



**LA TROBE**  
UNIVERSITY

## Research Bulletin: November 2020



### Bringing research and industry engagement news to you

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the final issue of the Research Bulletin for 2020. The Bulletin will be taking a break over the next few months and will return in February next year. I hope you are also able to take a break over the holiday period, after the challenging year we have had. For anyone who is working during the holidays, I hope you have some leave to look forward to in the New Year. It is so important to take time to recharge.

2020 has been a tough year to say the least, but please be proud of all you have achieved. I was really proud to hear the recent ARC Discovery Projects and DECRA announcements, with ten La Trobe researchers receiving Discovery Project grants and four awarded DECRA's. A huge amount of work goes into these applications, not just from the lead CIs, but also their supporting teams, colleagues, the College Leadership and the Grants team. Well done everyone. More details about these projects are in this month's Research Bulletin in our Congratulations and Celebration section.

Also in the Research Bulletin this month, you can find out how our researchers have the opportunity to pitch their research ideas to top Australian documentary and factual producers at the 2021 Australian International Documentary Conference. This is a fantastic learning opportunity which could lead to significant recognition of your research, I encourage you to look into it.

In December, I will be announcing our Research Award winners at the End of year Staff Awards Celebration. I'm looking forward to celebrating our research achievements with you all, please attend this virtual event if you can.

Stay safe over the holiday period and I look forward to working with you in 2021.

All the best

Sue

**Professor Susan Dodds**

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement)**



## In this issue

### In this month's edition:

- Pitch your research ideas to Australian documentary makers
- Expressions of interest are open for Theme Lead roles
- Research 2030 plan
- THE reputation survey
- Events and Opportunities
- Researcher support
- From the Grants team
- Congratulations and celebrations

## Pitch your research ideas to Australian documentary makers

La Trobe researchers have the opportunity to pitch their research ideas to top Australian documentary and factual producers at the 2021 Australian International Documentary Conference.

Ten researchers will be selected to take part in academic pitch training workshops in January, at the end of which five researchers will be shortlisted to pitch their projects to factual producers during Academic Roundtables at the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC).

To be in with a chance to take part in this fantastic opportunity, submit your research pitch idea using this online form by Sunday 13 December. Our ten successful researchers will be notified by mid-December. More details are [on the Intranet here](#).

This invitation is open to all La Trobe researchers. It is a fantastic learning opportunity which could lead to significant recognition of your research.



## Expressions of interest are open for Theme Lead roles

Expressions of interest have opened for our five new Theme Lead roles. Our new Theme Leads will provide academic leadership of the interdisciplinary research program associated with each of our research themes, to bring together collaborators and develop a research program that will support research excellence and attract research funding to address the goals of the theme.

More details about the roles, including a position description are on the [La Trobe jobs portal](#).

## Research 2030 plan

The final version of our Research 2030 plan (*Research 2030: Research and Industry Engagement Plan 2020-2024*) is now available [on the Intranet](#). The revised plan reflects the changes in our strategic approach developed by the University Transformation Program and sets out our research vision and objectives, as well as measures of success and a high-level implementation plan.

Please read through this important document and contact [Research Strategy](#) if you have any questions about our direction, or the contribution you can make to La Trobe reaching its research goals.

If you would like to sign up for regular updates on Research 2030, [please click here](#).

## THE reputation survey

Times Higher Education World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings. La Trobe is ranked 234th in the latest THE World University Rankings 2021, our best achievement to date. Our phenomenal growth in the rankings through continuous improved performance over the last three consecutive years has resulted in La Trobe being ranked 15th in Australia and 3rd in Victoria this year, up from 23rd and 5th place in 2017 respectively.

This has largely been driven by improved performance in research influence through the publication citation indicator (30% weighting) along with the teaching reputation survey (15%) and research reputation survey (18%).

This teaching and research reputation survey is administered on behalf of THE by Elsevier and is conducted between November and March. It targets experienced, published scholars sourced from the Elsevier database. Respondents are asked their views on excellence in research and teaching within their disciplines and can name up to 15 institutions that they believe are the best in research and teaching.

If you receive an email invitation from Elsevier for the THE reputation survey, we encourage you to participate and keep La Trobe in mind when asked to identify institutions of research and teaching excellence.

For further information, contact the [Research Performance](#) team.



## Events and Opportunities

### Early & Mid-Career Researcher Intensive

The Research Education and Development (RED) team are hosting an Early and Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Intensive on 1 and 2 December. The two days will focus on what the new University strategy – and Research 2030 – means for researchers, how internal research investment will work, and grant-writing/funding topics.

Numbers are capped so please submit your registration ([here](#)) as soon as possible.

### Celebrating RFA Research Success, 3 December at 2- 4pm

As we approach the end of 2020 the five research focus areas (RFAs) – Building Health Communities; Securing Food Water and the Environment; Sport Exercise and Rehabilitation; Transforming Human Societies; Understanding Disease – will be wrapping up their work and transitioning to the new research themes. The RFA directors will be hosting a final event to showcase some of the 706 projects supported over the past seven years.

Each Director has nominated two projects exemplifying the work of the individual RFAs and invited the lead investigator to tell the story and impact of the work. As it is the end of the year presenters have been strongly encouraged to add a seasonal flavour to their presentation, in a way that works with their cultural traditions.

Everyone is welcome to join us. The details are in this [Eventbrite link](#).



### **Ascend: final presentations event**

These unprecedented times have shone a spotlight on the crucial immediate and long-term role of research in society. It's more important than ever to equip our researchers to aim their research at solving real problems in the world. Over the past ten weeks, five teams of researchers have participated in [Ascend](#), a program delivered by [Cruxes Innovation](#) that gives researchers the tools and skills to create impact with their research by partnering with industry and community groups.

The final presentations event for Ascend Spring 2020 will take place virtually on 3 December at 10.30 - 11.45am. Hear from the teams and their mentors about their journey through Ascend, discovering the impact potential of their research project through engagement with stakeholders in industry, government and the community.

The event will include brief presentations by the teams and their mentors, and a virtual networking session. [Please click HERE to register](#). It's free, but you must register to attend.



## **Women in Leadership Awards 2021**

The BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards acknowledge and celebrate leadership and commitment to driving change and impact in the Health Industry. The Awards recognise women who work in or support the sector – including biotechnology, medical technology, pharmaceuticals and other health innovation areas – as executives, management, R&D practitioners, suppliers, service providers and other roles engaged with the sector.

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Awards. Visit the [BioMelbourne Network website](#) for full eligibility criteria and details about the nomination process. Nominations close on 19 February 2021.

## **Final Breakfast at Noon for 2020: Emma Reid, Global Marketing Manager at CISCO Networking Academy**

*Breakfast at Noon: conversations on innovation and change*, is a monthly webinar series on innovation, change and how businesses and individuals can push through unprecedented times, has just hosted its seventh session. The series hosted by the Innovation and Entrepreneurship team has gained over 1400 registrations so far and has acted a reminder for attendees of the importance of being entrepreneurial by adapting to change, connecting with industry and continual networking.

The final session for 2020 is on **Tuesday 8 December at noon** and welcomes Emma Reid, Global Marketing Manager at CISCO Networking Academy. Emma has over 20 years' experience working in Corporate Social Responsibility and for the past nine years, she has worked in Cisco's Social Innovation Group as the Regional Marketing Manager for Asia Pacific & Japan; she has created a Cybersecurity Series for Asia Pacific which attracted 80,000 students worldwide. To tackle the leaky pipeline of women in technology, Emma produced the Women Rock-IT program. Partnering with UN Women and ITU, over 111,000+ people have participated over 20 events with 30 female speakers, publishing 25 blog posts, leading to 50,000+ course enrolments. She has also started the Cisco Women in IT Awards held each year at Cisco Live in Australia to celebrate the very best in female talent across ANZ.

For more information and to register visit the [event page](#). Sessions are also recorded so if you missed out, please get in touch with [Lauren Giusti](#).





1 - Emma Reid, Global Marketing Manager

## Researcher support



### **Ethics & Biosafety**

The 2021 closing and meeting dates are now available on our [website](#). As we approach the end of the year, please check the closing date to ensure you plan submissions in time.

The [daily drop-in link](#), which occurs at midday, is here to stay! Login at midday and ask any Ethics and/or PRIME related questions.

As part of our 2021 continuous improvement planning, we are inviting researchers to complete our [survey](#). The survey will take approximately five to ten minutes and will close on **30 November**. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

#### **Policy updates:**

1. The Authorship of Research Outputs policy has been reviewed to meet the requirements for the attribution and management of research authorship in line with criteria set out in the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018) (the Code) and supporting Authorship and Publication and dissemination of research Guides. The policy most recent update also incorporates key points from the retired “Publications and Dissemination of Research Outputs” Policy.
2. The purpose of this policy is to:
  - establish procedures to ensure the University and researchers meet the requirements of the Code and associated Guides;
  - ensure that publication and dissemination of traditional and non-traditional research outputs and nonrefereed publications and any other forms of dissemination consider any ethical or legal restrictions relating to intellectual property and the appropriate handling of confidential or other sensitive information prior to dissemination of research outputs;
  - provide a clear process for authorship dispute resolution.

#### **Code and Guideline updates:**

[The AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait /slander Research](#) in conjunction with [A guide to applying the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait /slander Research](#) has been released. These documents will supersede and replace the Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies 2012 (GERAIS). The AIATSIS Code of Ethics and the Guide retain many of the principles of the original GERAIS, in a new framework of principles and responsibilities, with new provisions that keep pace with emerging standards and expectations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research.

## **Congratulations and Celebrations**

Congratulations to all of our researchers for their recent grant success and award achievements. A huge amount of work goes into these applications, not just from the Chief Investigators, but also their supporting teams, colleagues, the College Leadership and the Grants team. Well done everyone. A selection are included here, with links to the news stories for more details.

#### **ARC Discovery grants**

La Trobe was celebrating recently when it was announced we received \$4.1m in Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project grants, for ten research projects.

Congratulations to these researchers and their teams:



- Professor Caixian Tang - Rhizosphere priming regulates soil carbon cycle under high carbon dioxide
- Associate Professor Heloise Gibb - A general theory for ecological trait-strategy dimensions
- Dr Monika Doblin - Determining how the soluble dietary fibre beta-glucan is made in cereals
- Professor James Whelan - Mitochondrial Biogenesis and Signalling in Plants
- Associate Professor Begoña Heras - How bacteria form resistant aggregates and biofilms
- Associate Professor Ivan Poon - Mechanism and function of cell asymmetry during cell death
- Dr Sandra Kuntsche - Mothers' little helper: Alcohol use in working mothers.
- Dr Graham Brown\* - Networks in Flux: Examining how sector relationships adapt to rapid change
- Dr Yuri Nikolayevsky - Finite dimensional integrable systems and differential geometry
- Associate Professor Phillip Edwards - Earliest Village People: the shift to sedentary life in the Natufian period

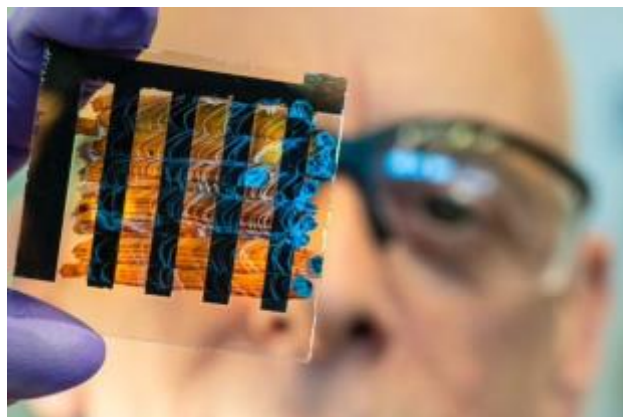
\* Professor Brown recently moved to the University of New South Wales. Although the grant will also eventually move too, several La Trobe researchers will continue to be involved, and Professor Brown will hold an adjunct position at La Trobe.

More details about each of the projects is in our [media release](#).

### **ARC Discovery grants – led by other universities**

Congratulations also go to La Trobe researchers who have been successful in receiving grants for projects led by other universities, including: Dr Rebecca Chisholm, Dr Ryan Phillips, Professor Peta Tait, Professor Hanny Calache, Dr Rebecca Chisholm, Professor Wei Shi, Dr Peng Cheng, Dr Michael Payne and Professor Jennifer Graves.

Please note, this may not be a comprehensive list, as it was manually compiled from ARC data. Apologies if your name has been missed and please contact [the Office of the DVC\(RIE\)](#) to share your good news with us.





**DECRA successes:** The Australian Research Council has awarded four La Trobe University researchers a combined \$1.6 million in funding in the 2021 Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) scheme.

Congratulations to:

- Dr Erica Millar (Social Inquiry, School of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Dr Jasmine-Kim Westendorf (Politics, Media and Philosophy, School of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Dr Ruth Gamble (Archeology and History, School of Humanities and Social Sciences) -
- Dr Ghazanfar Khan (La Trobe Institute for Agriculture and Food, School of Life Sciences, commencing 2021)

More details [are here](#).

**ARC Indigenous Discovery Grant:** Congratulations go to Professor [Jo Lampert](#) who has been awarded an ARC Indigenous Discovery Grant. Jo is a Chief Investigator on this grant, which is being led by the University of Queensland. Read more about Jo's project [here](#).

**Times Higher Education 2021 Subject Rankings**

Education teaching and research has jumped 42 places to rank 62nd in the world in the 2021 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject. Our successes in this competitive ranking includes:

- La Trobe was ranked in 10 out of 11 subjects.
- Clinical, Pre-clinical & Health has seen consecutive year on year improvement, gaining 50 positions from the previous year to be ranked 155 in the world and entering the top 200 for the first time. The improved performance is largely off gains made in the Teaching and Research indicators.
- Top 3 in Victoria for Arts & Humanities, Clinical, Pre-clinical & Health, Life Sciences and Psychology
- Top 200 in the world subject rankings for Education, Arts & Humanities, Clinical, Pre-clinical & Health, Law and Life Sciences.
- Law is a new subject ranking entry for La Trobe, where we debuted in the top 200.

This is a great achievement for La Trobe and congratulations to all, especially those in our School of Education.

	World Subject Ranking				National Rank	State Rank
	2019	2020	2021	Δ2020-21	2021	2021
Education	264	104	62	+42	6	4
Arts & Humanities	194	183	179	+4	12	3
Business & Economics	256	281	306	-25	20	5
Clinical, Pre-clinical & Health	243	205	155	+50	10	3
Computer Science	301	329	365	-36	21	7
Law	NR	NR	176	NEW	16	4
Life Sciences	224	220	194	+26	11	3
Physical Sciences	501-600	624	452	+172	21	5
Psychology	236	187	220	-33	13	3
Social Sciences	337	304	275	+29	19	4
Engineering & Technology	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR

## From the Grants team

### Major Grants Development Support Program

Applicants in the Major Grants Development Support Program are continuing to receive support on their proposals. Pitching sessions are being organised for NHMRC Ideas grant applications in December. ARC Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous applicants will be submitting first drafts of their applications in December as well.

Any applicants intending to submit NHMRC Ideas Grants, ARC Discovery Projects or ARC Discovery Indigenous applications and are not currently taking part in the Major Grants Development Support Program are encouraged to contact [researchgrants@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:researchgrants@latrobe.edu.au) to discuss their project.

### **Fellowship Support program**

The grants team is working with our ARC DECRA applicants to submit their grants by the deadline on Wednesday 25 November. We are also compliance checking ARC Future Fellowship applications for submission on Wednesday 9 December. Researchers preparing NHMRC Investigator Grant applications are being supported through “Time to Write your Grant” sessions throughout November and draft applications are due for peer review on Tuesday 1 December. Any queries regarding the Fellowship Support Program should be addressed to [catherine.hayden@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:catherine.hayden@latrobe.edu.au) or [S.TesanovicKljajic@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:S.TesanovicKljajic@latrobe.edu.au)

### **Grants Team outreach**

We are happy to come along to Centre/Department/Discipline meetings to speak about the services and support the Grants Team offers researchers at La Trobe. Please feel free to contact us to organise a time if you are interested.

### **ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) - Notice of Intent**

The Grants Team and Manager, Research Infrastructure are calling for Notices of Intent (NOI) from researchers who intend to submit an ARC LIEF grant in 2021 with La Trobe as the lead organisation. NOIs should be created in PRIME [here](#). NOIs are to be submitted by Friday 4 December 2020. Once you submit your NOI, the Manager of Research Infrastructure, Christopher Adda, will be in touch to discuss application requirements. This includes the Victoria-wide Expression of Interest process and the internal Case for Investment process. If you have any questions, please contact [Christopher Adda](#) or [Jarrad Cogle](#).

### **ARC Linkage Support Program - Notice of Intent**

The Grants Team are calling for Notices of Intent (NOI) from researchers who intend to submit an ARC Linkage Projects application in 2021 with La Trobe as the lead organisation. NOIs should be created in PRIME [here](#). NOIs are to be submitted by Wednesday 16 December 2020. Once you submit your NOI, the Grants Team will be in touch to discuss the support available at La Trobe and processes for submitting to the ARC. If you have any questions, please contact [Jarrad Cogle](#).

### **La Trobe University Major Initiatives – Notice of Intent**

Researchers interested in submitting an application for one of the schemes in the university’s Major Initiatives pipeline are invited to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) through PRIME. The Major Initiatives pipeline provides project support, peer review from senior colleagues to test and develop ideas, along with specialist grants advice.

The Major Initiatives pipeline covers the following funding schemes:

- ARC Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRH)
- ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC)
- NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence (CRE)

- NHMRC Synergy Grants
- Other major grant applications with a value of > \$1 million.

NOIs should be created in PRIME [here](#). NOIs are to be submitted by Monday 21 December 2020. Further information about the Major Initiatives pipeline can also be found by [clicking here](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Liam Connell](#).

November Grants Table

School/Centre	Funder & Scheme	Total funding applied
<b>College of Science, Health, and Engineering</b>		
College PVC (SHE) Office	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources - Women in STEM and entrepreneurship grants	\$261,618
La Trobe Rural Health School	MRFF - 2020 Clinical Trials - Rare Cancers, Rare Disease and Unmet Need	\$834,049
	MRFF – 2020 Primary Health Care Research	\$1,234,185
	NHMRC Targeted Call for Research – End of Life Care	\$592,648.00
School of Allied Health, Human & Sport	Australian Podiatry Education & Research Foundation – Research Grants	\$36,855
	Bayer Pharmaceuticals – Investigator Initiated Grants	\$90,566
School of Cancer Medicine	Melanoma Research Alliance - Established Investigator Award	\$370,958
	Melanoma Research Alliance - Young Investigator Award	\$321,022
	World Cancer Research Fund International - Investigator Initiated Grants	\$1,047,865
	World Cancer Research Fund International - Seed Grants	\$217,684
	MRFF - 2020 Clinical Trials - Rare Cancers, Rare Disease and Unmet Need	\$3,934,148
School of Engineering and Mathematical Science	Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology – ALTA Special Series Grant	\$14,547
School of Life Sciences	Mason Foundation – National Medical Program	\$269,047
	Future Drought Fund - NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants	\$174,940
School of Molecular Sciences	-	
School of Psychology and Public Health	MRFF - 2020 Clinical Trials - Rare Cancers, Rare Disease and Unmet Need	\$2,450,804
	NHMRC Targeted Call for Research – End of Life Care (3 applications)	\$2,472,647.20
School of Nursing and Midwifery	-	
<b>College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce</b>		
School of Humanities and Social Sciences	Academy of the Sciences in Australia – Australian-France Social Science Collaborative Research Program	\$5,000
	Wenner Gren Foundation – Post-PhD Research Grant	\$28,300
	VicHealth – Reimagining Health Grants	\$60,000
La Trobe Business School	Academy of the Sciences in Australia – Australian-France Social Science Collaborative Research Program	\$9,939
La Trobe Law School	-	
School of Education	-	