Research led by The University of Queensland to reduce symptoms of depression for people with aphasia has received $1.2 million in funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Led by Professor Linda Worrall from UQ’s School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, the project will trial the Action Success Knowledge (aSK) program to prevent depression and reduce the impact of aphasia in stroke patients and their caregivers one year after diagnosis.

Aphasia is a language disorder that affects the spoken and written word, such as a person’s ability to talk, read, write and understand the spoken word, and can occur after stroke, traumatic brain injury, or brain cancer.

Professor Worrall said aphasia was prevalent in 31 per cent of first-time strokes and led to problems with understanding, talking, reading and writing.

“Mental health needs following stroke are recognised as a high priority throughout the world, but are rarely sufficiently addressed,” Professor Worrall said.

“In Australia, people with aphasia have a higher incidence of depression (62 – 70 per cent) than stroke survivors without aphasia.

“Caregivers of people with aphasia also have significantly worse caregiver outcomes than caregivers of non-aphasic stroke patients, with the increased risk of depression persisting over time.

“Hence, the problem of depression in both the patient with aphasia and their caregivers is highly prevalent and an important and neglected healthcare priority.”

Professor Worrall, also co-director of The University of Queensland Communications Disability Centre, said previous research had identified the factors for living successfully with aphasia, including active involvement in rehabilitation, engagement in meaningful activities, access to information and positive values such as dignity, respect and hope.

She said this growing body of knowledge had been transferred into the aSK program which was the first systematically developed intervention program derived from a strong empirical basis that would potentially prevent depressive symptoms in aphasia.

“Our aim is to determine whether a tailored, early intervention program such as the aSK program leads to better mood and overall quality of life outcomes than a secondary stroke prevention intervention at 12 months post stroke in both patients with aphasia and their caregivers,” she said.

“To do this we will trial the study in hospitals around the country that have a high number of annual stroke admissions.

“This will be the first known intervention tailored for aphasia that aims to prevent depression by providing intervention to people with aphasia and their caregivers very early after stroke.”

Other SHRS successes in the recent National Health and Medical Research Council funding announcements include:

- Dr Asad Khan from SHRS is part of a team of investigators led by Dr Siobhan Schabrun who received $814,000 in NHMRC funding for a study into persistent back pain and the brain
- Former SHRS PhD student Megan Auld received a Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship. Megan’s PhD was supervised by SHRS Senior Lecturer Dr Leanne Johnston.

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Improving opportunities for healthcare in Australia – telehealth on the national agenda

A collaboration with the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, UQ and industry is changing the future of Australian healthcare.

The School’s Telehealth Program for the Comprehensive Telehealth Assisted Care (ComTAC) enabled telehealth Pilots Program for the telerehabilitation Research Unit will be trialled in southeast Queensland.

The grants include $2.5 million for the establishment of the UQ Centre of Research Excellence in Telehealth through funding by the National Health and Medical Research Council, and $3 million in funding through the National Broadband Network (NBN) Enabled Telehealth Pilots Program for the Comprehensive Telehealth Assisted Care (ConTAC) project.

The Telehealth Program will join the Centre for Online Health, the Centre for Research in Geriatric Medicine and the Dermatology Research Centre to form the UQ Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Telehealth.

Led by Professor Len Gray, Director of the UQ Centre for Online Health, the CRE brings together an internationally recognised team of experts in health economics, information technology, engineering, health informatics, workforce planning and management.

Professor Gray said the Centre aimed to accelerate telehealth research into healthcare delivery and increase the cohort of telehealth researchers and practitioners.

“The CRE will focus on health service settings where access is currently challenging, such as small rural hospitals, residential aged care facilities, people’s homes (particularly for disabled and older people), and indigenous communities,” Professor Gray said.

“The telehealth team has extensive research and translation experience in telemedicine in paediatrics, geriatrics, speech pathology, physiotherapy and dermatology.

“We have partnered with experts from the UQ School of Business, the Inala Indigenous Health Service and the Griffith Health Institute at Griffith University to ensure the highest quality research to address the major challenges facing telehealth expansion.”

The Telehealth Program, in collaboration with the Centre for Online Health and the Centre for Research in Geriatric Medicine, has also received $3 million in funding through the National Broadband Network (NBN) Enabled Telehealth Pilots Program for the Comprehensive Telehealth Assisted Care (ConTAC) project.

ConTAC will enable a range of clinical services to be delivered via telehealth technologies into participant’s homes and aged care facilities within the NBN footprint, primarily in the Toowoomba area. These services will encompass general medical and specialist services, as well as rehabilitation, nursing, and palliative care services. Service providers within the region will be engaged in the delivery of telehealth services with the support of ConTAC as part of their existing service provision within the community.

SHRS leads life-changing language program

A new University of Queensland program aimed at changing the lives of people who experience language difficulties after stroke will be trialled in South East Queensland major hospitals.

SHRS has received further funding to support aphasia research with $751,000 in funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council for the Australian-first Aphasia Lift (Language Impairment and Functioning Therapy) program to improve the translation of research into health policy and practice.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu welcomed the NHMRC funding of $751,000 to the program and congratulated the research team from UQ, Monash, The Wesley Hospital and the Gold Coast Hospital.

“The program will potentially place Queensland at the forefront of aphasia treatment in Australia,” he said.

“Many have been able to achieve specific communication goals such as reading a book to their child at bedtime.”

Partner organisations involved in trialling the Aphasia Lift program include the Wesley Research Institute, Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, Wesley Hospital, Mater Hospital, Logan and Beaudesert Hospitals, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Queensland Health and the Clinical Centre for Research Excellence (CCRE) in Aphasia Rehabilitation.

The Clinical Centre for Research Excellence (CCRE) in Aphasia Rehabilitation is led by SHRS in collaboration with a team of investigators across Australia and internationally. The CCRE is dedicated to improving quality of life for people with aphasia and their families, leading to enhanced communication outcomes, less social isolation, and better quality of life.
World first autism research centre at UQ

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences will lead a world-first project to assist Australians living with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The School will host a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) to be established under $31 million in funding from the Federal Government, drawing on the expertise of researchers from throughout Australia and abroad.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu congratulated all researchers from UQ and partner organisations on the successful funding for such a significant CRC.

He said it was the first such national cooperative autism spectrum disorder research effort in the world.

“The Centre’s work is expected to benefit more than one million Australians, improving their quality of life, education and employment options,” Professor Lu said.

The Centre’s chief executive officer will be Professor Sylvia Rodger, of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Professor Rodger said the Centre would pursue three main aims to help people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):

- Ensure early diagnosis, coupled with targeted early intervention strategies;
- Enable education in an appropriate environment by skilled professionals; and
- Provide the best chance to find a meaningful and fulfilling place in society through higher education, employment and better opportunities for long-term social relationships.

“This CRC will involve an innovative “whole-of-life” approach involving leading scientists, in harnessing existing knowledge of ASD behaviour to accurately diagnose 50 per cent of children with ASD before their second birthday and more than 70 per cent by their third birthday,” Professor Rodger said.

“The Centre is expected to improve opportunities for people with ASD to successfully participate in higher education, and increase the rate of employment of people with ASD by five per cent as well as providing life-long physical and mental health management.”

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is one of the most severe, prevalent and heritable of all neurodevelopmental disorders, and affects at least one in 100 children. It is a lifelong condition with estimated annual support costs to Australia potentially exceeding $7 billion.

With an unexplained 25-fold increase in the number of diagnoses in the past 30 years, there are now more children with ASD than the combined number of children with cerebral palsy, diabetes, deafness, blindness and leukemia.

The University of Queensland will draw on expertise from its Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Queensland Brain Institute, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Other core participants in this CRC will be:

- Autism Queensland Inc.
- Queensland University of Technology
- Griffith University
- Mater Medical Research Institute
- AEIOU Foundation
- Department of Education, Training and Employment Queensland
- LaTrobe University
- University of NSW
- Curtin University
- University of Western Australia
- Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)

SHRS success in Research Week 2013

Research Week 2013 was another resounding success at UQ.

One of the highlights of Research Week was the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, which showcases the exciting research being undertaken by UQ’s RHD students.

Congratulations to SHRS PhD Candidates Adam Culvenor and Jade Dignam, who were both winners in the 3MT Competition. Adam won the Faculty of Health Sciences 3MT Final and Jade received the People’s Choice Award.

3MT is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland which challenges research higher degree students to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance in just three minutes in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.
SHRS continues to be at the forefront of allied health and research in Australia, with our staff securing both national and international awards and recognition, as well as over $9 million in funding alone from mid 2012 to 2013.

These awards include:

- **The American Academy of Audiology International Award 2013** – Professor Louise Hickson
- **Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) National Conference 2013**
  - Honoured Membership of APA Professor Paul Hodges
  - Fellow of the Australian College of Physiotherapy – Dr Jenny Nitz
  - Best overall paper – Neurology Sandy Brauer, Robyn Lamont, Marjorie Woollacott, Meg Morris. *Does a 4-week dual task walking training program in people with Parkinson’s Disease improve actual mobility levels?*
  - Best free paper – Educators group Lucy Chipchase, Anne Hill, Ruth Dunwoodie, Allison Mandrusiak, Monica Moran. For multidisciplinary education research conducted at UQ.
  - Best student paper – Musculoskeletal Adam Culvenor (PhD)
  - Best 5x5 student paper – Sports Stephanie Filbay (PhD)

- **Journal of Physiotherapy 2012 Paper of the Year Award** – Dr Bob Neel
- **2013 Australian Awards for University Teaching Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning and UQ Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning** – Dr Allison Mandrusiack
- **Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital Allied Health Research Award** – Tracy Roxbury (Speech Pathology PhD Candidate)
- **American OT Foundation Academy of Research membership** – Professor Sylvia Rodger
- **National Stroke Foundation New Investigator Award** – Kate Hayward
- **The 33rd Senate of The University of Queensland (2014 - 2017) Academic Board Member** – Professor Jenny Strong

Congratulations also to the SHRS researchers in their recent grant funding successes on the following page.
Congratulations also to the SHRS researchers in their recent grant funding successes:

Preventing depression and reducing the impact of aphasia in stroke patients and their caregivers a year post onset via a brief early intervention: a cluster randomised control trial of the Action Success Knowledge (ASK) program
Professor Linda Worrall, Dr Asad Khan, Kyla Brown and Tammy Hoffinan
1,200,000.00

Understanding persistent low back pain where it resides, in the brain
Dr Siobhan Schabrun, Dr Asad Khan, Doctor James McAuley, Professor Thomas Graven-Nielsen, Professor Michael Nicholas and Dr Nicholas Henschke
814,000.00

A workplace-based exercise intervention to prevent and reduce the economic and personal burden of non-specific neck pain in the office personnel
Dr Venerina Johnston, Prof Leon Straker, Gisela Spogarda, Ms Tracy Comans, Dr Shaun O’Leary, Dr Markus Melkon
660,834.44

Telehealth in residential aged care facilities: a pragmatic randomised control trial
Professor Leonid Gray, Dr Melinda Martin-Khan, Elizabeth Beattie, Dr Sisira Edirippulige, Dr Trevor Russell, Associate Professor Anthony Smith, Professor Deborah Theodoros, Associate Professor Ian Scott, Dr Ruth Hubbard
972,605.85

Do people with severe traumatic brain injury benefit from making errors? A clinical trial of the efficacy of error-based learning and errorless learning training (NHMRC Project Grant Griffith Uni)
Professor Sandra Brauer, A/Prof Louise Ada, Mrs Suzanne Kuys, Dr Jennifer Paratz
711,271.77

IMproving Physical ACtivity with Treadmill training following stroke: the stroke-IMPACT trial
Professor Sandra Brauer, A/Prof Louise Ada, Mrs Suzanne Kuys, Dr Jennifer Paratz
711,271.77

Innovative diagnosis for and prevention of otitis media in Australian infants
Associate Professor Kin Kei, Dr Carie Driscoll, Dr Asaduzzaman Khan
424,472.10

NBN Enabled Telehealth Pilots Program – Comprehensive Telehealth Assisted Care (ConTAC) program
Professor Deborah Theodoros, Professor Leonard Gray, Associate Professor Anthony Smith, Dr Nigel Armfield, Dr Trevor Russell, Dr Melinda Martin-Khan
5,025,118.00

Facilitating word-retrieval in conversation: Direct intervention for people with progressive aphasia
Dr Erin Conway, Professor Helen Chenery, Dr Anthony Angwin, Dr David Copland
48,202.00

A phase II trial of a novel intervention for social language use impairments following traumatic brain injury
Mrs Emma Finch, Dr Jennifer Fleming, Dr Anna O’Callaghan, Mrs Emmah Doig, Dr Petrea Cornwell, Dr Louise Gustafsson
22,000.00

Autism and specific language impairment: A UQ-UWA collaboration using neuroimaging and databases
Dr Wendy Arnott, Dr Murray T Maybery, Dr David Copland, Mrs Keely Harper-Hill, Dr Andrew Whitehouse, Dr Wayne Wilson, Ms Lauren Taylor, Dr Katie McMahon, Ms Rebecca Barney
33,000.00

Characterising anxiety in Parkinson’s disease: A psycholinguistic and psychophysiology study comparing to anxious older adults
Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Professor Gerard Byrne, Associate Professor John O’Sullivan, Professor Peter Silburn, Dr Rodney Marsh, Dr David Copland, Dr Anthony Angwin, A/Prof George D. Melick
47,142.86

Understanding lateral reactive balance control mechanisms in older adults with hip osteoarthritides
Dr Anna Hatton, Associate Professor Kay Crossley, Professor Sandra Brauer
22,000.00

Using people with aphasia to train health professionals in effective communication strategies over the internet: A phase II pre-post intervention study
Mrs Emma Finch, Dr Jennifer Fleming, Ms Kyla Brown, Dr Steven McPhall, Ms Ashley Cameron, Dr Jennifer Lethlean
20,413.22

Better access to aphasia rehabilitation for stroke patients through eSALT
Dr Anne Hill
21,476.35

Occupational hearing loss induced by solvents and noise: development of new strategies for hearing loss prevention programs in the workplace
Dr Adrian Fuente, Professor Louise Hickson, Warwick Williams, Thais Morata, Dr Asaduzzaman Khan
242,925.00

The stroke IMPACT trial: IMproving Physical ACtivity via Treadmill training
Professor Sandra Brauer, Dr Suzanne Kuys, A/Prof Louise Ada, Dr Jennifer Paratz
272,891.30

MiBi: A novel virtual reality intervention for children with acquired brain injury
Professor Roslyn Boyd, Dr Jenny Ziviani
79,910.00

Innovative, client-centred, evidence-based, and accessible aphasia rehabilitation services for all
Professor Linda Worrall, Dr David Copland, Dr Amy Rodriguez, Dr Anne Hill, Ms Rachelle Pitt, Ms Brooke Grohn
4,461.00

Further evaluation of the UQ Aphasia LiFT: an intensive, comprehensive aphasia program
Professor Linda Worrall, Dr David Copland, Dr Amy Rodriguez, Dr Asaduzzaman Khan
79,940.00

Remediation of receptive cognitive-communication disorders following traumatic brain injury
Dr Anna O’Callaghan
12,000.00

Orthoses or Flip-Flops for Pain in the Heel (OFFPH Study): A randomised clinical trial
Professor Guglielmo Vicenzino, Prof Thomas McPol
66,878.40

eSPEF-R Occupational Therapy Project
Professor Sylvia Rodger, Ms Anne Maree Caine, Dr Merril Turpin
368,410.90

Understanding lateral reactive balance control mechanisms in older adults with hip osteoarthritides
Dr Anna Hatton
11,980.00

Evaluation of an environment focussed, goal-directed, occupation-based (EGO) intervention incorporating metacognitive treatment strategies for people with self-awareness deficits (EGO-AWARE) after..
Mrs Emmah Doig
11,802.90

Exploring the meaning of community for older Australians
Mrs Melanie Hoyle
11,998.00

Work-based assessment of teamwork: an interprofessional approach
Professor Jill Thistlethwaite, Associate Professor Diann Eley, Dr Fiona Bogossian, Professor Jennifer Strong
242,000.00
A fond farewell to Professor Gwendolen Jull

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences has bid a fond farewell to internationally acclaimed Professor Gwendolen Jull and wishes her well in her retirement.

Professor Jull held many positions in the School during her 36 years of employment with UQ, and was highly regarded amongst students and peers for her dedication and quest for learning.

From course co-ordinator, program co-ordinator and postgraduate co-ordinator, to Professor of Physiotherapy, Head of the Cervical Spine Research Unit and Director of the Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Spinal Pain, Injury and Health, Professor Jull has been integral to physiotherapy education and research at UQ.

After a clinical career in both hospitals and private practice in Brisbane, Canada and the United Kingdom, Professor Jull accepted a position at UQ in 1977 to develop the undergraduate musculoskeletal curriculum and, subsequently, the postgraduate musculoskeletal curriculum.

“There were major changes occurring in physiotherapy education at that time, as the profession had just rescinded its ethic to treat patients only on medical referral,” Professor Jull said.

“There were major curriculum reviews and restructures, particularly in the musculoskeletal field to educate graduates to diagnose, plan and implement management as first contact practitioners in the private sector.

“It was an exciting challenge as I was beginning to realise what a difference good physiotherapy could make to people’s quality of life. Thus it was crucial that graduates had an excellent education.”

Professor Jull is an internationally respected leader in rehabilitation of musculoskeletal pain, as evidenced by the honoured member status of several national and international societies, including the Australian Physiotherapy Association, American Academy of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists, International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists, President of the Australian College of Physiotherapists and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Australia.

She has received over Aus$18 million in research grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Research Council and other sources.

Professor Jull also secured five international and five national awards in recognition of her contribution to research, education and clinical practice and was invited as a keynote speaker for many international conferences and taught 200 or more professional development courses in 30 countries across the globe.

“The cervical spine and its various pain disorders interested me clinically from the time I did the postgraduate coursework program in manipulative therapy at the now University of South Australia way back in 1976,” she said.

“It is a fascinating region of the musculoskeletal system and patients’ neck pain disorders were always interesting and often challenging.

“Patients challenged me to find out more about neck pain and develop best approaches to diagnosis and management.”

Professor Jull said her biggest career achievement was witnessing her former PhD, entry level physiotherapy and postgraduate specialty masters students achieve highly in international and national arenas.

She gives the following advice for research higher degree students to ensure their experience at UQ is both satisfying and successful:

“Enjoy the time and the process, you will only have this opportunity once in a lifetime. Network with your fellow PhD students and take every advantage and opportunity offered by your supervisors, the research team the school and the university to meet people, network, broaden your education and experiences. The more you involve yourself, the more you will gain from the experience.”

As a new retiree, Professor Jull plans to continue with some supervisory, teaching and research activities with lots of travel interspersed.

How you can participate in important research – Communication Research Registry

Want to make a difference to the lives of others and be involved in communication research?

The Communication Research Registry is a register of people who would like to be involved in communication research to improve services for people with communication difficulties and their family members and friends.

Participate in research projects of interest to you, including:

• Surveys and questionnaires
• Interviews
• Assessments

Click here for further information
**Five minute perspective**

**SHRS Research Higher Degree student Mark Matthews**

*A RHD student’s perspective*

Q. **Why did you undertake research higher degree study?**
A. After 10 years of clinical work as a Physiotherapist, I reached my dream job working in elite sport with the national squad for the London Olympics. With a streak of curiosity I was keen to see what was over the other side of the fence and find the answer to certain questions that had bugged me for years.

Q. **Why UQ?**
A. I was here in 2011 doing a Master of Physiotherapy degree and was exposed to the world of research and academia. The division of Physiotherapy has a world-class team of researchers and leaders in their fields. The opportunity to undertake research with them was an opportunity not to be passed by. Then there is the weather and wearing shorts and t-shirt in ‘winter’.

Q. **What drives you in your research?**
A. Patients in the past who I was unable to completely resolve their symptoms and unable to return to their sport. Also a strong curiosity to find out an answer. Well maybe to go further down the path towards a possible answer, I’ve only just started my PhD, best to remain optimistic for now!

Q. **Where do you hope your PhD will lead you?**
A. I’ve always enjoyed teaching and helping people achieve their goals, be it to complete a marathon, a 5km run or learn something new. To be able to teach the next generation of Physiotherapists and enable their careers is a bit of a buzz, and the opportunity to keep finding out a few more answers along the way in research.

Q. **What has been the highlight of being a RHD student so far?**
A. The time to sit down and read articles with unlimited access to journals. Bouncing ideas, concepts and planning out a clinical trial with some of the world’s best. Unreal.

The ability to walk to 3 different coffee shops and call it ‘a research meeting’. Student discounts at the movies and public transport.

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**Mind the Gap: From Paper to Practice**

**Conference review with Mark Matthews**

Chair of the 2013 Postgraduate Research Conference Committee

In November, the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences held its annual Postgraduate Research Conference with the theme Mind the Gap: From Paper to Practice. Keynote speaker Associate Professor Tammy Hoffmann opened the conference with an enlightening presentation offering insight for researchers to translate their ground-breaking research into information that can impact on clinical practice.

Once again the presenting research students across the four SHRS professions showcased the high quality, depth and diversity of their work. Closing the conference was a selection of internationally renowned researchers who presented their thoughts, views and opinions, and passed on excellent advice geared towards supporting students in scientific writing, post PhD career opportunities and international collaborations.

Congratulations to Clare Burns who won best research presentation, Rebecca Barney who won best new research presentation, Ellen Hockings who won best honours presentation and Michael Bergin who received the Sports Medicine Australia Sports Award.

This annual conference is not possible without the ongoing support of the school, staff and the eagerness of the students to be involved. Thank you to past and present conference committee members and the corporate support received that enabled another very successful Postgraduate Research Conference.

I look forward to another outstanding conference in 2014.
Research Higher Degree graduates in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Congratulations to:

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<td>The Impact of Accessibility of Public Buildings in Zambia on Participation by People with Mobility Limitations</td>
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<td>Ann</td>
<td>Kennedy Behr</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Preschool children with and without developmental coordination disorder: Play and wellbeing</td>
<td>21/06/2013</td>
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<td>Jane</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Prognostication in Paediatric Cochlear Implantation: Principals and Practice</td>
<td>04/07/2013</td>
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<td>Kathryn</td>
<td>Hayward</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>The potential for stroke survivors with severe upper limb disability to improve in function during inpatient rehabilitation</td>
<td>04/07/2013</td>
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<td>Kerry</td>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Knowledge, skills and professional behaviours required by new graduate occupational therapists and physiotherapists for effective transition to employment in work-related practice</td>
<td>19/08/2013</td>
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<td>Helen</td>
<td>Glyde</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>The effects of ageing and hearing impairment on spatial processing</td>
<td>30/08/2013</td>
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<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>Karayannis</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>The Characterisation of Movement-Based Subgroups in Low Back Pain: An Investigation of Overlap, Motor Control and Psychological Considerations</td>
<td>16/09/2013</td>
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<td>Brooke</td>
<td>Grohn</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Living Successfully with Aphasia during the First Year Post Stroke</td>
<td>25/11/2013</td>
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<td>Michael</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Knee Range of Motion after Total Knee Arthroplasty: Evaluation of Advances to Improve Flexion and the Role of Flexion and Extension in Functional Outcome</td>
<td>25/11/2013</td>
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</table>
UQ Summer Research Program

Interested in a career in research but don’t know where to start?

The UQ Summer Research Program provides you with an opportunity to gain research experience working alongside some of the University’s leading academics and researchers. By participating, you’ll be able to extend your knowledge of an area of interest and develop your analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills.

A Winter Research Program is also available.

Research projects are available in most disciplines for approximately 10 weeks over the summer vacation period (from mid-November to mid-February). Participation is open to undergraduate students, including Honours, who have completed at least one year of study and Masters by Coursework students.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences has awarded 10 Summer Research projects for the 2013 – 2014 summer. Applications and further information about the 2014 Winter Research program is available at www.shrs.uq.edu.au

Why Participate?
Undergraduate research at UQ provides a range of benefits including:
• an opportunity to develop new skills and enhance employability
• access to research networks and connections with other staff and post-graduate students
• supervision by outstanding researchers
• access to world class facilities and experiences that you may not have otherwise been exposed to; and
• the possibility of obtaining credit towards your degree.

Give it a Go!
SHRS student Melissa Cook shares her thoughts about the 2013 Winter Research Program

Q. Why did you apply for the winter scholarship program?
A. I applied for the winter scholarship program because I was specifically interested in one of the projects that was on offer, the Aphasia LIFT project. I had previously volunteered for the project and was keen to become more involved. I wanted to gain further understanding of what was involved in research in general (i.e. data collection and analysis) and also what was involved with this project specifically.

Q. What did you gain from the program?
A. There were numerous benefits to being involved in the winter scholarship program:
• improved understanding of research process
• opportunity to learn from experienced professionals
• sense of satisfaction associated with contributing to the evidence-base in an area of interest
I also gained increased knowledge in the area of aphasia and the opportunity to work closely with the project team including the researchers, therapists, student volunteers and participants with aphasia.

Q. Do you have any advice for future students who are considering participating in the program?
A. My advice would be to give it a go! I think it’s important to apply for a project that you’re enthusiastic about and interested in as it makes the experience much more enjoyable and rewarding. Even if you’re not sure if research is a career path you’re interested in, it’s still a valuable experience and gives you more insight into research design, bias, limitations, etc that are important to consider when you’re appraising literature. The project gives you the opportunity to work with experienced researchers, so don’t be afraid to ask questions and make the most of the learning experience.

To read more about SHRS publications in 2013 please click here

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