



**LA TROBE**  
UNIVERSITY

# LA TROBE RESEARCH



GENERAL ENQUIRIES  
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**December 2018**

## Research Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the December edition of the *Research Bulletin*. In this edition we have information on:

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All the best

Alistair Duncan, MaryAnne Aitken and Russell Hoye

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## La Trobe Staff Awards – Research Excellence Award Winners

**Dr Tiffani Howell** (School of Psychology and Public Health)

*College of Science, Health and Engineering, Early Career Researcher Award*

In recognition of Tiffani's work on dog behaviour and cognition, human-animal relationships, and animal welfare. Tiffani has produced high quality publications and also has been awarded significant external research income in the reporting period.

**Associate Professor Natasha Lannin** (School of Allied Health)

*College of Science, Health and Engineering, Mid Career Researcher Award*

In recognition of Natasha's extensive publication record, leadership of clinical trials and significant external funding particularly from NHMRC. Natasha also provides supervision and mentoring to allied health clinicians and students undertaking research projects in neurological rehabilitation.

**Dr Michael Livingston** (School of Psychology and Public Health)

*College of Science, Health and Engineering, Mid Career Researcher Award*

In recognition of Michael's work on Alcohol Policy and based on high impact and quality publications as well as significant competitive external research income

**Dr Lauren Gawne** (School of Humanities and Social Sciences)

*College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce, Early Career Researcher Award*

In recognition of Lauren's work conducting high-quality, innovative research that has an impact within her field of linguistics but also in other industries including education and popular entertainment. She has a strong record of securing research grant income and producing high quality research outputs.

**Dr Brooke Wilmsen** (School of Humanities and Social Sciences)

*College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce, Mid Career Researcher Award*

In recognition of Brooke's work on the impact of hydropower dams on the livelihoods of displaced communities and the application of her empirical research findings to policy debates on involuntary resettlement, displacement and migration. Her capacity to conduct high quality research is demonstrated by her strong publication record.

**Dr Daswin De Silva** (La Trobe Business School)

*College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce, Mid Career Researcher Award*

In recognition of Daswin's work in the Business School contributing to 'digital disruption' through significant research income; high impact, collaborative publications; and research supervision and leadership.

The University Research Excellence Award winner was:

**Dr Josephine Barbaro** from the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to La Trobe University and research excellence, by successfully developing and implementing the world's first, empirically-

based, autism surveillance mobile application, ASDetect, transforming early autism detection and intervention

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## **La Trobe Staff Awards - University Award for Customer Service Excellence winners**

**The Research Office Consulting and Contracts Team**, comprising: Christine Atzis , Adrian Cilmi, Justin Manzano, Min Chul Park, Amanda Smith, Phil Tang, Elizabeth Torney

The Consulting and Contracts Team have been a driving force improving turnaround times for contracts and increasing the success rate for tenders and proposals with industry partners. Through an enhanced service offering and improved processes, the team have implemented a successful partnership approach; driving change and revenue; and delivering customer service excellence.

Congratulations to all award winners and also to the Research Excellence nominees and the Customer Service Excellence nominees:

**Research Excellence nomination:** The Research Week working group who put together the La Trobe 2018 Research Week Event. Consisting of Gaby Bright, Rob Chong, Dora Horvath, Adele Marulli, Lise Leitner, Alex Lugg, Robert McMahon, Jody Simmons, Adnan Syed Muhammad, Tricia Van Der-Kuyp.

The Research Week Working Group is led by Rob Chong from Marketing and Recruitment, and consists of representatives from across the Research Portfolio and Colleges. Research Week is an opportunity for La Trobe University to celebrate and share its research excellence with our communities, networks and partners by featuring and showcasing the breadth and depth of research that we do. In line with the Australian Research Council's first Engagement and Impact exercise as part of its Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) assessment, this year's Research Week focus was on engagement and impact of our research, to demonstrate that our research connects not only the research community and industry research partners but also the community in which we aim to make a difference. The attendees for Research Week continue to grow year after year.

**Customer Service Excellence nomination:** For the Industrial Transformation Research Hub consisting of Alison Angelton, Caroline Bathje, Lindus Conlan, Laura Daniele, Adrea Gallo and Alex Lugg.

La Trobe researchers, and our collaboration partners, were awarded funding to establish an Australian Research Council (ARC) Industrial Transformation Research Hub (ITRH) in Medicinal Cannabis. The Research Hub in Medicinal Cannabis is a \$27 million+, five year initiative that aims to transform the production of plant-derived therapeutics into an integrated, national industry that spans primary produces and manufacturers. Staff in the Research Office and the Office of Industry Engagement worked together with colleagues in the School of Life Sciences, provided the researchers involved with extensive support in the development and preparation of the application, including liaison with partner organisations to secure commitments (both research and financial), budget preparation, landscape surveys, benefits analysis, proposal writing, and collaboration coordination.

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### **Highly Cited Researchers**

Congratulations to Associate Professor Phillip Bowman, Associate Professor Suresh Mathivanan, Professor Richard Simpson and Professor Jonathan Shaw who have all been recognised as 2018 Highly cited researchers. The 2018 Highly cited researchers list identifies the world's most influential scientists and social scientist who have demonstrated significant influence through publication of multiple highly cited papers during the last decade.

You can view the full list at the [Clarivate website](#).

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### **Academic profiles now available to graduate researchers**

As of the 12 December all graduate research candidates will have their own [Academic Profile](#). This is a great initiative for our graduate researchers that will significantly enhance their professional image within the wider research community.

The University will continue to provide support for all researchers in developing their digital identity and showcasing their research online, so that we can recognise and celebrate their

achievements.

This initiative now finalises the Academic Profiles Project implemented earlier this year as part of the [Program for Research Information Management Enablement \(PRIME\)](#) led by the Research Office in collaboration with ICT, the Graduate Research School and the Library. The outcome is proof of our continued commitment to enable sustainable improvement in student experience, research performance and research culture, through transforming the way we use, report, strategise, collaborate and innovate with our research information.

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## Research Infrastructure update

### Social Research Assistance Platform: call for applications

The [Social Research Assistance Platform](#) is now accepting funding support applications. The Platform provides individual researchers and teams engaged in research projects, or finalising book, chapter or journal publications with specific and specialised research support to facilitate effective completion. This round will close on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 with expected outcome by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. All funds must be used by the end of 2019.

For those who have their own funding, we also provide assistance to source the right research assistants (RAs) for your project. To date, we have assisted 30 researchers from across the University in sourcing and/or managing RAs for their respective projects. This service is available throughout the year. For further information visit the [Social Research Assistance Platform website](#)

### It's the right time to try La Trobe's Online Research Notebook!

Over the Christmas break, spend some time discovering the advantages of the [Online Research Notebook](#) for recording, organising and storing your research. The Notebook enables the digitisation of research from its inception - whether capturing ideas for a literary tome, designing an experiment or acquiring and linking research data. Powered by LabArchives, it can replace your paper research notebook or lab book allowing you to link all your data securely, and is suited to both research groups as well as individual researchers. It can be used for all research projects even if your raw data is stored elsewhere. Further information can be found on the [Digital Research website](#).

## **Comprehensive Proteomics Platform**

Do you need help understanding the proteome of your cells, determining the structure of your favourite protein or its interactions? The Proteomics Platform offers a comprehensive service and expertise that enables the identification and quantitation of biomolecules from complex mixtures through to structure determination and analysis of interactions, kinetics and thermodynamics. Core expertise in advanced experimental design, bioinformatics, and data analysis underpins the capabilities of the platform that will add value to, and accelerate, your research. Speak with Pierre, Harinda and the team today or visit the [Comprehensive Proteomics Platform website](#).

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## **Grants team update**

### **Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Training Centre application submitted**

The Industrial Transformation Training Centres scheme fosters close partnerships between university-based researchers and other research end-users to provide innovative Higher Degree by Research (HDR) and postdoctoral training, for end-user focused research industries that are vital to Australia's future. La Trobe submitted its first ARC ITTC on Wednesday 12 December. Outcomes for this scheme are expected in the third quarter of 2019

### **Australian Research Council Linkage Project and Future Fellowship applications**

14 Future Fellowship applications are to be submitted on 21 December, congratulations and best of luck to the researchers applying to this scheme.

The 2018 ARC Linkage Projects round closes on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018, and at time of writing we anticipate La Trobe will have submitted 6 proposals (noting that 2 have been submitted earlier in the year, due to the ARC's continuous assessment process for Linkages).

## **Grants outcomes for 2018**

### **Australian Research Council awards almost \$4 million to La Trobe researchers**

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has awarded \$3,890,388 across six Discovery Projects and four Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards (DECRA) to La Trobe Researchers.

Congratulations to the following Chief Investigators on their Discovery Project success:

- [Dr Keir Strickland](#) (School of Humanities and Social Sciences) – \$328,700
- [Dr Maria Kaparakis-Liaskos](#) (School of Life Sciences) – \$375,000
- [Dr Jennifer Power](#) (School of Psychology and Public Health) – \$318,000
- [Dr Erinna Lee](#) (School of Molecular Sciences/School of Cancer Medicine (Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute)) – \$400,000
- [Dr Marc Kvensakul](#) (School of Molecular Sciences) – \$412,000
- [Dr Patrick Humbert](#) (School of Molecular Sciences) – \$507,000

Congratulations to the following DECRA awardees:

- [Dr Anne-Marie Laslett](#) (School of Psychology and Public Health) – \$361,357
- [Dr Katherine Harrisson](#) (School of Life Sciences) – \$401,202
- [Dr Tatiana Soares da Costa](#) (School of Molecular Sciences) – \$419,854
- [Dr Amy Pennay](#) (School of Psychology and Public Health) – \$367,275

We also have a number of Investigators who have been successful in ARC projects led by external universities. Congratulations to these staff, and once again to all the researchers above.

### **La Trobe secures \$5.2m in the latest NHMRC funding announcement**

Eight La Trobe researchers will share in more than \$5.2 million in National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) research grants.

The last NHMRC grants for 2018 take the total awarded to La Trobe this year to almost \$14.8 million when combined with grants received from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).

Our continued success in being awarded these grants reflects the calibre of our researchers and a recognition of the world class research they are leading, and we are incredibly proud of our successful applicants:

### Project Grants

- [Dr Narelle Cox](#) - \$1,022,291 (School of Allied Health)
- [Professor Nicholas Taylor](#) - \$826,846 (School of Allied Health)
- [Dr Doug Fairlie](#) - \$463,058 (Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute-La Trobe School of Cancer Medicine)
- [Professor Kay Crossley](#) - \$1,413,077 (School of Allied Health)
- [Associate Professor Helena Richardson](#) - \$789,984 (La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science)
- [Professor Cheryl Dissanayake](#) - \$473,474 (School of Psychology and Public Health)

### Postgraduate Scholarships

- [Louisa Walsh](#) - \$111,974 (Centre for Health Communication and Participation)
- [Sally Coburn](#) - \$111,974 (School of Allied Health)

Congratulations to all our successful grant recipients, and you can read more about their research and projects in La Trobe's [media release](#).

Congratulations also to the two La Trobe researchers who have been awarded fellowships under the Medical Research Future Fund Next Generation Clinical Researchers Program Translating Research into Practice scheme:

- [Associate Professor Jodi Oakman](#) - \$181,066 (School of Psychology and Public Health)
- [Dr Katherine Harding](#) - \$181,066 (School of Allied Health)

La Trobe researchers have also been awarded grants from the Heart Foundation, Cancer Council Victoria and the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

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## New Research Centre

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a new Research Centre at La Trobe as part of the Research Centres Strategic Framework.

### Biomedical and Environmental Sensors Technology Research Centre

The Biomedical and Environmental Sensors Technology (BEST) Research Centre is led by Associate Professor Conor Hogan and is headquartered in the Department of Chemistry and Physics, in the School of Molecular Sciences.

The Centre aims to facilitate world-leading interdisciplinary research into new sensing and imaging technologies to meet the major challenges currently facing our society in Climate, Energy, Health and Manufacturing.

By establishing important linkages with industry, the Centre will become a flagship for translation, providing avenues for commercialisation of the extensive cutting-edge fundamental research currently undertaken across La Trobe University.

w: [latrobe.edu.au/researchers](https://latrobe.edu.au/researchers) | e: [researchoffice@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:researchoffice@latrobe.edu.au)

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