

AUSTRALIA CHINA CENTRE FOR RESEARCH



Australia China Centre for Research in Chinese Medicines (ACCRCM)

University of Sydney and Sun Yat-sen University are collaborating to establish the Australia China Centre for Research in Chinese Medicines (ACCRCM) to be awarded by the Chinese government. An official announcement is expected later this year.

Recently, delegates from the University of Sydney led by Professor John Hearn, Deputy Vice Chancellor (International) and Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy visited Sun Yat-sen University and signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Australia-China Centre for Research in Chinese Medicines. The proposal is to respond to the Chinese Government's strategic plan for internationalisation of Chinese medicines and the strategy of Guangdong Province to become a strong province in Chinese medicines.

The shared vision for the ACCRCM is collaborating to modernise and internationalise Chinese medicines.

The measurable scientific objectives are to:

1. Identify the substances of Chinese medicines
2. Study the quality standardisation of the Chinese Materia Medica
3. Conduct pre-clinical assessments of Chinese medicines
4. Design new dosage forms of Chinese medicines
5. Conduct clinical studies and basic research on the integration of Chinese and western medicines focusing on four disease areas: cancer, diabetes/lipids, infection and inflammation, and cardiovascular conditions.

The First Australia China Symposium on Chinese Medicine was held during the visit. It is planned the Second Australia China Symposium on Chinese Medicine - Frontier of Knowledge, Internationalisation of Chinese Medicine - will be held on November 13, 2007 in Guangzhou.

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Left: Sun-Yat-sen University, China

EVENTS

Health & Education in Timor Leste Seminar - Dr Dan Murphy from the Bairo Pite Clinic in Dili. 2.00 -5.00pm, Thursday 2 August at the Norman Gregg Theatre, University of Sydney. To register please contact Lloyd Kwanten on 0434 144 890

Young Tall Poppy Science Award applications close Friday 17 August. <http://www.aips.net.au/tallpoppies/awards/2007/>

Sydney Uni Live! Saturday 25 August. Pharmacy Information Desk in the Great Hall, tours of the Faculty and mini-lectures in the PLT. <http://www.live.usyd.edu.au>

PSA Health Industry Forum Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre on 23 August. <http://www.psa.org.au/site.php?id=1827>

STUDENT PROFILE : ZHAO ZONG-YUAN



*Zhao Zong-Yuan (left)
playing Manoj Kumar of Fiji*

Yuan's phenomenal success in recent chess championships has provided him with the opportunity to compete in the upcoming World Championships in Siberia. Here, he talks about the successes that helped him achieve this, the upcoming championships, and his pharmacy studies at The University of Sydney.

Australian Open in Canberra

In December 2006 - January 2007 the Australian Open was held in Canberra with the participation of 4 grandmasters. Two grandmasters (GM) were local, GM Ian Rogers from Sydney and GM Darryl Johansen from Melbourne. The other two were Canadian GM Mark Bluvshstein and Serbian GM Dejan Antic. Somehow I [Zhao Zong-Yuan] was just in really good form during that period and to my complete surprise I won the tournament with relative ease finishing with a final score of 9.5/11 (8 wins, 3 draws). This included 2 upset victories against the foreign GMs and two draws with the local GMs.

Oceania Zonal in Fiji

Australia, along with New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, is in the Oceania zone for the purpose of allocating qualifying places for the World Cup. Because of the comparatively low number of international chess players in the Oceania zone compared with others, there are only 2 qualifying places allocated, for the men and women's World Cup. The Oceania Zonal tournament was held in May, on the main island of Fiji in Nadi at the Sofitel hotel. I was, in fact, the top seed in the tournament but I was not feeling very confident because I hadn't played much chess since the commencement of uni in March. In the end, the race turned out to be extremely close, with 4 players going into the last round with 6/8. However, all the other 3 drew their final games and by winning in the final round I won outright with 7/9 (5 wins, 4 draws). This meant I gained the only spot

allocated for the men's section of the World Cup representing the Oceania region. This is definitely my highest success in chess so far in my career. This also explains why I'm going to Siberia for the chess World Cup in November/December 2007.

World Championships in Siberia

Unfortunately, the chess world is in a bit of a crisis at present mainly because it's not clear who the world champion is! Over a decade ago, the then world champion broke away from the international chess federation to establish his own system. As a result, even now, there are deep divisions as to who is the real world champion. In fact, this World Cup in Siberia coupled with other tournaments is the most recent attempt to reunify the two world championship systems.

In any case, from the extremely sparse information released so far, it seems that everyone who qualifies for the World Cup in Siberia will be placed in 16 preliminary groups of 9 players. These 9 players are due to play in a round robin all-play-all and only the winner of each group advances to the next stage. I think the plan is then to play a 4 game match knockout so that the competition will advance 16-8-4-2-1 etc. The last man standing is then a world championship challenger. I'm sure though that no Australian in history has ever advanced beyond the first stage (which is not surprising since we are not a strong chess nation) and my primary goal is simply to gain really top level experience and to finish as high up the ladder as possible. I would consider finishing outside of the bottom 3

places to be quite an achievement for me.

The World Cup itself is held in a place called Khanty Manyisk, which is very close to the Ural Mountains. I will be going in late Autumn/early Winter and I understand it will be about -25 C so it should be a very cool place to visit!

Memorable moments

My most memorable trips have been to Iceland and Queenstown in New Zealand. Iceland is simply spectacular; there is no vegetation whatsoever but the scenery is stunning since you can see far off into the distance because the land is so flat. It also has really stunning waterfalls and gorges such as Gulfoss and really explosive geysers such as the Strokkur geyser. I was also lucky enough to see some spectacular Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) and enjoy some fantastic seafood dishes. Queenstown has equally breathtaking scenery (much of Lord of the Rings scenery was filmed near there) and it was the first time I have been whitewater rafting, luge racing and taken a gondola-lift ride to a high summit.

Chess-wise my most satisfying experience has always been to represent Australia in individual or team events world-wide (the

list would be quite long but would include places like the Ukraine, Armenia, Turkey, Greece, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, and Hungary) regardless how I finish. I have always felt it's a great privilege and honour for me to represent the country in any capacity.

How do you find combining your chess career with your Pharmacy studies, and why did you choose to study Pharmacy?

This is a funny question because one reason I did pharmacy was because I thought it would make combining active chess play and study easier... I did one year of undergraduate medicine at UNSW in 2004 but did not have great results in my first year because I had to take frequent chess trips overseas. However, I always had a passion for the health sciences so I simply switched to pharmacy instead. It's still tricky to combine chess and pharmacy although I have to say compared with chess and medicine it is much easier!

What would you like to do with your pharmacy degree once you graduate?

I'm not really sure about this yet. Ideally I would love to work overseas in Europe somewhere so that I can also take part in strong chess tournaments in Europe. However, I'm also thinking about

continuing my studies by doing postgraduate medicine at The University of Sydney. I'm pretty easy-going though and I don't worry about these kinds of things: time will yield the answer anyway.

What does the future hold for you in terms of your chess career, what are your aspirations and short or long-term goals?

When I first started uni I had already made up my mind I didn't want to become a professional chess player and I have toned down my chess ambitions accordingly. However, I feel that I'm tantalisingly close to the grandmaster title and I feel pretty confident that I will reach it within 3 years. Besides that, my only chess ambition is just to play interesting games and to always enjoy it!

I have recently become the 2nd highest rated player in Australia although I honestly never even thought about that as a goal. However, I guess now the obvious short term goal is to become the top player in Australia!

The Faculty extends sincere congratulations to Yuan, and we will be following his progress in Siberia later in the year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sophie Stocker who was awarded the certificate for outstanding presentation and to Fabrizio D'Esposito, Kristy Hatherly and Susan Hoe who were awarded certificates for commendable presentations at the 19 July Post-Graduate Student Conference.

Kathryn Bartimote-Aufflick has been appointed as the Treasurer of HERDSA (Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia) as well as being a member of the Executive Committee.

Imam Basheti has been appointed as Associate Lecturer, following the recent completion of her PhD on "Optimising asthma management by improving device technique"



PHARMACY EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM



A number of Faculty representatives attended the Monash & King's Pharmacy Education Symposium 2007: Teaching for Multidisciplinary Practice in Prato, Italy between 9 – 11 July, including the Faculty's Dean, Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Faculty Manager, Carroll Graham, and Associate Dean (Rural), Dr Sue Taylor.

The 2007 Symposium was designed to provide "a professional and collegial forum for the sharing of innovations and research in pharmacy education."

The 2007 keynote speaker was Debra Humphris, Professor of Health Care Development at the University of Southampton, UK who spoke

about the University's Health Care Innovation Unit and its work on the groundbreaking New Generation Project, one of the UK's 'leading edge' inter-professional education developments. "Different practice settings present specific challenges, so the Symposium explored the possibilities of shared education and training between health and other professionals across a range of settings."

The Symposium provided a "valuable opportunity to meet with international counterparts, and to learn about the remarkable innovations occurring in Pharmacy Education around the globe," reports Faculty Manager, Carroll Graham. "Particularly interesting and

Left: Dr Sue Taylor, Professor Iqbal Ramzan & Ms Carroll Graham at conference dinner.

Right: Ms Carroll Graham, Ms Bis Parr (Pharmacy School Manager University of Queensland), Marian Costelloe (Pharmacy Faculty Manager, Monash University

promising is a 'virtual patient' system which is currently in development. The virtual patient will assist in teaching students communication and interpersonal skills in a safe and controlled environment that simulates clinical scenarios."

"The trip was also extremely useful in fostering stronger ties with our counterparts in the UK and Denmark, and representing the education of pharmacists in Australia in conjunction and cooperation with representatives from Monash and Queensland University."

NEW FACULTY STAFF PROFILE

Jamie Gabriel (BA Hons)

Administration Manager Operations

Following completion of his degree at The University of Sydney, Jamie started work at UNSW at the Faculty of Commerce & Economics before moving to the School of English within the Faculty of Arts. Jamie has also worked at Macquarie University where he was responsible for Post Graduate coursework in the IT Faculty, and at UTS where he managed international fees.

This broad range of experience made him an ideal choice for the

diverse and demanding new role of Administration Manager, Operations within the Faculty of Pharmacy, and he comments "I am really enjoying it so far, and not just because of the coffee machine."

Away from work Jamie currently has little time for his usual interests - including listening and playing music - due to the birth of his daughter, eight weeks ago, and his 3 year old son, who are both keeping him very busy.

We extend a warm welcome to Jamie, and also to Cristine Janz, Administrative Assistant (Enquiries)



*Jamie Gabriel,
Administration Manager - Operations*

and a 'welcome back' to Colleen Cook, the new Office Manager at the Pharmacy Practice Foundation.

Farewell to Moran Baillie, Dr Pauline Goh and Dr Sean McAteer who left the Faculty during July.