 38642547.

The ATN LEAP Program is available to staff and HDR students at the ATN Universities at <https://olt.qut.edu.au/udf/atn-leap/>

“The Centre is dedicated to undertaking research that will provide scientific evidence about what to eat and how to exercise to stay fit and healthy.”

“ATN MORE will offer a suite of research education modules in an online workshop format.”

ATN INPROFILE

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

FINDING SOLUTIONS

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Building Partnerships: Finding Solutions

Clare Burton Memorial Lectures

The speaker for the 2005 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture is Professor Alison MacKinnon, Professor of History and Gender Studies and the Foundation Director of the Hawke Research Institute at the University of South Australia. Dr MacKinnon will speak on: Girls, school and society: a generation of change.

The Clare Burton Memorial Lecture series was established by the ATN's Women's Executive Development Programme (WEXDEV) in 1999 to commemorate the leading researcher, bureaucrat and academic Dr Clare Burton, who died in 1998. The lectures focus on her specialist field of gender equity.

The dates for the Memorial Lecture are:

Victoria:

Monday October 10
6.00 pm, Storey Hall,
342 Swanston Street, RMIT

Western Australia

Friday 14 October
12 noon Hyatt Hotel, hosted by Curtin University of
Technology

Queensland

Tuesday 18 October
5.30 pm Owen J Wordsworth Rooms, Level 12, S
Block

QUT Gardens Point
New South Wales
Wednesday 19 October
6.00 pm Training Room 1, Level 6, UTS
Building 10
Jones St Broadway

ACT

Wednesday 26 October
6.00 pm for 6.30 pm dinner;
Great Hall, University House,
Balmain Crescent, ANU

South Australia

Wednesday November 23
5.30pm at UniSA



Professor Alison MacKinnon

The Australian Technology Network brings together five of the most innovative and enterprising universities in the nation. We are committed to forging partnerships with industry and government to deliver practical results through focused research.

We educate graduates who are ready to enter their chosen profession, dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and eager to claim a stake in building sustainable societies of the future.

ATN universities teach around 180,000 students, or almost 20 % of Australia's student population. With 1 in 4 international students choosing to study at an ATN university, we are also the largest provider of international education, both with our onshore and offshore students

The ATN's aim is to help secure Australia's reputation as the clever country, and contribute to its social and economic wealth, while championing the principles of access and equity that have ensured its members are the universities of first choice for more students.

For more information about the ATN, or organisation and our activities, please visit our web site at <http://www.atn.edu.au>