



Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) Monthly Newsletter

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FHS Monthly Newsletter – June 2011

PAST EVENTS

Re-accreditation of the B.Sc. (Hons.) Applied Biomedical Science degree programme by IBMS, UK.

The Department of Applied Biomedical Science has again been successful in being awarded accreditation for its degree course by the Institute of Biomedical Science, UK. This follows a one-day visit by a team of three IBMS members, Alan Wainwright, IBMS Educational Officer, Dr. Patrick Naughton, Academic Representative and Mary McDonald, Professional representative. The accreditation panel was chaired by Professor Charles Sammut, Dean of the Faculty of Science, as Independent Chair, representing the University of Malta.

The members of the panel visited the teaching and research laboratories within the Faculty, and the Hospital Pathology laboratories where the applied biomedical science students undergo their laboratory placements during the course programme.

The panel also held meetings and discussions with the various stakeholders, namely the students, Dr. Chris Barbara, Director of Pathology, Mater Dei, as the service provider and subsequent employer, the ABS programme team, and the ABS Senior Management team. It was a full day of meetings which culminated in success.

After dinner, a surprise was sprung onto Professor Angela Xuereb by the IBMS members who presented her with an Achievement Award in recognition of her success in being awarded accreditation by IBMS, UK, for the degree programme in Applied Biomedical Science for three consecutive times over a span of 10 years.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Dean`s Research Work, Athens, May 2011

Professor Angela Xuereb`s research work entitled *`Functional Polymorphisms in the TNFRSF11B (Osteoprotegerin) Gene and Low Bone Mineral Density in Postmenopausal Women in Malta`* was presented at the 3rd Joint Meeting of the European Calcified Tissue Society and the International Bone and Mineral Society held in Athens in May 2011.

Diabetes Foot Research Group

The Department of Podiatry in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Faculty of Engineering and Staffordshire University, UK has set up a Diabetics Foot Research Group within the University of Malta. The main aim of this research group is to encourage and disseminate research carried out on a multidisciplinary level.

The official launch of this group will be held on Friday, 1st July, 2011 at the South Auditorium, Faculty of Health Sciences, Mater Dei Hospital at 11.00 hours.

New Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics

The Senate approved a new Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics.

One of the aims of the centre will be to promote and organise multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, development and services in the field of biomedical cybernetics. Various University Faculties will be involved, namely the faculty of medicine and Surgery, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences, besides other University Centres and Institutes.

The board members are Professor Richard Muscat, Chairman, Professor Kenneth Camilleri, Director of the Centre, Dr Noellie Brockdorff, Senate Appointee, Professor Kevin Cassar and Mr Ray Gatt as members. The Department of Podiatry will have a co-opted member on the Board.

Apart from the Department of Podiatry, other FHS Departments that will utilise the Centre for research purposes are the Departments of Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Radiography.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Dr Sandra Buttigieg – Research and Academic Activities

Dr Sandra Buttigieg, Head, Health Services Management Department, will be participating in two major research and academic activities in the coming months:

The first is the European Health Management Association Annual Conference 2011 on *‘Integration in Health and Healthcare’*, where Dr Buttigieg together with other co-workers will present a poster *‘Patient Focused Approach Helps Improve Quality of the Accident and Emergency Unit in Maltese Hospital’*.

Dr Buttigieg will also be leading a group of six senior academics and researchers in the organisation of a Professional Development Workshop sponsored by the Division of Health Services Management of the American Academy of Management as part of the 2011 Annual Congress which will be held in San Antonio, Texas, USA. The title of the workshop is *‘International Comparison of Stakeholders in Healthcare Innovation: Developing a Conceptual Framework’*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Victoria Sultana – PhD Viva, Nursing Department, FHS

On the 2nd June, 2011, Ms Vicky Sultana successfully defended her PhD thesis at the Centro Studi Umani, Asona Switzerland, entitled *“Amputations and Invocations – a study of limb amputation in Malta”*. The examiners were Dr Jerome Lewis (University College London) and Professor Paul Stoller (West Chester University, USA).

Ms Sultana’s supervisors were Professor David Napier (University College, London) and Professor Paul Clough (University of Malta)

Vicky would like to thank all those at FHS who supported her in this journey – collegial encouragement is of crucial importance in such endeavours!

Very well done, Vicky!

Co-option of Senate Representative on FHS Faculty Board

During last meeting, Dr Carmel Caruana, Radiography Department, has been co-opted member of the FHS Faculty Board.

Visiting Senior Lecturers – Promotions

Ms Antoinette Attard and Ms Isabelle Avallone, Nursing Department, have been promoted to Visiting Senior Lecturers. Well done Antoinette and Isabelle!

Research Ethics Committee Nomination

Dr Rosienne Farrugia, Applied Biomedical Science Department, has been appointed by Senate on the Faculty Research Ethics Committee.

Scholarships Awards

The Staff Scholarships and Bursaries Committee agreed that the following academic members of staff be granted funds to read for the Ph.D. degree:

- Trever Abela Fiorentino, Nursing Department
- Karen Borg Grima, Radiography Department
- Nadine Calleja, Communication Therapy
- Anna Cini, Nursing Department
- Josanne Drago Bason, Nursing Department
- Rene Mifsud, Occupational Therapy Department
- Jonathan L Portelli, Radiography Department
- Paulann Spiteri, Nursing Department
- Gerbert Van Dijk, Radiography Department

Faculty BBQ, 1st year as a Faculty

To celebrate the first year as a Faculty, the FHS will be organising a BBQ:



- **Date:** Friday, 15th July, 2011
- **Venue:** Fra Martino, Corinthia San Gorg St. Julian's
- **Time:** 19:00 hours
- **Dress:** Casual
- **Guest:** Welcome.

FHS Faculty Board Meeting – 21st July, 2011.