



Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation

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Latest News

From the FEAST office

The positive review of FEAST by the European Commission earlier this year was welcome and not unexpected news for the FEAST office and our stakeholder group. FEAST is now recognised by Brussels as a benchmark and a model and has sparked a new EC support program to establish similar operations in non-European countries having S&T agreements with the EU. We anticipate that FEAST will enjoy continued support from Europe and Australia to encourage joint S&T cooperation into 2005 and beyond.

The European CORDIS website and database offer opportunities for a massive expansion of our existing partner search facility and for advertising Australian skills and opportunities. Our seminar series on CORDIS gets under way in the middle of this month and thanks to our network partners and the hard work of Alison White, we have over 700 registrants for these seminars to be held at 10 venues around Australia.

We are planning further seminars and workshops on individual technologies and on broader topics such as contractual issues and Marie Curie Fellowships. But it's important to ensure that our work addresses client needs, so your feedback and suggestions for future FEAST activities are always welcome.

Michael Parker
Executive Manager, FEAST
mparker@feast.org

Introducing Jade Sharples, The British High Commission's new Science & Technology Officer



The British High Commission in Canberra has recently appointed Jade Sharples as their Science and Technology Officer. This is the first time the High Commission has made a dedicated science appointment. The appointment reflects the belief that both countries, as world leaders in scientific research, could benefit from each other's achievements through enhanced collaboration at both the research and industry level.

Jade completed her PhD in 2000 in plant physiology jointly at the University of Western Sydney and the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Huntingdon UK and is currently reading law by correspondence, due to complete this year.

Jade's first task is to compile a report outlining Australia's particular scientific strengths, existing Australian/UK collaborations and identifying any scientific disciplines that could benefit directly from enhanced Australia/UK collaborations. In order to complete this task, Jade is currently compiling a database of prior and existing Australia/UK relationships. Have you had any collaboration with the UK over the past 5 years, either through research grants, fellowship schemes or participation at the industry level? If so, Jade would greatly appreciate it if you could inform her of your current connections and potential future interests.

Jade Sharples
British High Commission
Ph: (02) 6270 6647
Email: Jade.Sharples@fco.gov.uk

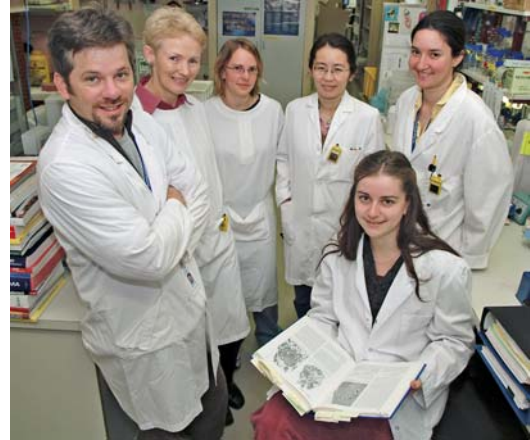
NHMRC funding success for autoimmune disease

In the April FEAST newsletter, we highlighted the NHMRC collaborative grants successes.

Dr Hamish Scott at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research received \$995,640 over five years to undertake his part in a European Sixth Framework project working on autoimmune disease.

We caught up with Hamish for an interview about his recent success.

Due to space constraints, this is an edited transcript. The full text is available on the FEAST website at <http://www.feast.org/projectprofiles.php>



Dr Scott (l) with 5 of the 8 in his team:

(l to r) Pauline Crewther, Chelsea Hewitt, Ping Cannon, Joelle Michaud, and Catherine Carmichael (seated)

The project acronym is EURO-THYMAIDE, full title “Novel Approaches to Pathogenesis, Diagnosis and Treatment of Autoimmune Diseases based on New Insights into Thymus-Dependent Self-Tolerance” under the 6th Framework Programme Life Science, Genomics and Biotechnology for Health. It is a Health Research Collaboration Priority 1 integrated project.

My workplace does not receive any of the 21 million Euro allocated by the EU to the framework project as that money stays in Europe. The Australian partner has to fund their own part of the project. I applied for and received funds of \$990,000 from the NHMRC which will go towards the salaries and experimental costs associated with the project.

Many questions have become apparent in my entering this arrangement.

I found that clearly the European collaborators were not sure about *if* and *how* Australia could participate. Due to the rule changes from FP6, it was considered possible that EU funding could come to Australia and other third countries.

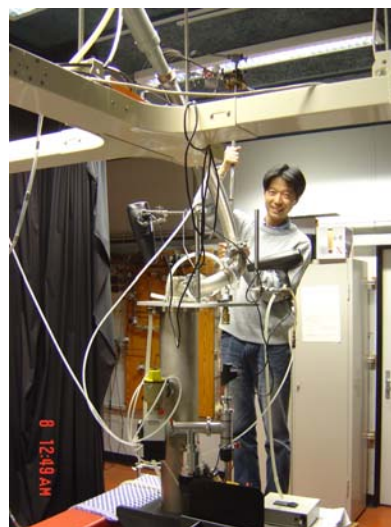
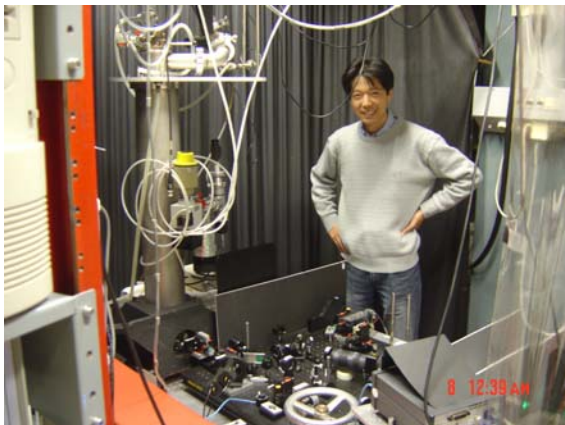
From the Australian side, myself, my institute and I, and we felt the NHMRC, struggled to understand the EU system. Myself, my administrative assistant, our institute intellectual property officer and a legal and intellectual property consultant found it extremely difficult to find concise clear information on the EU website or in the documentation. A brief explanation is 35 pages of PDF for example!

CORDIS - Innovation Accessible

Users with an interest in innovation policy and practice can now find a comprehensive range of information and services easily accessible via the new Innovation Portal on CORDIS. The portal, available in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish, publishes weekly the latest news and events related to European innovation, including sections devoted to innovation policy, EU support services provided to enterprises, and innovation within the research framework programmes.

<http://www.cordis.lu/innovation/>

Young Australian Researchers Program



In March 2004, Dr James Chon of the Centre for Micro-Photonics at Swinburne University of Technology travelled to Leiden University in the Netherlands as a participant of the *Young Australian Researchers Program*, funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training in 2004 and managed by the Australian Academy of Science.

Dr Chon conducted important experiments on single nanocrystal quantum dot blinking in various environments and their statistical relation to the ensemble measurements. The results of his research have been accepted for publication in *Physica E: Low dimensional structures and Nanostructures*, as well as a conference presentation at the Australian Optical Society which met in Canberra 5-6 July 2004. James was able to gain knowledge on the operation and installation of equipment currently not available in Australia (cryogenic confocal microscope), and establish an on-going collaborative link with the host university in Europe. He expects to publish more results from the visit and apply for future grants together with his Dutch host.

Money for Basic Research – the new proposed European Research Council

The presidents and chairs of Europe's research organisations, known as the European Union Research Organisations Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCs) have agreed on the key principles for the foundation of a European Research Council.

The European Research Council will form a cornerstone on the European Research Area and will include all areas of research including the humanities and social sciences as well as the natural sciences, medicine and engineering.

It will have a constitution establishing its authority to act autonomously and to develop its own criteria for structures, procedures and decisions, independent of the European Commission and of government agencies. The sole criterion for funding decisions by the ERC will be scientific excellence, determined on the basis of a peer review system by highly respected, well-established experts.

The proposal for a European Research Council follows the release by the European Commission of its statement of priorities for the 7th framework programme, which will run during the period 2006-2010.

http://www.dfg.de/aktuelles_presse/reden_stellungnahmen/2004/download/eurohorcs210604.pdf

http://ica.cordis.lu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.simpledocument&N_RCN=22308&CFID=454793&CFTOKEN=30946573

Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) News

The CRC Program brings together researchers with the users of research. It started over a decade ago in 1990. The ninth selection round for funding is currently underway. New guidelines were issued based on the evaluation of the Program carried out in 2003 and the objectives of the Program consolidated into a key guideline “to enhance Australia’s industrial, commercial and economic growth through the development of sustained, user-driver, cooperative public-private research centres that achieve high levels of outcomes in adoption and commercialisation”.

In this ninth selection round, applicants were required to provide an initial expression of interest by the end of January 2004, prior to submitting a preliminary business case in Stage 1 (by the end of March).

The CRC Association (<http://www.crca.asn.au>) understands that fifty-two applications (both new and from existing CRCs) were submitted in Stage 1 and thirty-three were invited to submit a full business case in Stage 2 by the beginning of July. Shortlisting of Stage 2 applications will now be made for interviews which are likely to be held in October. The results of Round 9 are scheduled to be announced at the end of 2004 and those successful must be ready to start in mid 2005.

Supplementary funding proposals are also being considered in this round; existing CRCs with funding already approved beyond 2004-2005 were eligible to submit applications for new activities they wished to add to their current contract but these must not go beyond the life of the CRC. Applicants for these were required to submit proposals by the end of May; these, too, will be shortlisted for interview in October. More details are provided on the Australian Commonwealth's CRC program web site (<http://www.crc.gov.au>)

Bringing new researchers into Europe – latest policy from the European Commission

The policy has six main aims one of which is enticing more researchers to Europe.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.html

Commercialisation in the Humanities

\$50,000 in funding has been provided to undertake a study of the commercialisation of humanities, arts and social sciences research in Australia. However, the Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences has argued that the contribution of the humanities, arts and social sciences to Australian commercial activity and to Australian business is under-recognised.

<http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Nelson/2004/06/n777290604.asp>

Mobility of researchers: the EU proposes new prospects and opportunities

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/824&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en<<IP-04-824_EN\[1\].pdf](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/824&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en<<IP-04-824_EN[1].pdf)

European International Cooperation new publications

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index_en.cfm?page=Publications&type=other

European Commission - International Scientific Cooperation Policy

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index_en.cfm

Department of Education, Science and Training – International Science Linkages – Feedback sought

Your views on the functions and delivery arrangements of the new International Science Linkages programme are invited. Closing date for submissions: 27 August 2004.

<http://www.dest.gov.au/science/ISL/>

European Commission: Brain gain - making research careers more attractive

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/167&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en<<MEMO-04-167_EN\[1\].pdf](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/167&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en<<MEMO-04-167_EN[1].pdf)

Funding Guide Germany for foreign researchers published

This new book contains a comprehensive collection of funding programs in cooperation with German institutions and researchers.

<http://www.internationale-kooperation.de/index.php?doc=640>

Future Events

FEAST-CORDIS Seminar series August 2004

The FEAST- CORDIS seminar series commences 16th August. We are delighted at the response from all the States involved, with over 650 registrants and thank very much all the organisations involved in marketing the seminar series. The presentations from the seminars will be published on the FEAST website.

<http://www.feast.org/register.php> Enquiries to Alison@feast.org

FEAST-France events:

- Symposium on French research in the Pacific (24-27 August 2004, Nouméa, New Caledonia)

More information: <http://www.assises-recherche-pacifique.org/>

For More information:

Visit the FEAST-France website: <http://www.ambafrance-au.org/science/>

Become a FEAST-France member by selecting this option in your FEAST online registration (you will then receive the FEAST-France newsletter and alerts)

ARIA (Association for Research between Italy and Australasia) in conjunction with the Scientific Office of the Embassy of Italy – future events

Italy-Australia Science Forum in the ACT: “A seminar series to present and discuss scientific collaboration between Italy and Australia”

ARIA-Canberra in conjunction with the Scientific Office of the Embassy of Italy and DEST, is establishing a seminar series to inform the scientific community about the Italian system and avenues for collaboration between Italy and Australia. The seminars have the endorsement of the Delegation of the European Commission, the National Europe Centre, the ANU, CSIRO, the University of Canberra and FEAST.

Each seminar will take place in the Department involved in the presentation.

- 9 September ANU Mathematical Sciences Institute
- 20 or 27 October ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics at Mt. Stromlo
- 1 December ANU Research School of Earth Sciences
- 23 February 2005 CSIRO Land and Water
- 16 March 2005 ANU Department of Applied Mathematics, Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering
- 18 May 2005 University of Canberra Ecochemistry Laboratory

Contact and RSVPs to Luciano Lombardo Luciano.LOMBARDO@dest.gov.au

15 -17 September 2004 Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS)

Annual Conference – Fremantle, Western Australia

Contact: Rod Thiele, Chair, ARMS 2004 Conference Committee

<http://www.promaco.com.au/conference/2004/arms>

+61 (08) 9266 3854 (ph) r.thiele@curtin.edu.au

12 – 15 September 2004, Perth International Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Conference

Full programme now available

<http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au/h2conference>

20-21 September 2004 7th Australian Research & Development Summit

<http://www.informa.com.au/R&D2004>

Grant Highlights

FEAST FRANCE funding opportunities

French Ministry of Research:

- Call for proposal: internationalisation of Human and Social Sciences

Deadline: 15 September 2004

- Ministry of Research: International Mobility for young doctors or PhD students

Aim: to support short stays (between 3 and 6 months) of young doctors or PhD students in overseas laboratories

Support: Max 20 000€ per project *Deadline:* 22 September 2004

For More information:

Visit the FEAST-France website: <http://www.ambafrance-au.org/science/>

Become a FEAST-France member by selecting this option in your FEAST online registration (you will then receive the FEAST-France newsletter and alerts)

Department of Education, Science and Training – International Science Linkages – Competitive Grants Round 6, 2004-05 Selection outcomes

The results of Round 6 of the International Science Linkages Program competitive grants (see below) continue the trend that a substantial proportion of the grant funds have been awarded to projects with European partners.

Project Title	Grantee organisation	Grant amount	Collaborating countries
Sol-Gel nanotechnology: research applications	Flinders University	\$1,216,000	USA and Austria
International conference: cancer genetics of breast, ovarian and gastric cancer	Research Department, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	\$27,300	USA, England, Hong Kong
OzNano2Life: Australian nanobiotechnology cluster integrated with a European Union Network of Excellence	University of Technology, Sydney	\$975,484	France and Germany
Superhuman antibodies	Evogenix Pty Limited	\$151,600	USA
Cell cytometry using electrical impedance spectrometry of single cells	University of New South Wales	\$83,700	Germany
Development of moderate cost high-efficiency solar cells for 100 sun solar concentrator applications	Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems, Australian National University	\$81,750	Italy
European collaboration on the integrity of advanced aerospace structures	Cooperative Research Centre for Advanced Composite Structures	\$414,000	Germany, England and the European Union
Adaptive service agreement and process management in services grid	Swinburne University of Technology	\$665,475	Poland, Germany, Ireland and the European Union

<https://sciencegrants.dest.gov.au/ISL/Pages/Doc.aspx?name=CGR6.htm>

Latest European 6th Framework Programme calls

FP6-2004-FOOD-3-A – (Thematic call in the area of “Food quality and safety”)

Closing date: 7/10/2004

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=151

FP6-2004-FOOD-3-B – (Thematic call in the area of “Food quality and safety”)

Closing date: 8/2/2005

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=152

FP6-2004-FOOD-3-C – (Thematic call in the area of “Food quality and safety”)

Closing date: 7/9/2005

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=153

FP6-2004-Hydrogen-1 – Thematic call in the area of component development and systems integration of hydrogen and fuel cells for transport and other applications

Closing date: 8/12/2004

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=143

FP6-2004-Hydrogen-2 – Thematic call in the area of support of the coordination, assessment and monitoring of research to contribute to the definition phase for a hydrogen communities technology initiative

Closing date: 8/12/2004

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=142

FP6-2004-TREN-3 – Periodic call in the area of “Aeronautics and Space”, “Sustainable energy systems” and “Sustainable surface transport”

Closing date: 8/12/2004

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=144

If you are considering joining an EC project, and wish to discuss Australian Government support, please contact Tony Rothnie, Assistant Director, International Science and Technology Relations, Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training at tony.rothnie@dest.gov.au

Department of Education, Science & Training - International Sciences Linkages, competitive grants scheme

The International Science Linkages programme offers assistance through a Competitive Grants component for international research and development cooperation and related activities. It provides support for Australian researchers who are undertaking strategically focussed, leading-edge, collaborative research projects and associated project-specific workshops with international partners. This includes support for participation in European Union Framework projects and in projects undertaken with APEC economies. Support may be provided to participate in international strategic planning activities for major international projects. The Competitive Grants component also offers support of up to \$50,000 per major international conference to be held in Australia.

Grants for the International Science Linkages are made on a competitive basis against specific criteria. Applications are considered in assessment rounds. Applications for the next assessment round are open and will close on 27 August 2004. Access to the online application form is available on the International Science Linkages website.

Information and guidelines <http://www.dest.gov.au/science/isl/> or contact the International S&T Policy and Programmes Section: email isl@dest.gov.au, phone (02) 6240 5014.

Latest round of ARC Linkage Project grants announced

The ARC, industry and other partners have jointly committed more than \$AUD164 million to 301 collaborative research projects in Round 2 for funding commencing in 2004 of the ARC's *Linkage Projects* program. The projects will involve collaboration between researchers and more than 540 Australian and overseas-based industry and other partners.

The grants will fund a broad range of research projects, including: optimising severe weather prediction techniques; examining how to assist women in post conflict situations; catalytic conversion of waste plastics to hydrocarbon fuels; modelling stock market liquidity in Australia and the Asia Pacific region; and improving surveillance security through enhanced automated face detection and recognition methods.

For more information go to www.arc.gov.au

Federation Fellowships – Call for applications

The ARC is calling for applications for Australia's highly prestigious *Federation Fellowships*. Up to 25 *Federation Fellowships* (including up to five Fellowships for foreign nationals) with an internationally-competitive salary of around \$AUD240,000 per year for a standard tenure of five years are available for funding commencing in 2005.

All Federation Fellows receive research support from their host institutions. In the application round for funding commencing in 2005, some applicants will be eligible to apply for an ARC start-up grant of up to \$AUD400,000.

This is the fourth year in which the Australian Government has offered *Federation Fellowships*. A clear preference is given to early- to mid-career researchers who will play a leadership role in building Australia's internationally-competitive research capacity. Currently, there are 72 Federation Fellows, including 24 expatriate Australian researchers and seven foreign nationals attracted from research institutions in the UK, USA, Hong Kong, Germany and the Netherlands.

Outstanding researchers from all discipline areas with the exception of clinical medicine and dentistry may apply. Areas in which Federation Fellows are working currently include robotics, photovoltaic solar power, optical fibre technology, history, the history and philosophy of science, drug design, chemistry, physics, biology, engineering and genetics.

Applications close on 15 October 2004. For further information and documentation go to www.arc.gov.au or email jorg.edsen@arc.gov.au

ARC Centres of Excellence: New application round for funding in 2005

A new application round is open for ARC Centres of Excellence nominally commencing in July 2005. About 10 new Centres will be granted funding at a level of between \$AUD1 million and \$AUD3 million per year for five years. In exceptional cases, funding may be offered for longer than five years and levels of funding up to \$AUD5 million per year may also be considered.

ARC Centres of Excellence will be established on the merit of the proposed research program and the participating researchers, and the potential of both to contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of Australia.

Applications open on 9 September and close on 29 October 2004. For more information go to www.arc.gov.au

ARC awards \$AUD2.7 million in Linkage International grants

The ARC has announced funding of \$AUD2.7 million for grants in its latest *Linkage International* funding round. The grants comprise 31 Awards and 19 Fellowships and will involve collaboration with 21 countries, including the United States, Germany, China, France and the United Kingdom.

Linkage International grants allow researchers to move between Australian research institutions and centres of research excellence overseas. The program nurtures collaboration between Australian researchers and their overseas counterparts, strengthens the experience of early-career researchers, and provides senior researchers with opportunities to develop new research relationships.

The latest *Linkage International* round will fund research into: three-dimensional flow, temperature and melting distributions in mantle subduction zones; combinational structures for computer security and communication; modelling hidden processes which drive economic and financial systems; mid-Holocene coral reef bleaching and recovery in the South China Seas and its implications for the Great Barrier Reef; redefining bullying and adjustment to school; and meso- and macro-porous bioactive glasses for bone-repairing.

For more information go to www.arc.gov.au

National Research Facilities funded

The National Health & Medical Research Council has awarded \$AUD14.2 million under its new Enabling Grants Scheme to establish or extend eight national research facilities. In its first round, the NHMRC called for proposals for special facilities providing or supplying access to DNA, cell, tissue, organ banks, computer networks, specialised registers and databases.

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/rel2004/sbnrf.htm>

NHMRC Program Grants awarded

Recipients of the 2005 round of NHMRC Program grants have been announced with 20 programs being awarded \$AUD115 million over 5 years.

The Program Funding Scheme provides support for high achieving teams of researchers to pursue broadly based collaborative research activity that contributes new knowledge at a leading international level in important areas of health and medical research.

Recipients are listed: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/boost.pdf>
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/rel2004/boost.htm>

Other News

FEAST farewell to Alain Moulet, Science & Technology Attaché, at the French Embassy

FEAST recently bid a fond farewell to Alain Moulet, who played a pivotal role in the establishment of FEAST in Australia.

A group of his colleagues in the science and technology community in Canberra gathered at the National Europe Centre, at the Australian National University to provide a fitting farewell. Alain has completed his period as Science and Technology Attaché with the Embassy of France in Canberra and will be returning to France to take up a post with the Department of Defence in Paris.

Alain was instrumental in the establishment of FEAST, in proposing the idea, and in gathering support for his vision. Alain has been a most vigorous Science and Technology attachés with many achievements to his credit.

Several presentations were made to honour Alain's achievements by the Ambassador of France, Patrick Henault, the Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Australia and New Zealand, Piergiorgio Mazzocchi, and representatives of the Department of Education, Science and Training, the Australian Academy of Science and Michael Parker, Executive Manager of FEAST.

Alain received a parting gift of a RM Williams Gortex jacket and a silver boomerang, ensuring his return to Australia some day.

Alain- au revoir and all good wishes for the future.



Alain Moulet (centre) with The Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Australia and New Zealand, Piergiorgio Mazzocchi (left) and The Ambassador of France, Patrick Henault (right)

FEAST would like to thank all contributors to this newsletter and encourages anyone who would like to contribute to the next newsletter to contact us at email:
info@feast.org

The FEAST newsletter presents a brief review of major relevant news. Longer and more indepth reports are available from the FEAST website. Some items not included in the newsletter are available from the website.