Welcome to the new academic year, which has commenced where 2016 finished – looking to be another very busy but successful year ahead.

Overall the School’s student numbers continue to grow. In our entry level courses, numbers in Physiotherapy are stable, but there is continued growth in Exercise Science student numbers, in particular influenced by stronger numbers progressing through to second and third years. Post graduate numbers across our three majors for the Masters of Clinical Physiotherapy (Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy, Continence and Womens’ Health, and Sports Physiotherapy) remain strong. Our international numbers across the courses continue to grow, with 12% growth from 2016, and we now have over 15% of our total student numbers being international. While most of this growth is in our Physiotherapy courses, it is also pleasing to see a small but growing number of international students in our Exercise Sports and Rehabilitation Science course. This sustained growth in international student numbers in recent years is in contrast to the plateau in overall university international figures over the past several years, and is a reflection of the School’s strong teaching and research outcomes and international collaborations and profile achieved by staff.

A major recognition of Curtin activity and outcomes in the Sports-related subjects area is the recent achievement of being ranked in the 51-100 band across all universities world-wide (there were five Australian universities in the top 50, Curtin is in the 51-100 band with six other Australian Universities, and ranked 8th overall among Australian universities. The exercise related outcomes for our long established Physiotherapy courses, and the young but growing quickly and successful Exercise Sports and Rehabilitation Science course would be the major contributors at Curtin to this achievement. Congratulations to all staff on this recognition.

Curtin University has just launched its 50 years of innovation year of activities, celebrating the 50 years of change and outcomes since the formation of WAIT (Curtin’s predecessor) in 1967. The formal launch was held on March 10th, and involved staff from the Bentley, Kalgoorlie, Malaysia (Sarawak) and Singapore campuses coming together through technology for an impressive and enjoyable launch. The School will be running a major alumni event late this year as part of the 50 years celebrations – more information to be circulated in the near future.

It was also very pleasing to see the successful formal opening of the Curtin Medical School in late February. The new cohort of 60 first year students were welcomed as part of the formal opening, by then Premier Colin Barnett, and the Dean of the Medical School, Professor William Hart. The School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science congratulates our colleagues and the first cohort of students, and look forward to strong collaborations across teaching and research as the School continues to grow.

There are many other achievements and activities by our staff, students and partners reported through the rest of this newsletter. Please read on ….
Debbie Cooper
2016 COTA Active Ageing Awards Winner

Debbie Cooper, Lead Instructor with the Living Longer Living Stronger program at the Curtin Wellness Clinic, was named joint winner as the Most Outstanding Living Longer Living Stronger Metropolitan Instructor.

As an Accredited Exercise Physiologist, Debbie designs individualised programs for clients with chronic conditions and those wishing to maintain future good health, paying particular attention to psychosocial motivators and deterrents for her clients.

Inspired by her passion for teaching and instruction, several students volunteer their own time to assist her at the clinic, enabling them to observe and learn from her expertise working with clients over 55 years of age.

Debbie received her award at the official presentation held on Tuesday, 14 February. The Mayor of Victoria Park, Mr Trevor Vaughan and the Active Ageing Manager with COTA, Mr Phil Airey attended the presentation.

Congratulations Debbie on this well deserved honour.

For more information on this, and other exercise programs available at the Clinic:

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Sian Williams - West Weekend
(Interview on Saturday, 11 March)

Our very own Sian Williams and her sister Ceinwen were interviewed for the “Yin and Yang” section of the West Weekend in March. The article covers how Sian got into swimming, mainly through big sister Ceinwen (who has completed the English Channel swim). Sian’s parents are also still doing open water swims every weekend.

Sian won the Port to Pub swim last year (coincidentally this event was created by Ceinwen) and this year she will be competing again but this time, in a duo ……… with her 72 year old Dad! We wish them both the best of luck. You can read the article in full on https://enewspaper2.thewest.com.au
Dr Meg Harrold  
APA Branch Council  
Representative  

Garry Allison recently stepped down as the Curtin representative on the APA Branch Council and the baton has been handed on to Meg Harrold. In this volunteer position Meg promotes and advocates for physiotherapy, and works with the Council to ensure the Branch continues to group and develop in line with member expectations.

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Evan Coopes  
Director of Professional Post-graduate Courses  

Following the successful completion of his postgraduate studies, Evan has resumed his responsibilities as Director for Post-Graduate courses.

Our thanks to Rob Waller for filling this role and for overseeing the very successful running of and conclusion to the School’s Post Graduate courses in the latter half of 2016.

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Dr (Dad) Vin Cavalheri  
Adds another title to his name  

On Monday, 6 February at 5.18pm Fern and Vin became new parents to a beautiful baby girl. Elisa Santana Oliveira, weighed in at 2.7 kg and was 49 cm long.

As you can see she is enjoying her new car—it might not be a Lamborghini but she’s obviously inherited her father’s love of cars!

2016 Health Sciences Publications Awards  

On Monday, 9 January 2017, the Faculty of Health Sciences announced the winners of the 2016 Publication Awards. The School, again, was well represented with winners in:

Top 12 Highest Impact Factor (IF) paper - Highest impact papers nominated with IF values.  
Keith Hill (with other non-Curtin authors) for The 6-pack program to decrease fall-related injuries in acute hospitals: A cluster randomized controlled trial.

Highest IF in Field of Research (FOR) codes - Highest impact papers nominated in specific FOR codes.  
Clinical Sciences - Congratulations to Keith Hill (with other non-Curtin authors) for The first year after stroke: the efficacy of an integrated approach focusing on pursuit of goals for reducing post stroke depression.

Human Movement and Sport Science (two winners) - Congratulations to Erin Howie, Joanne McVeigh, Anne Smith and Leon Straker for Organized sport trajectories from childhood to adolescence and health associations; and Susan Morris for Hypermobility and Musculoskeletal Pain in Adolescents.

Immunology - Congratulations to Markus Paananen, Peter O’Sullivan, Leon Straker, Darren Beales, Pieter Coenen, Jaro Karppinen, Craig Pennell and Anne Smith for A low cortisol response to stress is associated with musculoskeletal pain combined with increased pain sensitivity in young adults: A longitudinal cohort study.

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http://curtin.edu/ptes
STAFF PROFILE
Paul Dean-Smith

1. In 25 words or less, tell us about the main elements of your current role.
The main function I fulfil is that of Anatomy Technician, setting up Labs for the academic staff. Also, dissecting cadavers assisting in the education of students.

2. What drives you / what motivates you to carry on?
The driving force in my life is to do all I can be a good Husband, Father, Grandfather & Workmate. Being wise and strong enough to contribute to these different challenges.

3. What is currently in your inbox / what project you are currently working on?
At the moment I’m trying to figure out iPerform! I’ve managed to complete a couple of courses including obtaining a certificate in St John’s First Aid Course.

4. Your best / most memorable/most outstanding experience and why?
The only answer I can give is a 35 year marriage to my beautiful wife Laury. I’m a very blessed man, although, I would love to know what sin she committed to get me as penance!

5. If you weren’t working in this role, what would you be doing?
I think if I were unfortunate enough not to be in this role, I would go back into business, conducting “Hatch, Match & Dispatch” (Baby Dedications, Marriages & Funerals), as a Minister / Celebrant. I worked in this role in the early 2000’s.

New Academic Staff
In February the School made a few new appointments of academic staff who were on fixed term contracts. We’re delighted to welcome these three new staff members:

Louise Ganderton has joined the school on a part time fixed term contract until July this year. Louise taught in the Cardiopulmonary Physiotherapy units for a number of years before moving to Sydney. We are fortunate that Louise has temporarily relocated to Perth for six months and will be helping us once again with teaching in the cardiopulmonary physiotherapy area.

Leah Mitchell has joined the school for semester 1 on a part time fixed term contract while Leanda McKenna is on Long Service Leave. Leah has taught on a sessional contract with the school for some years across a variety of 1st and 2nd year physiotherapy units in both Bachelor and GEM courses.

Juliana Gomes Zabatiero is a recently graduated PhD student and sessional academic. Juliana has been appointed to a research assistant position with one of Leon Straker’s projects, and will also be continuing with a small amount of teaching on a sessional basis.
**STUDENT NEWS**

**Siao Hui Toh**

Doctoral student Siao Hui Toh has been developing more than just her research skills over the last few months. On Wednesday, 7 December 2016, Siao Hui gave birth to Gabriel – a healthy 3.075kg boy – at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Just before returning to Singapore for another round of data collection for her doctoral studies, she brought Gabriel into the School to meet her colleagues.

In the photo (left) her supervisor, Professor Leon Straker, is practicing his rusty baby handling skills, first developed at Princess Margaret Hospital.

We all wish Siao Hui, her husband Jeremy, and Gabriel all the best in 2017.

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**Logan Ovenden-Clarke**

**Don Watts High Achiever Scholarship**

This year Logan Ovenden-Clarke is one of the five recipients of the Don Watts High Achiever Scholarship for undergraduate students.

This is a merit based scholarship that has been developed by Curtin to encourage, support and acknowledge academically outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in the fields of leadership, community service, sport, arts/culture or entrepreneurship.

This scholarship provides support for the remaining duration of the undergraduate degree (based on a full-time study load of 100 credits per semester) - total value of $12,00 per annum paid as a cash stipend and a one-off payment of $6,000 for an international student exchange / leadership development opportunity and networking.

Logan has worked hard and is highly regarded by staff and students alike. Congratulations Logan!

**Graduations**

The Health Sciences graduation ceremony was held on Tuesday, February 14 and the School was proud to see four Higher Degree by Research graduates awarded with their Doctoral certificates. These were Michelle Kendell (Clinical Doctorate in Physiotherapy); and Juliana Gomes Zabatiero, Lynn Jensen, and Fatim Tahirah Mirza Mohd Tahir Beg (all PhD).

Of special note, Michelle is the School’s first graduate of our Doctorate of Clinical Physiotherapy program (though we have several others likely to be completed in coming months). The Curtin graduation ceremony is always a very special and unique occasion, being an outdoors ceremony, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display – a special way to conclude a great achievement by these graduates.

Congratulations to Michelle, Juliana, Lynn and Fatim.

Above: Keith Hill with Michelle, Juliana, Lynn and Fatim. Below: Logan getting his award from Professor Jill Downie.

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In what seems to be an unprecedented occurrence, the School has two sets of twins currently enrolled—Rhianna and Sharni Burgess (Year 1) and Emily and Jayde Don (Year 2) in the Exercise Science course.

**Emily and Jayde Don**

“You both do the same course? That’s cute” is something we get a lot but we don’t mind because it’s what we are both interested in. Our favourite subjects at school were Human Biology and Phys Ed Studies, and Exercise Science is a combo of both. I suppose being twins we were always going to pick something similar (we picked Uni preferences separately, without talking to each other and still picked the same thing!). We grew up doing the same things, so doing the same course followed on from that. It is definitely handy having a twin doing the same thing as you because you already have a friend and study buddy! Being able to quiz each other and practice for our practical exams has helped a lot. Plus, having people think they are seeing double never gets old. Hopefully the natural competitiveness with our grades will help us achieve our best throughout the course.

**Sharni and Rhianna Burgess**

Being brought up as twins in a small country town and participating in the same sporting activities, it was inevitable that we were going to choose the same sporting course in Exercise, Sport and Rehabilitation Science. Due to our strive for individuality, one of us was originally going to follow an occupational therapy pathway, while the other was going to follow a physiotherapy pathway, however the physiotherapy pathway seemed to have suited us both. A common laugh throughout our life is the confusion when our peers eventually discover there's not just one, but two of us. Being twins can be rewarding when there's an extra brain following the same course, as in some cases, one might be unable to attend class, so the other one can go instead. Who knows, one day in the near future we might share the ‘Burgess Twins Physiotherapy Practice’.

**Student Support and Advice**

- **If English is not your first language**: Undergraduate and Postgraduate students can have their language skills assessed to determine areas for development. We encourage local and international students with EAL, particularly first years, to apply for English for Health Sciences by sending their name and student number to English Support at HS@curtin.edu.au. More information is available on: http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/international/english-at-health-sciences/

- **If you are struggling with your workload**: See your Year Coordinator before this becomes a problem and affects your results.

- **Finding the new environment a bit lonely or intimidating**: Talk to your mentor or student representative. Curtin’s Counselling and Disability Service (CDS) offers a number of services for students (and staff) who may be experiencing difficulties.

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In January, Sam was awarded a Physiotherapy Research Foundation, Tagged Grant for $13,200. The project will run for 12 months and is titled:

“It looks good but it feels bad”. Understanding ‘failed’ Total Knee Replacement from the perspectives of patients and their surgeons.

Study synopsis: Despite the removal of diseased, pain-generating tissue and the correction of knee joint deformity, 22% of patients will experience no clinically meaningful improvement from Total Knee Replacement (TKR). With 50,000 TKRs performed each year, this disparity presents a significant and increasing drain on the Australian health system. To optimise TKR outcomes, an understanding of why a TKR can ‘look good’ radiologically to the surgeon, but ‘feel bad’ for the patient is fundamental.

Epidemiological studies have provided important insight into the patterns and correlations that characterise patients with ‘failed’ TKR at a population level. The next phase of this research requires a contextualised understanding of failed TKR at the level of the individual to provide a deeper understanding of the processes underlying TKR outcomes and insight into potential targets for intervention.

Through qualitative interviews with patients with no meaningful improvement 12 months post-TKR and their surgeons, this study will employ a theoretical framework to explore the barriers and facilitators to clinically meaningful improvement from TKR.

With physiotherapists at the forefront of TKR rehabilitation, this study will generate an important evidence base for physiotherapy by informing targeted treatments to optimise TKR outcomes.

Investigators on the project are Dr Samantha Bunzli, Associate Professor Anne Smith, Professor Peter O’Sullivan, Associate Professor Michelle Dowse and Professor Peter Choong.

“As Chief investigator, this project presents an opportunity for me to collaborate with my former PhD supervisors at the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science, while conducting postdoctoral research at the University of Melbourne, Department of Surgery. The project draws on the expertise I developed during my doctoral research in qualitative methodologies and health behaviour theory and applies them to the context of orthopaedic surgery. The project will contribute to the wider research agenda of the Department of Surgery, seeking to optimise Total Knee Replacement outcomes and build an evidence base for non-surgical intervention alternatives.”

Well done Sam, this is an excellent achievement.
Rebekah Weller
Rottnest Channel Swim Winner

Rebekah has been swimming since she was five years old and always dreamed of winning a Rottnest Channel Swim. On the last weekend of February 2017, all those dreams came true when she crossed the line as the first female in the Rottnest Champions of the Channel Swim. She finished the swim in front of her long-time idol, Jamie Bowler, and ranks this year’s race as her greatest milestone.

“This is my biggest achievement so far, I’ve looked up to Jamie for so long and to be able to win this race means a lot to me,” she said.

At the ten kilometre mark, swimming against the current, Rebekah was trailing first place by about 300 metres, but she had trained hard for the last two years, giving her the strength to push that bit harder.

“I had sacrificed too much to give up so early.”

18 kilometres into the swim, Rebekah took the lead and never looked back. Her paddler, Ernst Botha, an Engineering student at Curtin, encouraged her to keep pushing. Darren Michael and Ryan Spencer (coach), also part of Rebekah’s support crew, were there to see her cross the finish line in four hours, 52 minutes and 3.13 seconds—three minutes ahead of second place.

What a way to celebrate your 23rd birthday!

Rebekah’s key motivators to get over the line were the sacrifices her family and friends had made to enable her to train and compete in the race, along with the second place finish in 2016.

Rebekah has been fitting her training in around her Physiotherapy studies, which has become increasingly difficult as she approaches her final year. In the lead up to the race, Rebekah was swimming in excess of 80 kilometres each week — she was there when the Mandurah Aquatic centre opened and closed most days!

Well done Rebekah, the hard work paid off.

A jubilant Rebekah at the finish line and accepting her trophy

Photos: Focused Ninja and Facebook Peel Aquatic Club
Congratulations to Alan Reubenson for being part of two successful teaching grant applications. The Australian Technology Network of Universities project, “Building graduate resilience for the disrupted future of the 21st century”, is led by Margo Brewer in collaboration with the University of South Australia and Queensland University of Technology, with funding for $163,000.

And

He was also successful with a Curtin Learning and Teaching Grant for “A guide to fieldwork success: Developed with millennial students for millennial students”, which is being led by Michelle Quail and receiving funding for $18,502.

Well done to Alan and the teams involved in these projects.

STAFF PROFILE
Teaching
David Sainsbury

1. In 25 words or less, tell us about the main elements of your current role.
I am a lecturer who predominantly teaches across second year musculoskeletal and applied exercise physiology units. I also coordinate the second year clinics which pretty much explains why I have the gig of second year physiotherapy coordinator.

2. What drives you / what motivates you to carry on?
I have a passion for the subjects that I teach which makes the job really enjoyable. I enjoy tuning into students learning styles to help them achieve in the units I teach in. There are so many different ways to deliver education and that keeps things really interesting.

3. What is currently in your inbox / what project you are currently working on?
Coordination seems to be what I do most of at the start of each semester. Unit coordination, Year 2 coordination and 2nd year clinical visit coordination.

4. Your best / most memorable / most outstanding experience and why?
Apart from my wedding and the birth of my two kids, my most memorable experience was doing the Solo Rottnest Channel Swim in 2015. I love the science and art behind training and workload volumes and I love the “misery” of grinding out a tough event. I’m doing the Busselton 70.3 Triathlon in May so that’s keeping me pretty busy at the moment.

5. If you weren’t working in this role, what would you be doing?
A marine biologist (preferably somewhere tropical)
Professor Katharine Boursicot
St George’s, University of London

Professor Katharine Boursicot is the Director of the Health Professional Assessment Consultancy and visited Curtin in January.

She has extensive experience and expertise in medical education where she has led the reform of assessment at the undergraduate medical schools at Bartholomew’s Hospital and the London, Cambridge University and St George’s University of London. This has resulted in raising standards and dissemination of evidence-based good practice in medical education in the UK and internationally. She is widely published in leading medical education journals and has been invited to advise on numerous national and international initiatives.

While at Curtin Professor Bouriscot conducted a workshop, funded by a Curtin Learning and Teaching Innovation grant.

The information gathered by the Physiotherapy, Exercise Science and Biomedical Science academics who attended, will be the foundations for evidence based changes to assessments to provide valid and reliable outcomes.

Professor Andreas Holtermann
National Research Centre for the Working Environment, Copenhagen, Denmark

Professor Holtermann is employed as a Professor in the research programme ‘Musculoskeletal disorders and physical workload’. His main research interest is the investigation of how physical work demands influence development of musculoskeletal disorders, cardiovascular disease, work disability, sickness absence and early retirement, and how these health impairments can be prevented at the workplaces.

On Monday, 30 January Professor Holtermann visited the School and presented: “The paradox of work and leisure time physical activity and cardiovascular disease”

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Associate Professor Birgit Juul-Kristensen
University of Southern Denmark

Associate Professor Juul-Kristensen is teaching Masters education in Physiotherapy (scientific methods, clinimetric properties and mechanisms), and doing research with Masters and PhD students at the University of Southern Denmark.

She visited the School in March to meet with our researchers and discuss common research interest areas. On Monday, 13 March she presented information on her current research: ‘Postural control, motor function and physical performance is changed in individuals with Generalised Joint Hypermobility’

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Associate Professor Judy King
University of Ottawa

Dr King is a physiotherapist and Associate Professor in the physiotherapy program at the University of Ottawa in Canada. Her patient centred research is in the area of patient education, specifically as it relates to chronic disease management, for people living with chronic cardiac and respiratory conditions.

Dr King visited the School in March and on Wednesday, 22 March and presented “Patient education for patients with chronic illness: An international and inter-professional issue”

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In March, Dr Vin Cavalheri was invited to present a talk on "the effects of preoperative exercise capacity and exercise training on postoperative outcomes in people with lung cancer". He also delivered an oral presentation on the Cochrane Systematic Review, undertaken with Dr Catherine Granger (from the University of Melbourne), that has recently been accepted for publication in the Cochrane Database of systematic reviews.

Two Honours students that Dr Cavalheri and Associate Professor Kylie Hill supervise also presented their research at the Conference. Jian Ping Ho (Erin) presented “Characteristics of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease who respond to ground-based walking training”

Yan Ling Chao presented “Choosing a faster walking speed for the endurance shuttle walk test may reduce the ceiling effect in people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease”

Yan Ling received the Best Poster Prize at the COPD session.

Congratulations to everyone involved.

The WorkCover WA Return to Work Conference is being held on 3 and 4 May 2017 at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Perth.

Dr Darren Beales and Dr Tim Mitchell will both be speaking at the two day conference, along with:

Dr Norman Swan, the host of The Health Report on ABC Radio National, and Tonic on ABC News24;

Dr Jordan Nguyen, a biomedical engineer who will explore the future of health technologies;

Dr Rory Gallagher, the Managing Director of The Behavioural Insights Team, who will discuss how nudge theory is being used to influence widespread behavioural changes;

Ms Claire Madden, a generational expert and social researcher;

and 18 other injury management professionals across the medical, insurance, workers’ compensation, business and rehabilitation streams.

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Rob Waller
Trip to Norway

In the second week of March Rob Waller visited Norway to promote our Masters of Clinical Physiotherapy postgraduate courses. In recent years there has been a strong growth in international Physiotherapists undertaking postgraduate study at Curtin University. There have been 15 Norwegian students over the past two years reflecting the popularity of our course. Obtaining a Masters qualification significantly improves the scope of Physiotherapy practice in Norway and is recognised by allowing the use of the title ‘Manual Therapist’. The Curtin Masters of Clinical Physiotherapy Musculoskeletal Major is currently the only Australian course to be recognised by the Norwegian Manual Therapy Association and is partially due to the research component of the course.

The visit started in Bergen where Rob visited Bergen University College and Professor Alice Kvale who has previously collaborated with Curtin University supervising a very successful randomised controlled trial (RCT) in cognitive functional therapy using participants with non-specific chronic low back pain. There was also a meeting with Kjartan Fersum (Bergen University) who was the first Norwegian Physiotherapist to complete a Masters in Clinical Physiotherapy at Curtin University in 1999 and later his PhD project was the above RCT. Both Alice and Kjartan supervise the examination process required to become a Manual Therapist in Norway and there was some useful discussion around the process. Additionally, while in Bergen there was also a meeting with an agent who helps to recruit students to Curtin University.

Afterwards, Rob travelled to Oslo to meet with two more recruitment agents and talk to Physiotherapists who are interested in study at Curtin University. There was strong interest expressed in future study at Curtin University driven largely by word of mouth from previous students.

A meeting with the Norwegian Manual Therapy Association was very productive and informative, with everyone learning more about each other’s systems and processes.

The last day in Olso involved attending an Alumni event where over 20 past postgraduates attended. In 2016 Norwegian students Veronica Solvig and Ingrid Ovrebekk were awarded the ‘Mona Twomey Prize’ (best postgraduate research project) and ‘Max Zusman Award’ (highest mark in Advanced Management of Pain Disorders) respectively. Rob was honoured to present Veronica her award, while Ronnie Risnes (2016 graduate) accepted Ingrid’s award in her absence.

Luckily there was some time to play in Norway as well with Rob managing to hike up to Floyen for a scenic view of Bergen on a very rare clear but cold day. In Olso he was taken for his first ever cross-country ski by Kristine Sandvik (Curtin Manipulative Therapy graduate 2010 and Sports Major 2015) who enjoyed reversing the teacher/student role!
The World Health Organisation (WHO) held a strategic summit from on 6 and 7 February in Geneva to discuss and debate a call to action for health systems globally to respond to the need prioritise rehabilitation in health policy and to improve rehabilitation services to address the enormous unmet need, particularly in low and middle income nations.

Some 200 individuals from across the world were invited by the WHO to represent organisations or nations. Associate Professor Andrew Briggs was invited to attend, representing the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health (G-MUSC) and Curtin University.

As G-MUSC Fellow in Global Musculoskeletal Health, Andrew’s role was to advocate for specific health service and system reform for people living with musculoskeletal health conditions who require rehabilitation services. Individuals from high, middle and low-income settings shared experiences about how health systems were adapting to address the need for rehabilitation.

In many parts of the world, the capacity to provide rehabilitation is limited or non-existent and fails to adequately address the needs of the population. A global effort to build policy, system, workforce and data collection capacity is therefore needed, underpinned by context-relevant evidence. The WHO now identifies rehabilitation as a central component of universal health and is fundamental to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

The following ten actions were agreed at the summit:

1. Creating strong leadership and political support for rehabilitation at sub-national, national and global levels.
2. Strengthening rehabilitation planning and implementation at national and sub-national levels.
3. Improving integration of rehabilitation into the health sector to effectively and efficiently meet population needs.
5. Building comprehensive rehabilitation service delivery models to progressively achieve equitable access to quality services, including assistive products, for all the population.
6. Developing a strong multidisciplinary rehabilitation workforce that is suitable for country context, and promoting rehabilitation concepts across all health workforce education.
7. Expanding financing for rehabilitation through appropriate mechanisms.
8. Collecting information relevant to rehabilitation to enhance health information systems including system level rehabilitation data and information on functioning utilizing the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).
9. Building research capacity and expanding the availability of robust evidence for rehabilitation, particularly in low and middle income settings.
10. Establishing and strengthening networks and partnerships in rehabilitation, particularly between low-, middle- and high-income countries.
Dr Darren Beales
Being mindful of back pain in baby boomers
Article in The Senior on Friday, 20 January.

Dr Darren Beales was interviewed regarding the findings that poor pain beliefs in relation to low back pain (LBP) in baby boomers, is associated with greater disability - “back pain beliefs are an important determinant of both disability and the experience of LBP, not only in baby boomers (individuals born between 1946—1964) but the wider population.”

Darren is involved in a study that looks at back pain beliefs in baby boomers, hoping to provide additional understanding on how to keep this age group active and productive. The results highlight that back pain beliefs are an important tool in determining back pain-related disability in baby boomers.

The paper, titled Back Pain Beliefs Are Related to the Impact of Low Back Pain in Baby Boomers in the Busselton Healthy Aging Study, can be accessed at http://ptjournal.apta.org/content/95/2/180. This article can be read in full in The Senior.

Professor Keith Hills
Focus on falls needed to cut rate of injury
Article in The Australian on Friday, 24 March

In an article describing some of the challenges and limitations of funding for aging related research and care, Professor Hill indicated there was a need for a broader spread of funding across all areas related to improving outcomes for older people. He highlighted that despite substantial effective research in the falls prevention area in the community setting, that the limited and fragmented funding for falls prevention currently has not impacted on national hospitalisation figures, with falls being the biggest contributor to injury related hospitalisations (40%) over the past 10 years.

The article can be read in full on The Australian.
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RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

Kevin Netto
NCC Research Fund

Congratulations to Kevin Netto who, through collaboration in Singapore was successful in obtaining $18,900 to fund a pilot/exploratory project: “The Impact of Surgical Treatment on Physical Functions and Quality of Life in Patients with Head and Neck Cancer: A Prospective Cohort Study.”

Associate Professor Andrew Briggs
NHMRC TRIP Fellowship

Congratulations to Associate Professor Andrew Briggs, who was successful in being awarded a highly prestigious and competitive NHMRC TRIP (Translation of Research Into Practice) fellowship for the next two years. The Fellowship is titled Closing the evidence-practice gap for non-pharmacologic and non-surgical osteoarthritis care with an e-health knowledge translation strategy, and builds strongly on the national and international work he has been doing in this area for some time now. The fellowship is funded for $177,197 over two years through Curtin, and will see Andrew having an 0.5 FTE role with the School over this period. Associate Professor Helen Slater also has a role in Andrew’s Fellowship.

Teena Bowman
Research Support Services
Office of Research and Development

On Thursday, 2 February we welcomed Teena Bowman as our ORD Research Support Officer. In her role as a Research Support Officer, Teena liaises closely with staff and develops relationships with industry partners to conduct research at Curtin University.

The Research Support Team is the key contact for all non-Category One externally funded research and consultancy projects, supporting the management of research projects across their life cycle. Her area focuses on the initiation and application of research projects—they monitor, manage and help with reporting once the project becomes successful right through to final report and closure of the cost centre. Teena will work within the School every second Thursday morning to assist research staff with their projects.

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2016 Student Awards

The School’s Student Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, 14 February in the Tim Winton Lecture Theatre. These annual awards recognise the students who have excelled in various elements of the School’s courses. This year we were honoured to have Jenny Edwards, wife of the late Brian Edwards, attend and present the Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Australia (WA Chapter) “Brian Edwards” Prize. Congratulations all our Award winners.

Zoe Jones (below left) was presented the IO Thorburn Prize for the first year Physiotherapy student with the highest results in Anatomy.

Juh Sheng (Gary) Koh (above right) was presented with the Australian Physiotherapy Association (WA Branch) Prize for the first year Physiotherapy student with the highest results.

Emily Taylor (below left) was presented the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Award for the first year Exercise, Sports and Rehabilitation Science student with the highest results.

Kellie Reid (above right) was presented the LifeCare Award for the second year Physiotherapy student with the highest results in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy.

Ingrid Ovrebekk (unable to attend) was presented the Max Zusman Award for the Postgraduate student with the highest mark in the unit Advanced Management of Pain Disorders.

Emily Abbott (below left) was presented with the Australian Physiotherapy Association (WA Branch) Prize for the second year Physiotherapy student with the highest results.

Emily Fernandez (above right) was presented with the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Award for the second year Exercise, Sports and Rehabilitation Science student with highest results.

Ella Bracone (unable to attend) won the Women’s, Men’s and Pelvic Health Physiotherapy Australia (WA Chapter) Prize for the third year Physiotherapy student with the highest results in the Gender Health Issues subject of Lifespan Health Science.

Raphaelle Bruckmann (below left) was presented the Cardio-respiratory Physiotherapy Australia (WA Chapter) “Jane Kinging” Prize for the third year Physiotherapy student with the highest results in Cardiopulmonary Science.

Ashley Coleman (above right) was presented with the Musculoskeletal Physio-therapy Australia (WA Chapter) Prize for the third year student with highest Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy results.

Tahnee Goodman (unable to attend) won the National Physiotherapists in Leadership and Management Group (WA Chapter) Prize for the student with the highest combined results in the Leadership Assessments in Integrated Physiotherapy Management.

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2016 Student Awards Continued

Cassandra Mangan (below) was presented the APA Gerontology Physiotherapy Australia (WA Chapter) Prize for the third year Physiotherapy student with the highest results in the Gerontology subject of Neuroscience Physiotherapy

AND

the National Neurology Group (WA Chapter) of the Physiotherapy Association Prize as third year Physiotherapy student with highest results in Neuroscience.

Tala Olins-Miller (below left) won the Therapy Focus Award for the Entry-Level Programs student with the highest marks in Paediatrics.

Emily Davies (above right) was presented the National Paediatric Special Group (WA Chapter) Award for the fourth year Physiotherapy student demonstrating enthusiasm for paediatric physiotherapy, innovative practice and a strong theoretical knowledge in the field of Paediatrics.

Karly Coltman (unable to attend) won the LifeCare Award for the Master of Physiotherapy graduate with the highest clinical results.

Brayden Page (right) won the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Award for the first year Master of Physiotherapy student with the highest results.

Stephanie Anderson (below left) won the Thom Reed Prize for Chronic Disease Management for the student achieving the highest mark for Chronic Disease Management assessment in Interprofessional Practice.

Caryne Teo (above right) was presented with the Physiotherapy Business Australia (WA Chapter) Prize for the fourth year physiotherapy student with the highest results in Physiotherapy Leadership.

Samantha Lee (below) was presented the Physiotherapy Research Foundation Prize for the Honours student with the highest overall score

AND

the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Prize for the best Honours presentation for the year for: “Investigating factors influencing physiotherapy involvement in the treatment and management of people with severe and persistent mental illness.” Supervisors: Dr Robyn Fary, Dr Kathy Briffa and Professor Flavie Waters

Amy Leiper (below right) won the Emeritus Professor Joan Cole Prize for the most outstanding Master of Physiotherapy graduate.

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2016 Student Awards Continued

Phoebe Simpson (below left) and Kelsie Brown (below right) were joint winners of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (WA Branch) Marcus (Joe) Rosen Prize for the graduates with the best clinical results.

Darren Hickey (below left) and Veronica Solvig (unable to attend) won the Mona Twomey Prize for the best post graduate research project for: “Does Scapular Dyskinesis Increase the Risk of Developing Shoulder Pain in the General Population? A Proposal for a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis”. Their supervisors were Dr Leanda McKenna, Dr Vin Cavalheri and Dr Meg Harrold.

Stacey Stockman (above right) was presented the Sports Physiotherapy Australia (WA Chapter) “Diana Hopper” Prize for the Master of Clinical Physiotherapy (Sports Physiotherapy) student with the best clinical results.

Bernard Liew (unable to attend) won the Elsevier Book Prize for the Masters or Doctoral student publishing the best article in a Scientific Journal for “Joint power and kinematics coordination in load carriage running: Implications for performance and injury.” Authors are Bernard Liew, Susan Morris and Kevin Netto. Published in Gait and Posture: 47(2016), Pages 74—79

Kate Shaw (below left) was presented the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Award for the second year Master of Physiotherapy student with the highest results.

Sophie Dunnet (above right) won the Women’s, Men’s and Pelvic Health Physiotherapy Australia (WA Chapter) Prize for the top graduating student in the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Physiotherapy (Continence and Women’s Health) Course.

Kayla Pomery (below left) was presented with the Emeritus Professor Joan Cole Prize for the most outstanding Bachelor of Science (Physiotherapy) graduate.

Nicole Ireland (above right) was presented with the Women’s, Men’s and Pelvic Health Physiotherapy Australia (WA Chapter) Prize for being the top graduating student in the Continence and Women’s Health Major of the Master of Clinical Physiotherapy Course.

As Veronica Solvig (below right) was also unable to attend the event, Rob Waller presented her award in person when he visited Norway in March.
2016 Student Awards Continued

Dannie Kingston scooped the prize pool and was presented with the following awards:

Australian Medical Supplies Motor Control and Skill Acquisition Award for the ESRS student with highest combined mark for Motor Control and Skill Acquisition over all years

AND

Australian Medical Supplies Motor Exercise Physiology Award for the ESRS student with highest combined mark for Exercise Physiology over all years

AND

Australian Medical Supplies Biomechanics Award for the ESRS student with highest combined mark for Biomechanics over all years

AND

Worksite Fitness and Rehabilitation Exercise and Sports Psychology Award for the ESRS student with the highest combined mark for Psychology over all years

AND

School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Award for the graduating ESRS student whose results, attitude, knowledge and work practices embodies the aims and philosophy of the School

Michael Callan (unable to attend) won the Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Australia (WA Chapter) “Brian Edwards” Prize for the Master in Manipulative Therapy student with the best clinical results. Evan Coopes (below) accepted the award on Michael’s behalf from Jenny Edwards, wife of the late Brian Edwards.

We sincerely thank all our generous sponsors, who continue to support our students and awards each year:

- Australian Physiotherapy Association (and special interest groups)
- LifeCare
- Therapy Focus
- Elsevier
- Penny Moss and Sara Carroll
- Australian Medical Supplies
- Worksite Fitness and Rehabilitation.

We would also like to thank the family late Brian Edwards—his wife Jenny and children, Susie and Michael, who were able to join us and present the award in his honour.

Dannie receiving her awards from (L-R) Sandra Dorshort (Australian Medical Supplies), Steve Gauci (Worksite Fitness and Rehabilitation and Andrew Lavender.)

Congratulations

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ESRS Social Sport

What would you do on a beautiful warm WA autumn afternoon? Head to the beach? Go for a ride or run around the river? Gaze out from the tutorial room at the lovely weather wishing you were outside? No! You’d participate in the inaugural ESRS Social Sports Day!

On Friday, 17 March over 60 students and staff were treated to an afternoon of fun games from yesteryear. After an energetic jog around the oval and obligatory limbering exercises duly conducted by Sian Williams, chief organiser of the day and exercise guru, an all-in contest of Scarecrow was conducted to complete warmup procedures. A round-robin tournament of dodge ball was played with rules and umpiring by Daniel Gucciardi. After some strategizing, tactical assaults were rampant and clear winners emerged. A final game of tunnel ball capped off a thoroughly successful and enjoyable afternoon of ice-breaking, re-acquaintances and networking.

A short, re-fuelling session in the Tavern was attended by many to ensure contacts made on the day were cemented over well-earned refreshments.

More social games are planned throughout the year so stay tuned!
**Official Unveiling of the Brian Edwards Gown**

On Tuesday, 14 February Jenny Edwards, wife of the late Brian Edwards, and two of their children – Michael and Susie – joined us in the official unveiling of Brian’s honorary doctoral gown, which has been donated to the School.

The gown was worn when Brian was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by Curtin University in 1995, in recognition of his significant contributions to the Physiotherapy profession. The gown has been mounted in a special display case near the reception area of the School (3rd floor of building 408) and can be viewed by visitors to the School. Jenny has also donated a number of other memorabilia to the School, which are also on display in the display cabinet area outside the Head of School’s office.

**50 Years of Innovation**

Keep an eye on the university website for activities being held throughout 2017 celebrating Curtin’s 50 year anniversary.

A special School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Alumni event is being planned for November .... Watch this space

**END OF NEWSLETTER**