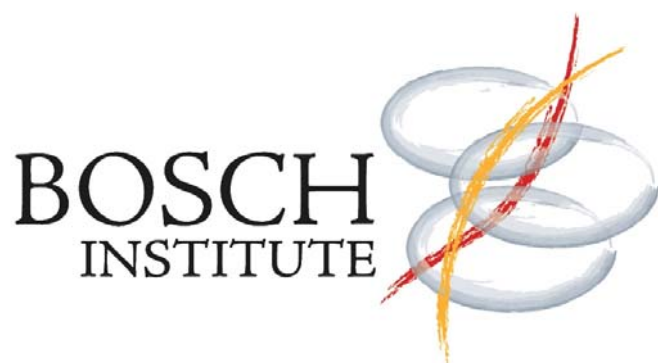


**The Bosch Institute  
Brief update  
April – June 2007**



# Bosch Annual Scientific Meeting

The Bosch Annual Scientific Meeting was held in the Eastern Avenue Complex on Friday 29 June 2007. This year it was agreed to have a more “inwardly focussed” approach and take the opportunity to showcase the research within the Bosch as well as presenting our research strategy for the next 3 – 5 years.



*Bosch Young Investigators discuss their posters with Bosch Chair, John Stumbles*

The plenary Session “Bosch – the Way Forward” was chaired by the Executive Director Professor Nicholas Hunt who clearly articulated the strengths of Bosch and in particular his novel “smart bridges” concept for the developing linkages between the Bosch Institute, other basic researchers from within the University Campus and the clinical researchers in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and SSWAHS.



*Professor Gary Halliday gave the first invited talk on the day “Ultraviolet radiation induced skin cancer: the outcome of immunosuppression and gene mutation”.*

There were over 170 registrations for the meeting and the attendees included members of the Board of Bosch, a number of Senior University Delegates and

representatives from the Office of Science and Medical Research (OSMR).

For the first time the Bosch ASM included a Bosch Young Investigators (BYI) poster showcase. Throughout the day more than 30 posters were displayed.



*Poster winners with Frank Lovicu (BYI coordinator) far left and Anne Sefton far right.*

The standard of presentations was extremely high and six prizes for “Outstanding Poster” were awarded to Cheng Li, Komal Prabhu, Jessica Kermode, Iwan Williams, Rebecca Cole and Lachlan McDowall. Professor Anne Sefton, Deputy Chancellor and Emeritus Professor of Physiology presented each winner with a certificate and a cheque for \$200.



*From L to R: Professor Nick Hunt with Professor Ron Trent and Dr Bing Yu from SUPAMAC.*

The Bosch 2007 ASM was proudly sponsored by SUPAMAC. Professor Ron Trent outlined this unique facility located within the Medical Foundation Building and invited all members of Bosch to make use of this facility. For further information contact the SUPAMAC team on 9515 8403 or email [support@supamac.com](mailto:support@supamac.com).

## New alternative to pap smears



Professor Brian Morris is head of the Basic & Clinical Genomics Laboratory in the Bosch Institute. In association with Polartech Ltd Brian has been involved in the development of an alternative to the pap smear for women. This self sampling kit involves women collecting their own specimen on a tampon and sending it to a Path Lab for testing for high-risk types of human papillomavirus (HPV).

Virtually all cervical cancer is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV can be easily detected by a molecular test that is so sensitive it can be used on tampons. According to Australian experts, providing women the opportunity to collect their own sample using the “Tam-Pap” method so it can be screened for HPV has the potential to improve cervical cancer prevention.

It is anticipated that this new kit will lead to an increase in the proportion of women participating in cervical screening, where currently 40% of women do not get screened (because of an aversion to the pap smear process, isolation in outback regions or religious/cultural factors). This is the first time in the world that self-screening will be implemented.

Professor Brian Morris said that the new cervical cancer vaccine and

ongoing Pap smears played important roles in helping women avoid cervical cancer, but accessible home sampling for HPV testing might help provide women with an additional important weapon.

This issue has received wide coverage from the media with over 35 TV items, 3 studio interviews with Brian Morris and approximately 40 radio broadcasts and many newspaper reports.

For more information see Professor Morris’s analysis on the topic in a large review article published in the current issue of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

## Distinguished Scientist

Dr Ronan Jambou, a researcher from the Pasteur Institute, is presently spending 24 months in the laboratory of Professor Georges Grau, Vascular Immunology Unit, Faculty of Medicine & Bosch Institute. As a distinguished researcher in clinical and experimental malaria, Dr Jambou will develop several projects and implement collaborative works with Professors Grau and Hunt. This will build on the existing collaborations between them and European as well as African scientists, funded through a European Union Framework 6 grant on the role of microparticles in cerebral malaria.



*Professor Georges Grau with Dr Ronan Jambou*

## Distinguished Seminar

The second Bosch Distinguished Seminar in the 2006/2007 series was held on Friday 18 May in the Anderson Stuart Seminar Room. The presentation entitled “An Iron Key for unlocking the treatment of Cancer and neurodegenerative disease” was attended by 119 members and students of the Institute.



*Professor Des Richardson*

Presenter Des Richardson is a Professor and NHMRC Principal Research Fellow in the Discipline of Pathology, University of Sydney. Des has also recently accepted the role of Research Theme Leader for the Cancer, Cell Biology and Development Research Theme of the Bosch Institute.

Des's areas of interest include the design, synthesis and characterisation of chelators for the treatment of disease and the examination of the metabolism of iron in normal and neoplastic cells. Following his presentation a number of Bosch researchers were keen to pursue the opportunity for collaborations with Des's group. Executive Director of the Bosch Institute Professor Nicholas Hunt commented that “one of the key objectives of the Bosch Institute was to enhance research activities and outputs through collaboration and sharing of infrastructure and expertise”.

The Bosch Distinguished Seminar Series is proudly sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline.

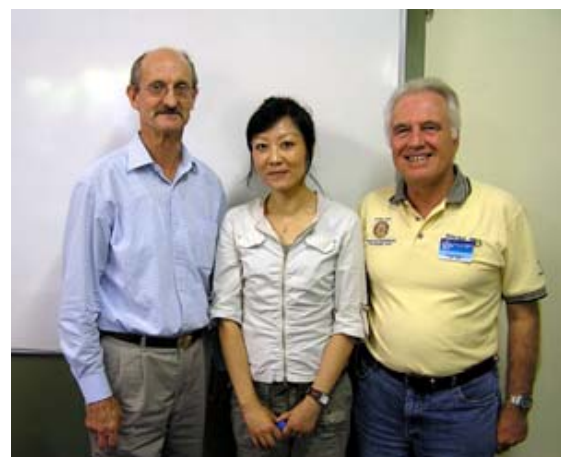


*Executive Director of the Bosch Institute, Professor Nick Hunt introduces the Bosch Distinguished Seminar.*

## Rotarians support research into malaria

Leia Hee and her supervisor, Professor Nick Hunt, recently attended the Rotarians Against Malaria Conference in Brisbane.

Rotary Clubs in Australia have long supported a multi-pronged campaign against malaria, particularly in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Leia, who is the recipient of the only PhD Scholarship for malaria research so far given by Australian Rotarians, spoke of her research into the causes of lung complications in malaria.



*Pictured: Here Leia is seen with Peter Thomas, outgoing Chairman of Rotarians Against Malaria, and Michael Gregory,*

## Bosch Young Investigators – Kioloa Retreat 2007



The inaugural Bosch Institute Young Investigators Retreat took place at the Kioloa Coastal Campus of the ANU on June 26 through to June 28, 2007. There were over 30 registrants, predominantly postgraduate students, a handful of postdoctoral researchers and one Honours student. Six academic staff members also attended.

On arrival, after everyone formally introduced themselves, much of the first afternoon was focused on presentations by staff, providing open discussions on career development relevant to postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers. Areas covered included career options after a PhD (academia vs industry). The session wound up with discussions on effective mentoring, grant writing and applying for fellowships. This generated a lot of discussion from the young investigators and based on student feedback, this was the one of the most informative aspects of the retreat.

The students were asked to coordinate the second day. The morning commenced with a range of oral presentations by some of the postdoctoral researchers. A late

morning game of soccer allowed many of the students to interact at a more social level and effectively proved to be as good an introduction and team building exercise as any. A lengthy poster session followed in the afternoon and students had an opportunity to discuss their work with all those in attendance. Staff managed to talk to each of the presenters. This session finished with a short interactive discussion of what makes a good poster by the staff, and based on the criteria established a poster prize was awarded to Ms Rebecca Cole (conferred at the Bosch Annual Scientific meeting on June 29, on the main campus).

Overall, based on student feedback, the retreat was a great success. Everyone got involved and worked effectively together. Special acknowledgment should go to the Bosch Young Investigators committee who organised much of the retreat, including the accommodation, catering, transport and all the social activities. A special thanks also to our staff members for giving their time to support our young investigators.