

Tuesday 11 October

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDICAL SCHOOL NOT A PREREQUISITE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH – ATN

The ATN continues to play a critical role in the development of the health and well being of Australians – with researchers at the newly established Centre for Metabolic Fitness receiving three NHMRC research grants in the latest round announced by the Federal Government.

**Curtin University
of Technology**

Proving that a medical school is not a prerequisite for critical health research, the Centre’s co-director, Dr Jon Buckley has been successful in two project grants that promise to provide valuable insight into areas that could greatly impact on the quality of life for many Australians.

**University of
South Australia**

Dr Buckley will be examining the long-term health implications of the many low-carbohydrate diets that have become prevalent of late, the best known being the “Atkin’s Diet”.

RMIT University

**University of
Technology
Sydney**

The lack of research in the area currently means that there are no appropriate public health guidelines to apply to these types of diet, which clearly needs rectifying given their increasing popularity.

**Queensland
University
of Technology**

He will also be performing a clinical study to see if changed dietary habits and exercise can have a positive impact on women suffering from polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), a serious disorder affecting 5-10% of women of reproductive age.

ATN Centre colleague, Dr Rosalie Viney, Deputy Director of UTS’ Centre for Health Economics Research & Evaluation, was also successful in receiving a grant, and will analyse the current ‘quality of life’ measure used to decide what medical services and pharmaceuticals should be funded. The more detailed analysis proposed in her approach has the potential to significantly impact Australian health policy.

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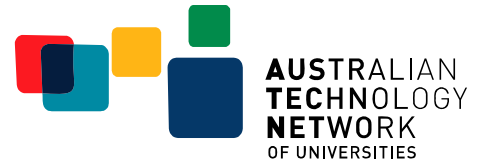
www.atn.edu.au

ATN Director Vicki Thomson said the grants demonstrate the value ATN researchers can bring to national innovation from outside the more traditional medical research disciplines, which tend to focus on reactive measures rather than preventative health care and health policy.

“About half of all public research funding in Australia currently goes to health and medical research, and predominantly to those universities which have medical schools.

“Whilst ATN universities do not have medical schools, we clearly have a capacity to undertake high impact research in this critical area,” Ms Thomson said.

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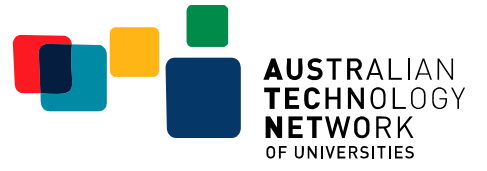


In total ATN universities were successful in receiving almost \$5million in NHMRC funding.

For further information about the ATN and the Centre for Metabolic Fitness please visit www.atn.edu.au or contact Vicki Thomson 08 8302 9135

For specific information in relation to the research projects please contact Dr Jon Buckley (08 8302 1853) or Dr Rosalie Viney (02 9514 4722)

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