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December 2018

> from the University of South Australia



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Thousands of Australians can take heart as new research from UniSA shows a dairy-enhanced Mediterranean diet will significantly increase health outcomes for those at risk of cardiovascular disease – and it's even more effective than a low-fat diet. [more](#)



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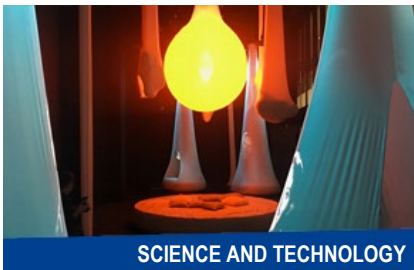
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UniSA welcomes a powerhouse in space partnership

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by Candy Gibson



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Federal Government's announcement that the Australian Space Agency will be based in Adelaide is outstanding news for South Australia and its university sector, according to UniSA's Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research, [Professor Tanya Monro](#).

Adelaide beat strong competition from other states to secure the headquarters, which will be based at Lot Fourteen, the former Royal Adelaide Hospital site, which is being transformed into an innovation precinct.

Prof Monro says the decision will strengthen South Australia's long and proud history in space technology and further the State's expertise and international collaborations associated with space education, business and innovation

Space Industry Research

Find out about UniSA's space expertise.

"We are hopeful that this announcement will also strengthen our bid for one of the largest Cooperative Research Centres in Australian history to develop smart satellites, a \$200 million bid being led by UniSA and engaging almost 70 partners.

"Not everyone would realise just how much [space-related research and expertise](#) is based here and the strong relationships we have with industries engaged in the development of leading-edge space industry technologies, including satellite systems and their applications.

"At UniSA we have been working in space science dating back to the 1990s with the [Institute of Telecommunications Research](#), our role in the launch of [FedSat](#) in 2002 and our longstanding partnership with the [International Space University](#), which holds its summer education program at UniSA every year. "And in the past few years we have been instrumental in supporting the development of high potential start-ups like UniSA

spinout company [Myriota](#), which is developing small satellite technologies for the coming global transformation that the Internet of Things will deliver.”

Building on space-related education and research

UniSA Vice Chancellor [Professor David Lloyd](#) says UniSA has built a strong reputation in space-related education and research in the past 20 years, particularly in the fields of satellite engineering, operations and applications.

“In July, we also announced a [new program](#) (Venture Catalyst Space) in partnership with the State Government to support start-ups and entrepreneurs to enter the growing space industry market. With Adelaide now taking centre stage as home of Australia’s new Space Agency, this program will – without doubt – encourage huge interest in the years ahead.”

Since 2004, UniSA has been running the [Southern Hemisphere Space Studies](#) program in collaboration with the International Space University, which has gone from strength to strength.

“And in 2017 we teamed up with the University of Adelaide to develop one of 50 CubeSats as part of the global QB50 initiative, one of four Australian satellites to be built over 15 years,” Prof Lloyd says.

“Australia’s space industry is estimated to be worth about 0.8 per cent of the global space market. With Adelaide in the box seat, the State – and UniSA – will play a significant role in boosting this revenue stream to around 1.8 per cent on current projections,” Prof Lloyd says.

UniSA Dean of Research and Industry [Professor Andy Koronios](#) says the location of the Space Agency in South Australia will enhance UniSA’s contribution to the space industry through its leadership in a proposed Cooperative Research Centre in intelligent satellite systems ([SmartSat](#)) which it is co-leading with Nova Systems.

“This CRC, if successful, will be a national collaboration of researchers and industry,” Prof Koronios says. “The bid has already attracted more than 70 participants, who have committed nearly \$200 million to develop game-changing technologies and help the Space Agency to build the Australian space industry and deliver wealth for the whole nation.”

The [Australian Space Agency](#) will be located in Adelaide by mid-2019 and employ 20 full-time equivalent staff.

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Breast screening vastly reduces risk of cancer death

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by Candy Gibson



HEALTH

Women who undertake regular breast screening checks have a 60 per cent lower risk of dying from breast cancer within 10 years of diagnosis, new research shows.

A study of 50,000 women by a team of international researchers, including UniSA cancer epidemiologist [Dr Kerri Beckmann](#), provides conclusive evidence that women whose breast cancer is diagnosed because of regular mammograms, respond much better to treatment due to early detection.

The research, published in the journal [Cancer](#), used international data to compare breast cancer outcomes of women enrolled in organised breast screening programs over the past 39 years with those who were not.

Researchers say that while all women with breast cancer have benefitted from advances in treatment, there is overwhelming evidence in favour of regular mammograms where mortality is concerned.

Dr Kerri Beckmann, a joint UniSA and King's College London NHMRC Research Fellow, says the benefits of regular screening are also evident within 20 years of diagnosis, with a 47 per cent lower risk of dying from breast cancer.

The study involved 52,348 women aged 40-69 years in Sweden during 39 years of screening. All patients received stage-specific treatment according to the latest national guidelines, irrespective of how the breast cancer was detected.

“Our findings show that women who choose not to participate in screening experience a significantly higher rate of advanced breast cancers, a greater need for more extensive surgery, a much higher risk of upper body impairments and more extensive radiotherapy and chemotherapy,” Dr Beckmann says.

“For each breast cancer death prevented by screening, a woman is spared the terminal stages of this disease and gains an extra 16.5 years. It is time we focused on combining diagnosis and therapy instead of viewing them as independent, or worse, competing interests.”

In Australia, [free breast cancer screening](#) is offered to all women aged between 50 and 74 years, every two years.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Australia, with an estimated 18,000 women and 148 men diagnosed in 2018. While survival rates have improved markedly in the past decade with 91 per cent of patients surviving at least five years, breast cancer still accounts for around 6.5 per cent of all deaths from cancer.

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Keep slapping on that sunscreen and ignore toxic claims

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by Candy Gibson



HEALTH

Watch the news report on [7 News Adelaide](#).

It's safe to slap on the sunscreen this summer – in repeated doses – despite what you have read about the potential toxicity of sunscreens.

A new [study](#) led by UniSA and the University of Queensland (UQ) provides the first direct evidence that zinc oxide nanoparticles used in sunscreen neither penetrate the skin nor cause cellular toxicity after repeated applications.

The research, published in the [Journal of Investigative Dermatology](#), refutes widespread claims among some public advocacy groups – and a growing belief among consumers – about the safety of nanoparticulate-based sunscreens.

UniSA and UQ lead investigator, [Professor Michael Roberts](#), says the myth about sunscreen toxicity took hold after previous animal studies found much higher skin absorption of zinc-containing sunscreens than in human studies.

“There were concerns that these zinc oxide nanoparticles could be absorbed into the epidermis, with toxic consequences, including DNA damage,” Prof Roberts says.

The toxicity link was picked up by consumers, sparking fears that Australians could reduce their sunscreen use, echoed by a Cancer Council 2017 National Sun Protection Survey showing a drop in the number of people who believed it was safe to use sunscreens every day.

Prof Roberts and his co-researchers in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Germany studied the safety of repeated applications of zinc oxide nanoparticles applied to five volunteers aged 20-30 years.

Volunteers applied the ZnO nanoparticles every hour for six hours on five consecutive days.

“Using superior imaging methods, we established that the nanoparticles remained within the superficial layers of the skin and did not cause any cellular damage,” Prof Roberts says.

“We hope that these findings help improve consumer confidence in these products and in turn lead to better sun protection. The terrible consequences of skin cancer and skin damage caused by prolonged sun exposure are much greater than any toxicity posed by approved sunscreens.”

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INSIDE UNISA

In the famous short story by Washington Irving (coming up now for 200 years old – so not exactly pop culture – it doesn't even have a DeLorean in it) Rip Van Winkle lay down and slept for 20 years. He missed a whole chunk of American history while he dozed, including the birth of a nation through revolution. Now, while I sometimes feel like I could sleep for a year (usually on Thursdays), I think that if that was to happen, given our rate of pace in UniSA, the place I woke up in would be totally unrecognisable.

Just look at the year we've had.

Our best ever performance in research. [Pridham Hall](#), [Samsung SmartSchool](#) and the [UniSA Cancer Research Institute](#) facilities opened. Our highest ever enrolments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. [MOD](#), welcoming over 50,000 visitors in just its first four months. International recognition and ranking for many of our key subject areas. A new [stretch RAP](#). A [\\$450,000,000 software grant](#) from Siemens.

And ... the M word (rhymes with ... what does it rhyme with?).

A [new Chancellor](#). A new council-approved [strategy](#) and path forward out to 2025. Certainly 2018 was never dull, not for a second.

So what about 2019? Well, we begin the journey of [Enterprise25](#) in earnest. Our plan is to invest in the core business of the university – teaching and research – and through focus, lift our game even further. We'll see some changes at SMG early on and later in how we organise ourselves as a university.

On that, in early 2019, we'll be putting together some of the biggest representative focus groups we've ever assembled – involving around 300 staff, academic and professional, across all levels of the organisation – to come together and workshop our E25 structures for the future. A physical jam where we'll engineer our new academic enterprise together, before bringing the output back for whole of university consultation and refinement. This exercise in co-creation reflects the UniSA culture we value so much.

An open expression of interest call for this process and more details on what we hope to achieve and how we will set about doing it will issue early in the New Year, so watch this space.

Through Enterprise25 we will see the logical alignment of cognate activities in the university, so that we can concentrate on the construction and delivery of great programs for our students and great research for our end users and partners. Our professional services will map to the teaching, research and corporate functions of the organisation. Reporting, KPIs, roles and responsibilities will all be clear and joined up and teaching and research will be central to all that we do. We will make some very big investments in human capital – our people – and we will hold true to our [Crossing the Horizon](#) undertaking to only hire great staff. Then we'll match our physical infrastructure to our needs and provide a great environment for our students and our staff.

We'll cement our standing as Australia's University of Enterprise and one of the world's very best young universities – by any measure.

We will have plenty going on in 2019 and beyond to keep us busy. So please, do have a great break over the Christmas period, rest and relax secure in the knowledge that you've contributed to another outstanding year for UniSA and the New Year will doubtless bring us all new opportunities and rewards.

Thank you for making 2018 a year to remember.

To you and yours, I wish you all the very best. Enjoy.

David

P.S. If you do wake up in 2020 after a very long and restful sleep and everything looks different – don't panic. It's all good.

Professor David Lloyd
Vice Chancellor and President

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ACHIEVEMENTS

STEM engineer Dr Melanie MacGregor named a 'superstar' of science

UniSA scientist [Dr Melanie MacGregor](#) has been named a "Superstar of STEM" for her ground-breaking work to help develop a diagnostic device for bladder cancer.

Dr MacGregor is among 60 female scientists recognised nationally by [Science & Technology Australia](#) to celebrate the country's most inspiring women working in STEM, who are smashing the stereotype of "an old man in a white lab coat".

The 33-year-old has led a team of scientists, engineers and doctors in developing a commercial, non-invasive microfluidic device to diagnose bladder cancer and potentially save thousands of lives each year.

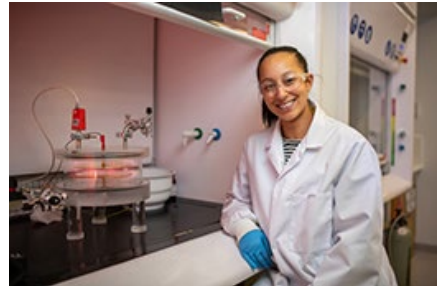
Dr MacGregor, a Santos-UCL Research Fellow at UniSA's [Future Industries Institute](#), is renowned for her work in materials nano-design, building tiny devices using plasma coatings to capture cancer cells, grow stem cells and to help recover oil and gas for the mining sector.

Dr MacGregor earned her Master of Chemical Engineering in France before moving to Australia in 2008 as an intern. She is now an Australian citizen, has completed her PhD, married, and started a family.

The quality of her research, innovation and science communication has been recognised through several awards, including the 2017 Winnovation awards in the Engineering category, a 2018 Young Tall Poppy Science Award and the 2013 Ian Wark Medal for best PhD thesis.

UniSA Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation, [Professor Tanya Monro](#), says Dr MacGregor is "an outstanding young scientist, who is undertaking game-changing research into the future of engineering and inspiring the next generation to pursue science".

"Since joining UniSA in 2008, Melanie has excelled, first as a student and now a researcher specialising in an exciting new field that combines engineering, chemistry, physics and biology," Prof Monro says.



Future Industries Institute Research Fellow Dr Melanie MacGregor.

UniSA researchers win \$11.95 million for health projects

Twelve UniSA researchers have collectively been awarded almost \$12 million from the [National Health and Medical Research Council](#) (NHMRC) for projects in 2019 which tackle Australia's most serious health challenges.

Among the successful applicants is [Professor Alex Brown](#), who will use a \$2.5 million grant to develop and deliver a model of culturally-appropriate health and social services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in order to improve social and emotional wellbeing and chronic disease outcomes.

Prof Brown, a Deputy Director of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) and global leader in Aboriginal health, says "the award is recognition of the critical role that social factors play in driving disparate health outcomes for Aboriginal individuals, families and communities".

"Only if we can adequately deal with some of the root causes of chronic conditions like diabetes, can we hope to see meaningful improvements in the lives of our people," he says.

Funding has also been awarded for continuing research into cancer, dementia, obesity, kidney disease and melanoma.

UniSA's other successful applicants for the 2019 project grants include:

- [Professor Sharad Kumar](#): \$751,653 to investigate the impact of dietary salt on kidney disease severity and how a lack of a specific protein called Nedd4-2 leads to kidney disease; and \$422,127 to better understand how cancer cells survive and can be targeted;
- [Dr Tasha Stanton](#): \$1.19 million to pilot a new pain-relieving treatment for people with knee osteoarthritis;
- [Associate Professor Nicole Pratt](#): \$1.16 million to investigate the use and safety of biologic medicines (immune-based drugs made inside living cells) and their potential side effects;
- [Dr Christopher Hahn](#): \$1.3 million to use new DNA sequencing techniques to screen families with genetic mutations and explore their role in blood cancers such as leukaemia and lymphoma;
- [Associate Professor Claudine Bonder](#): \$805,249 to help control the spread of melanoma cells in the body and provide new options to combat skin cancer;
- [Dr Philip Gregory](#): \$782,078 to explore the role of an RNA splicing protein called QKI-5 in driving the spread of prostate cancer;
- [Associate Professor Carol Maher](#): \$737,127 to tackle Australia's obesity crisis, tracking obese adults over 12 months to find out high-risk times for weight gain and the impact of diet, lifestyle, exercise, culture and sleeping patterns on weight;
- [Associate Professor Paul Anderson](#): \$681,653 to develop a drug that prevents Vitamin D degradation and use it to treat bone disorders associated with chronic kidney disease;
- [Professor Elina Hypponen](#): \$447,599 to identify metabolic pathways which lead to dementia and to develop new prevention strategies and drugs to target the disease;
- [Professor Benjamin Thierry](#): \$432,192 to use immuno-PET imaging to detect metastatic deposits in regional lymph nodes in head and neck cancer, sparing patients unnecessary surgery and improving treatment.

UniSA's success rate for NHMRC project applications this year was 21.67 per cent, compared to a national average of 17.29 per cent, a result applauded by UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd.

"These projects demonstrate the breadth and depth of research at UniSA in areas that have been identified as the most crucial health issues facing Australia," Prof Lloyd says.

"Winning NHMRC grants is incredibly competitive and requires world-class research with the best chances of success, focusing on the most pressing health challenges in society. It is an extremely good result for our researchers and we are proud of their achievements."

UniSA pharmacy researcher awarded \$2.5m to develop better skin products

UniSA pharmaceutical expert [Professor Michael Roberts](#) has been awarded \$AUS2.5 million by the United States' leading food and drug agency to help develop superior dermatological products.

Prof Roberts, an NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow, is affiliated with both UniSA and the University of Queensland (UQ), with each institution playing a large role in two projects, announced in November by the [US Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#).

The UniSA-led project, worth \$1.79 million, will focus on gaining a better understanding of how variations in topical drug composition can influence how well they are absorbed into the skin.

The other UQ-led \$687,000 project, in collaboration with UniSA and one of the world's leading drug development companies, [Certa](#), will investigate how different products interact with different skin types.

"A key goal is to accurately predict how specific skin products perform and therefore reduce the costs of any clinical trials in future," Prof Roberts says.

Prof Roberts is Research Chair in Therapeutics and Pharmaceutical Science at UniSA, and Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Queensland.

The UniSA grant will be managed by [Dr Lorraine Mackenzie](#), Research Manager in UniSA's School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, with input from Dr Azadeh Alinaghi, Dr Amy Holmes, Dr Tom Robertson and Associate Professor John van der Hoek.

Prof Roberts is one of only a handful of researchers from outside the United States who have won funding this year from the FDA, which awarded 23 international collaborative research grants in November.

UniSA Adjunct Fellow sworn in as Adelaide's new Lord Mayor

In late November [Sandy Verschoor](#) was sworn in as the 63rd Lord Mayor of Adelaide – only the third female to fill the role in the council's 178-year-history and the first in almost 20 years.

Vershoor is an Adjunct Fellow in UniSA's School of Management, serving as a guest lecturer across tourism and arts management programs and using her extensive professional network to foster connections between industry and the university.

Her wide-ranging experience and insight have made Vershoor a valuable part of the School of Management team, and she will apply the same talents to the Lord Mayor role, driving creativity and innovation in Adelaide.

"I would like to think we could be the epicentre for screen industries and food and wine culture," she says. "We are already punching well above our weight. It's about bringing the right people together at the right time."

Vice Chancellor recognises top eight PhD candidates

Eight of UniSA's top PhD candidates were presented scholarships at a special ceremony in November.

The [Vice Chancellor and President's Scholarships](#) are awarded to the top two commencing PhD candidates from each of the four divisions, valued at \$10,000 each in support of their research projects.

UniSA Information Technology & Mathematical Sciences PhD candidate [Vu Viet Hoang Pham](#) says the scholarship will further his research to personalise medicine for cancer patients to increase their chances of survival.

"Cancer is a fatal disease which causes a high rate of death worldwide," Hoang says.

"The funding will allow me to attend a symposium about cancer data by [The Cancer Genome Atlas \(TCGA\) network](#)."



Recipients of the UniSA Vice Chancellor and President's Scholarship with Professor David Lloyd at the awardees' morning tea.

Candidates' research needs to demonstrate the objectives of the [Transformed PhD](#) (tPhD) program including engaging with end users from government, industry or the community, working with the support of a supervisory panel, and undertaking skills development opportunities.

"My project is shaped to produce real-world results and will help to understand the needs of the industry and broaden my network," Hoang says.

The scholarships allow recipients to gain a global perspective by connecting them with other researchers worldwide and to attend international programs.

Fellow UniSA scholarship recipient Ramin Hassankhani Gharagozlou is excited to take his cancer research abroad — developing communication with researchers and scientists overseas.

UniSA Urban and Regional Planning PhD candidate Thi Minh Phoung Nguyen says she's grateful for the travel opportunities granted by the scholarship.

"I will travel to collect data and meet end-users in both New York and Melbourne," Minh says.

Recipients have an ambassadorial role in promoting the significance of their research as well as UniSA's tPhD program.

UniSA Commerce PhD candidate [Christa Viljoen](#) says the scholarship links PhD candidates with leading scholars in both Australia and overseas.

"The funding will allow me to reach older women in remote and rural areas to obtain more complete and comprehensive results," Christa says.

Candidates who meet the eligibility criteria to apply for the Vice Chancellor and President's Scholarship will be identified by the University and invited to apply in June 2019, with applications closing 31 July 2019.

UniSA produces top tourism student of 2018

UniSA student Catherine Hughes was named the South Australian Tourism Student of the Year at the [2018 SA Tourism Awards](#), collecting her prize during a gala event at the Adelaide Convention Centre in November.

Catherine is the president of USASA's [Tourism and Event Management Club](#) and is studying a double degree, combining Bachelor of Business (Tourism and Event Management) and Bachelor of Business (Marketing).

Originally from Mypolonga, a small town on the banks of the lower Murray River, Catherine's passion for tourism is strongly influenced by her regional upbringing and she is interested in developing international opportunities for ecotourism and destination marketing.

The award is recognition of the passion and commitment Catherine has demonstrated within her field, including undertaking a student exchange to the University of Strathclyde, during which she visited nine European nations to study their tourism industries.



UniSA student Catherine Hughes (centre) receives the South Australian Tourism Student of the Year award at the 2018 SA Tourism Awards.

Business graduate named top financial planning student

UniSA business graduate Mary Hadgis has been named Australia's top financial planning student.

The Financial Planning Association of Australia (FPA) presented Hadgis with the University Student of the Year Award at its annual conference in Sydney.

The award recognises Hadgis's academic achievements and commitment to forging her own path in her career as a financial planner.

Hadgis says her passion is helping people, and financial planning allows her to pursue this by guiding clients to achieve their monetary goals.

"I aspire to be the best possible planner I can be and put my skills to good use in order to put people in a better position," she says.

"I am incredibly grateful and honoured to accept this award.



"This acknowledgement is a strong foundation for my development within an industry I hope to make a name for myself in."

Hadgis credits supportive lecturers throughout her [Bachelor of Business](#) for fostering her academic success.

"UniSA has been exceptional in providing advice, support and opportunities for me to get the best possible outcomes and experiences from my time in university," she says.

"I have had some of the most dedicated and passionate lecturers which have stimulated my mind and passion for finance."

Hadgis hopes to complement her skills with postgraduate studies in the future and eventually obtain her Certified Financial Planner credentials.

UniSA researchers awarded \$2.9 million in ARC grants

Seven UniSA researchers have collectively been awarded \$2.9 million by the [Australian Research Council](#) to further their work in a range of areas, from manufacturing to workplace stress, fetal health and fibre optics.

The successful 2019 [ARC Discovery Project](#) recipients are:

- [Professor Janna Morrison](#), \$550,000 grant to investigate the complex delivery of oxygen and glucose to the fetal brain, hopefully leading to new tools for monitoring and supporting fetal development;
- [Professor Maureen Dollard](#), \$480,000 grant to examine the impact of email load on the wellbeing of employees, including work pressure, health, sleep and recovery;
- [Dr Hong Lee](#), \$404,000 grant to develop a statistical model which can be applied to a wide range of genome data sets with applications for multiple industries;
- [Dr Cameron Bracken](#), \$402,000 grant to investigate how microRNAs control gene expression and regulation;
- [Associate Professor Ivan Kempson](#), \$400,000 grant to better understand how our ecosystem can be fundamentally impacted by nanoscale materials;
- [Associate Professor Terence Chan](#), \$370,000 grant to improve fibre optic communication speed and capacity in Australia;
- [Professor Susan Luckman](#), \$333,000 grant to map how craft skills can be embedded in industry as Australia looks to develop high-end advanced manufacturing industries.

UniSA's success rate for the Discovery Projects was 22.6 per cent, slightly above the national average of 22.4 per cent, with 653 applications approved across the country from 2921 submitted.

2018 UniSA teaching award recipients

Staff from across UniSA have been recognised for excellence in teaching through the 2018 UniSA Teaching Awards.

The annual awards cover two categories.

2018 Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (Digital Learning)

Team Lt UniSA: Prof Sandra Orgeig; Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence; Dr Sarah List; Assoc Prof Gabrielle Todd; Dr Bronwen Mayo; Dr Andrea Stringer – School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences

For the creation and implementation of innovative resources to deliver a digitally-enriched health science curriculum to improve student engagement, outcomes and learning experience.

Dr Sandra Barker – School of Management

For sustained leadership in the use of digital technologies to deliver engaging and digitally rich student learning environments and innovative teaching approaches.

2018 Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

Dr Amie Albrecht – School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences

For innovative course design and teaching that fosters a climate of exploration in which students develop a richer understanding of mathematics.

Hannah Harvey – School of Education

For innovation to develop and sustain interactive, experiential learning activities across courses in an Education program, for the purpose of enhancing practical skills in graduates.

Program Director team: Dr Sarah Hattam; Tanya Weiler; Tristan King – UniSA College

For sustained leadership of tutor professional development in inclusive and enabling pedagogy to enhance teaching at UniSA College.

Academic Integrity Officer team: Tamra Ulpen; Dr Anthea Fudge; Dr Snjezana Bilic – UniSA College

For the development of supportive resources to enhance student learning of academic integrity (AI) which has influenced a significant reduction of AI cases at UniSA College.

Professor of Education recognised in Pride of Australia awards

[Distinguished Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney](#) from UniSA's School of Education has received a [2018 SA Pride of Australia Award](#) for his immense contribution to Indigenous education spanning the past two decades.

One of five recipients, the awards acknowledge community-minded South Australians whose work has helped or saved others.

Prof Rigney is a nationally and internationally recognised expert in Aboriginal education and has led numerous research teams in policy development for agencies such as the United Nations and the Office of the South Australian Premier.

A descendant of the Narungga, Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri peoples of South Australia, Prof Rigney has worked in Aboriginal education for more than 20 years.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Idle now a UniSA honorary doctor

British comedian, filmmaker, musician and member of the Monty Python creative team, Eric Idle, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from UniSA in late November.

The award was presented during a special event, ABC science presenter Robyn Williams In Conversation with Eric Idle, at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Born in the UK in 1943, Idle attended Pembroke College, Cambridge to study English. He became president of the university's Footlights Dramatic Club where he met some of the team who would become co-writers and performers in Monty Python's Flying Circus – Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Graham Chapman, John Cleese and Terry Gilliam.

Pursuing his career after Monty Python, Idle has appeared in 28 television production in the US and the UK, six stage shows and contributed as a writer, actor and/or voice artist in 37 films.

UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd says he is delighted to welcome such an enormous creative talent to the University community.

"There is no greater gift than to be able to make people laugh, and to do that with the wit that Eric does in his music and his comedy, is something special," Prof Lloyd says.

"His career has been forged through the pursuit of a driving creativity. Curious, insightful, communicative, he continues to seize every opportunity to think, write and perform and to share with us his marvellous passion for life with all of its ironies."

UniSA commits to cultural change with Aboriginal action plans

UniSA is working to become an employer of choice for Aboriginal peoples as part of a new Aboriginal Employment Action Plan.

UniSA's new Aboriginal Employment Action Plan (AEAP) for 2018-2021, [Yaitya Warpulai Tappa](#) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander work path), builds on the [Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan](#), [Enterprise25](#) and University Australia's Indigenous Strategy 2017-2020.

The plan contains four overarching commitments:



For 3 per cent of the University's workforce to be Aboriginal people by 2025;

- To position UniSA as an employer of choice for Aboriginal people by 2025;
- to develop UniSA as a culturally competent University; and
- to build a connected community, sharing knowledges and ways of seeing and knowing so all staff thrive.

Professor Bruce Pascoe, acclaimed Aboriginal historian, writer and academic, delivered the keynote address at the launch.

UniSA was the first South Australian university to have a [Reconciliation Action Plan](#), to advance reconciliation across the organisation; and the first to develop a [Stretch RAP](#).

The [Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (Stretch RAP) was officially launched at a special event at Pridham Hall in November. See the [In Pictures](#) section of UniSA News for photos from the event.

The Stretch RAP supports Aboriginal students to achieve success by providing a culturally safe and appropriate environment — and shows UniSA's dedication to a two-way relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

UniSA researchers meet the Australian of the Year

A number of UniSA's early career researchers got to meet and talk to Professor of Quantum Physics and 2018 Australian of the Year Professor Michelle Simmons, at a recent event organised by UniSA.

The breakfast event with Professor Simmons was hosted by Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation [Professor Tanya Monro](#), who was [SA Australian of the Year in 2011](#).

In addition, UniSA sponsored the [Australian of the Year Luncheon](#), which also took place in late November at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Prof Simmons was the keynote speaker at the event, which was attended by hundreds of people.

One of the world's top scientists, Prof Simmons has pioneered research that could lead to a quantum leap in computing.



Professor Michelle Simmons and Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation Professor Tanya Monro.

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Yes please to yoghurt and cheese: The new improved Mediterranean diet

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by Annabel Mansfield



HEALTH

Thousands of Australians can take heart as new [research](#) from UniSA shows a dairy-enhanced [Mediterranean diet](#) will significantly increase health outcomes for those at risk of cardiovascular disease – and it's even more effective than a low-fat diet.

Cardiovascular disease is the [single leading cause of death in Australia](#), affecting 4.2 million Australians and killing one Australian every 12 minutes. Low-fat diets are often recommended as suitable food plans for those seeking to reduce their risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

Similarly, the Mediterranean diet (MedDiet) has been shown to deliver significant health benefits.

In a UniSA study published by the [American Journal of Clinical Nutrition](#), researchers compared the health benefits of a MedDiet supplemented with two to three serves of dairy each day, and a generic low-fat diet.

The results show that the dairy-supplemented MedDiet (MedDairy) significantly improved blood pressure, heart rate, cholesterol, mood and cognitive function.

PhD candidate [Alexandra Wade](#) says the new MedDairy diet challenges popular perceptions of what is considered healthy.

"The MedDiet is fast earning a reputation as the world's healthiest diet and is renowned for delivering improved cardiovascular and cognitive health," Wade says.

"But it's also higher in fat, which can be a deterrent for people seeking to adopt a healthier eating plan, especially if they don't realise the difference between healthy and unhealthy fats.

"In Australia, low-fat diets are often recommended for improving heart health and they are still perceived as being

healthy.

“This study shows that the new dairy-supplemented Mediterranean diet works better than a generic low-fat diet, ensuring better health outcomes for people at risk of cardiovascular disease.”

Importantly, the MedDairy diet also meets additional calcium requirements recommended by Australia’s national health bodies.

What’s in a Mediterranean diet?

A typical MedDiet includes extra virgin olive oil, fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, legumes, wholegrain breads, pastas and cereals, moderate consumption of fish and red wine, and low consumption of red meat, sweet and processed foods. It also includes 1-2 servings of dairy foods (700-820mg calcium), which is less than half the dairy recommended by the [Australian National Health and Medical Research Council](#) (NHMRC) for older Australians.

“Living in Australia, we have different dietary requirements, notably a need for more calcium to protect against osteoporosis,” Wade says.

“These needs are unmet in the traditional MedDiet, which makes it difficult for people to adopt in the long term.

“This study delivers healthier options for Australians by tailoring the nutrients in the MedDiet to meet the needs of a non-Mediterranean population.

“In Australia, women up to age 50 years – and men up to age 70 years – should consume 1000mg per day of calcium per day and 1300mg thereafter, which is roughly between 3.5 and 4.5 serves a day.

“The new MedDairy diet allows for three to four servings with dairy, which means Australians can more sustainably meet their recommended daily nutrient intakes while also maintaining the significant health benefits offered through the MedDiet.

“When it comes down to it, people want to be able to enjoy a colourful, tasty and nutritious diet. And if you’re one of the thousands of people seeking to improve your cardiovascular and cognitive health – look no further than the MedDairy diet.”

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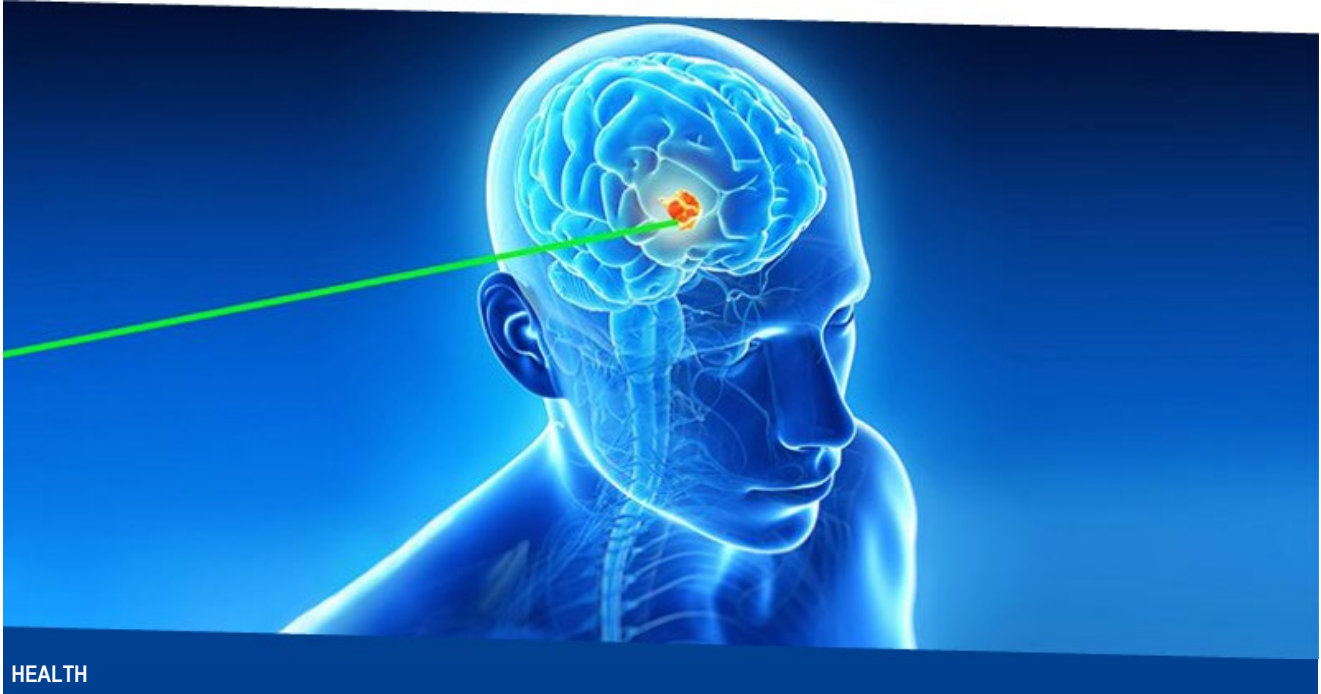
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Adelaide's historic link to X-ray discovery comes full circle

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by Candy Gibson



Tumours can be precisely targeted with proton beam therapy without damaging the surrounding tissue. Credit: HZDR / AIFilm

In 2021, the first proton therapy unit in the southern hemisphere will open in Adelaide. The treatment will revolutionise cancer therapy in Australia, says UniSA Professor of Medical Radiation, [Eva Bezak](#).

In November 2018, a US court awarded more than \$25 million to the family of a brain cancer patient who died after being denied proton beam therapy (PBT) by her health insurer, despite its recommendation by her doctors.

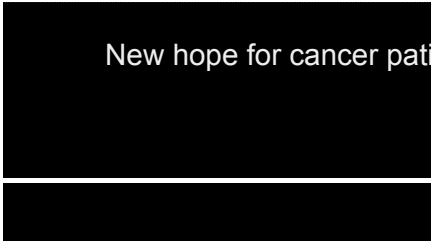
The reason given by the insurer for refusing to fund the treatment was that it was “experimental”. A jury found otherwise, endorsing PBT as effective and medically necessary in this instance.

The court finding and the growing acceptance of PBT for cancers with limited treatment options hopefully means that [Orrana Cunningham's](#) death was not in vain.

Certainly, in the US and UK, demand for the treatment – particularly for paediatric cancer patients – is increasing, with 27 proton therapy centres now operating in the United States and two in the United Kingdom.

Australia is yet to enter the PBT field, but this will change in 2021 when the first proton therapy unit in the southern hemisphere opens in Adelaide.

UniSA Professor of Medical Radiation, Eva Bezak, says the [Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy](#) will



Professor Eva Bezak talks about the impact proton therapy will have for cancer patients when it opens in 2021.

consolidate Adelaide's position as the leading biomedical science cluster south of the equator.

The unit is expected to throw a lifeline to about 500 cancer patients in Australia whose treatment options are limited on home soil.

"Proton therapy is especially appropriate for eye or brain tumours and a far more preferable option for children with cancer," she says.

Proton beam therapy spares healthy tissues

Unlike conventional x-ray (photon) therapy, proton beam therapy directly targets tumours and cancer cells, delivering optimal radiation doses to the tumour while limiting the effects on the surrounding healthy tissues.

"Protons are designed to deposit radiation at the actual site of the cancerous tissue, sparing both the healthy tissues at the shallower depth and those surrounding the tumour.

"X-ray therapy, on the other hand, while cheap and effective in killing the cancer cells, exposes larger volumes of healthy tissues to radiation."

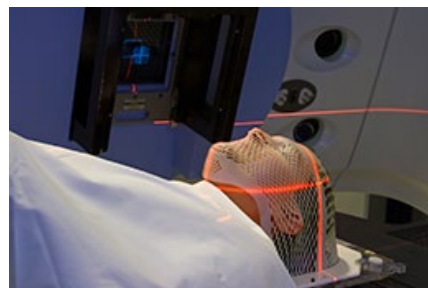
While both are forms of radiotherapy, photon (x-ray) beams interact differently with matter and human living cells, depositing most of the radiation at a shallow depth and gradually losing energy until they reach the targeted site. As they leave the patient's body, they continue to emit radiation, harming healthy tissue.

Protons are charged particles which enter the body very fast and deposit only a small dose along the way, gradually increasing with greater depth and lower speed, rising to a peak when the proton stops.

This is known as the Bragg peak – named after [Sir William Henry Bragg](#), who discovered it in 1903 while working in Adelaide.

This historic link – with Bragg founding a new branch of science in the very city in which proton therapy will make its national debut – is significant, Prof Bezak says.

The Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy will be housed on North Terrace in a new site earmarked for development next to the SAHMRI building.



Proton beam therapy

"The PBT will change the way we deliver cancer treatment to children especially. The treatment is less invasive, it reduces overall toxicity, there will be reduced chance of patients getting second cancers with proton therapy and fewer side effects than with conventional radiation treatment.

"Children's cells are more vulnerable to radiation damage than adults and proton beam therapy is less likely to lead to growth reduction, cognitive impairments and other complications later in life."

Apart from paediatric cancers, proton therapy is also the preferred treatment option for cancers located close to the eye, brain stem, or spinal cord and others where conventional radiotherapy is riskier, Prof Bezak says.

Prof Bezak has recently co-authored a [paper](#) reviewing current global proton therapy outcomes for paediatric cancers of the central nervous system. The paper is published in [Cancer Treatment Reviews](#).

Australian cancer statistics for some of the cancers proton beam therapy can treat

Australia has approximately 750 children diagnosed with cancer each year – the majority aged 0-4 years. According to the [Cancer Council](#), about 100 children die from cancer each year in Australia. Leukaemia is the most common paediatric cancer, followed by brain tumours and lymphomas.

Brain cancer accounts for around 1500 deaths each year in Australia. Survival rates are low – around 22 per cent do not live beyond five years of diagnosis.

Eye cancer is rare in Australia, affecting less than 1000 people each year, and usually caused by melanoma.

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Aussie kids – a hop, skip and jump away from better health and fitness

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by Michèle Nardelli



HEALTH

Researchers have identified that Australian children are not involved in enough muscle-building activity and are still failing to meet the recommended amount of daily physical activity to ensure good health now and later in life.

Delivering their research at the [Movement to Move Event](#) in Adelaide late last month, they say muscle strength is key to enjoying and becoming competent in a wide range of sports and play activities and vital for strong bone development and overall good health.

According to lead researcher and Co-Chair of [Active Healthy Kids Australia \(AHKA\)](#), [UniSA's Dr Natasha Schranz](#), developing children's muscular fitness is not about going to the gym or lifting weights.

"What children are missing out on is all the fun and muscle-building benefits of simple things like doing cartwheels, jumping, hopping, climbing and body weight movements including squats, pushing and pulling," Dr Schranz says.

"As children's lives increasingly revolve around indoor spaces and the routine of school and home, natural physical adventure play has gone by the wayside.

"Highly accessible games from the past, like hopscotch, skipping rope, elastics and rough and tumble play have pretty much disappeared.

"Traditional sports such as basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, tennis, and many athletic events both rely on, and develop muscular fitness but we are seeing a decline in performance compared to previous generations."

AHKA 2018 Report Card

Dr Natasha Schranz explains some of the key findings.

Sub-heading: Children can't jump as far as in previous generations

According to the Active Healthy Kids Australia 2018 report card, a comprehensive biennial assessment of the factors influencing the physical activity and fitness of Australian children from birth to 17 years of age, today's kids can't jump as far as children did 30 years ago and are failing to improve their overall fitness.

AHKA partners and [Movement to Move Event](#) supporters, [Sport Australia](#) and the [National Heart Foundation of Australia](#) believe national, coordinated responses to the report will help to support change in the community with the goal of improved fitness for Australian kids and better health outcomes for the nation.

Sport Australia has made a bold commitment to reduce inactivity by 15 per cent by 2030.

"We would love young people to be more involved in sport, but parents should not discount the importance of play. Playing for, and with children, puts them on track for developing stronger physical literacy and a lifelong love of sport and physical activity," says CEO of Sport Australia, [Kate Palmer](#).

"With one in four children being overweight or obese it is vital we get our kids moving again. Let's target 60 minutes of heart-rate-raising physical activity a day."

Report card gives a D- for children's physical activity levels

For the third consecutive assessment period, overall physical activity levels for Australian children have flatlined at a D-.

Dr Schranz says the focus this year on muscular fitness is in addition to the need for more 'huff and puff' aerobic activity and greater encouragement for children to simply move more and more often.

"While we have seen some improvement in how schools are encouraging more physical activity, we have also seen the results decline slightly for active transport use (walking, scooting cycling), and their overall physical fitness," Dr Schranz says.

"It is clear from these results that improving the fitness and consequent good physical health of Australian children and young people is a challenge that we have to take on for the long term as parents and grandparents, carers, teachers, coaches, and leaders at all levels of the community.

"That means in everything we do – from providing more opportunities for kids to be physically active at home or at school, to considering what kind of environments we create and how we invest in community health — we need to consider what improvements we can make that will encourage more activity."

Results of the AHKA 2018 Report Card were released as part of the international Movement to Move Event in Adelaide, to align with the release of the 2018 Global Matrix 3.0 which offers a global comparison of the factors supporting physical activity across 49 countries.

Director of Active Living [Trevor Shilton](#) from the Heart Foundation says there are now clear guidelines on how much and what kind of activity children should be doing every day and it is up to everyone to promote that knowledge and encourage that activity.

"Today's hurried lifestyles, our anxieties about the appropriate supervision of our children and the advent of new technologies that have replaced much of what used to occupy children physically, with passive screen-based activity, have eroded opportunities for children to be as active as they should be," Prof Shilton says.

More information about the 2018 AHKA Report Card is available on the [Active Healthy Kids Australia website](#). You can see how Australia is shaping up internationally in the [Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance Global Matrix 3.0](#).

Active Healthy Kids Australia (AHKA) is a collaboration among Australian children's physical activity and health researchers (13 researchers from nine universities), which is led by a team from UniSA (the lead research university for the Report Card and the administering organisation of AHKA).





Read about the value of nature play in the latest edition of [Enterprise magazine](#).

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The Duke of York embraces UniSA's spirit of innovation

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by Candy Gibson



COMMUNITY

HRH, Duke of York KG was taken on a tour of the University of South Australia Cancer Research Institute as part of his visit to Adelaide. He's pictured here with Centre for Cancer Biology Research Professor Stuart Pitson. Photo by Catherine Leo.

UniSA recently hosted HRH Prince Andrew, The Duke of York, KG, as he presented *Pitch@Palace On Tour Adelaide*, part of a global series of events helping entrepreneurs and startups to develop their ideas and innovations.

Pitch@Palace was founded by HRH in 2014 as a platform to amplify and accelerate the work of entrepreneurs, connecting early-stage businesses with an international network of potential supporters including CEOs, influencers, investors, mentors and business partners.

The Adelaide event was presented in conjunction with UniSA's [Innovation & Collaboration Centre](#) and featured 13 entrepreneurs pitching to a panel of judges including South Australia's Chief Scientist Caroline McMillen, HRH, and an appreciative audience of several hundred people.

Entrants were assessed on the commercial potential of their concept, ability to communicate their idea and the social impact of their business or innovation, with eight companies from *Pitch@Palace On Tour Adelaide* selected to attend a bootcamp and national finals in Brisbane.

Announcing the local winners, HRH said: "Thank you very much to all our entrepreneurs for your collaboration and participation. I am a strong believer that when it comes to entrepreneurs it is about how we can all



His Royal Highness Duke of York KG speaking at *Pitch@Palace On Tour Adelaide*. Photo by Catherine Leo.

work together to ensure these businesses have the best opportunities.”

At the finals in Brisbane, Adelaide startup Athlete’s AI made the shortlist of 12 companies who competed for a chance to attend *Pitch@Palace*’s global showcase event in London, but ultimately missed out on a place among the three national winners.

UniSA Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation, Professor Tanya Monro, says the inaugural *Pitch@Palace* event in Adelaide represented “a wonderful opportunity” for UniSA to support the State’s most innovative entrepreneurs.

“As Australia’s University of Enterprise, UniSA is renowned for its culture of innovation, fostering inventive and adventurous thinking and supporting bold new ideas. The companies attending *Pitch@Palace* are outstanding examples of global learners who are quick to recognise business opportunities that benefit society – the same qualities that UniSA instils in its own students and graduates.”



Touring the UniSA’s City West campus. Photo by Catherine Leo.



Premier Steven Marshall (sixth from right) and UniSA Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Tanya Monro (sixth from left) with *Pitch@Palace On Tour Adelaide* local winners. Photo by Alice Healy.

Myriota attracts royal attention

Among the judges at *Pitch@Palace On Tour Adelaide* was Dr Alex Grant, CEO of UniSA-affiliated company [Myriota](#). Myriota is one of Australia’s most exciting and innovative businesses, an Internet of Things enterprise that was spun out of UniSA research in 2015, and HRH included time in his Adelaide schedule for a brief private audience with Dr Grant’s team.

“I am thrilled that The Duke of York has recognised Myriota’s work and included us in a small handful of companies he met with while in Adelaide,” Dr Grant says. “I was also pleased to be able to share Myriota’s insights and experience with aspiring entrepreneurs at *Pitch@Palace*.”

While in Adelaide, HRH officially opened *Waging Peace*, the second major exhibition to be held at MOD., UniSA’s future-focused museum. More information on *Waging Peace* can be found in [UniSA News](#).

More information on the contestants at *Pitch@Palace On Tour Adelaide* can be found in UniSA’s [Media Centre](#).

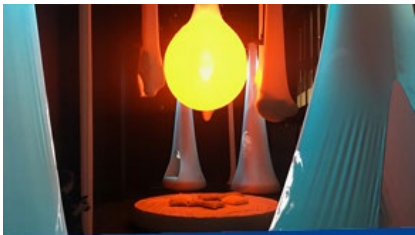
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UniSA and AnglicareSA establishing research centre to drive social change

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by Candy Gibson



COMMUNITY

Adam and Brittany Boccher and their son Blake. Photo courtesy Creative Commons.

UniSA and AnglicareSA have announced a new partnership to help drive change in Australia's social services sector.

The Australian Alliance for Social Enterprise (TAASE), based in UniSA's [Business School](#), will be run by Professor Ian Goodwin-Smith, an advocate for social justice with many years of experience in the sector.

Announcing the partnership, UniSA's Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation, [Professor Tanya Monro](#), says: "Australia is being transformed by social, political and economic developments – all affecting the country's social services provision.

"Social services are being stretched and challenged in new ways in 21st century Australia. These new conditions mean that service providers need to develop a more business-like approach to their operations," Prof Monro says.

Prof Monro says the partnership with UniSA's Business School will help [AnglicareSA](#) and other not-for-profit social service agencies in the State thrive amid the fast-changing business and policy environment in Australia.

"It will also give UniSA's researchers and its industry partners an opportunity to take a leading role in shaping evidence-based policy in this space."

UniSA Dean: Research and Innovation, [Professor Andrew Beer](#), says the partnership is timely with widespread changes taking place nationally and globally in the development and delivery of social services.

"Examples of such change include the introduction of Consumer Directed Care (CDC) for older Australians, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), changes in the social housing sector, child protection reforms and

the delivery of services for people with psychiatric disabilities,” Prof Beer says.

“New thinking is required to address old problems. We need to be innovative and look at social enterprise models that work for the sector. Population growth, an ageing demographic and structural changes to our economy demand a new approach.”

TAASE will focus on achieving better outcomes for vulnerable Australians in need of social support, according to AnglicareSA CEO Peter Sandeman.

“There has never been a more important time to draw on evidence-based research to improve social policy, practices and outcomes across Australia and internationally,” Mr Sandeman says.

“We need to find ground-breaking ways to address social and financial inequality to make our State a more inclusive, stronger economy and a more equitable society.”

TAASE director Prof Goodwin-Smith says: “What we’re interested in is the potential for innovation and reform that you find when you step outside of the echo chamber and listen to the aspirations of people and communities. People are enterprising. As researchers, our job is to witness that, to prosecute that message, and to bring learned experience and lived experience together in pursuit of an inclusive future.”

The research centre will be officially launched in early 2019.

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Building brand 'peace' and fighting for it – new exhibition opens at MOD.

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by Michèle Nardelli



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A key exhibit is *Sleep Ops*, a space filled with specially designed sleep pods and piped with sounds and scents that explore their impact on sleep quality.

In an era where news is pervasive but unreliable, where peace is ambushed by violence on city streets and in family homes, where wars wage between enemies and the enemies within – is it time to fight for peace more powerfully?

In its second exhibition, [Waging Peace](#), UniSA's MOD. explores how we might actively fight for peace.

What techniques and ideas might we use to build a peace brand or market peace like a product? How might we develop a games culture that is peace-focused and what other innovations might give people new perspectives around conflict and resolution and the power to wage peace?

And, when we have read all the fake news there is to consume, how will we know what is real about politics, society and conflict, and where the reliable reference points are on the path to peace?

UniSA's Director of MOD. [Dr Kristin Alford](#) says the *Waging Peace* exhibition is important and timely, sometimes posing simple questions with surprising answers, and at other times peeling back the layers on our preconceptions and shedding light on contemporary notions of peace.

"We wanted to move beyond hackneyed peace associations and drill



In MOD.'s Street Gallery.

down into systems and technologies that might actively promote peace – especially on a collective or global scale,” Dr Alford says.

“We’ve commissioned UniSA’s [Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science](#) to research South Australians’ perceptions of peace, which has thrown up some really fascinating information about how we view what it takes to construct a peaceful world.

“The survey group were quite divided on what to do to improve peace – with 28 per cent believing connection and social inclusion were vital for peace and 24 per cent advocating heavier punishments for wrongdoers as a path to peace.

“More than 50 UniSA students of communications, illustration and design are working on redefining the peace brand in light of the research. So, you will be introduced to some new visual associations for peace – some of which are quite surprising and intriguing.”

Dr Alford says *Waging Peace* explores technological innovation, but also research and science related to the human condition.

Sleep to support peace

A key exhibit is [Sleep Ops](#), a space filled with specially designed sleep pods and piped with sounds and scents that explore their impact on sleep quality.

UniSA sleep expert [Associate Professor Siobhan Banks](#) says sleep has a huge role to play in maintaining human health and equilibrium.

“This exhibit brings to life the significant place sleep has in healthy functioning,” Assoc Prof Banks says.

“Many people experience sleep deprivation in today’s busy society, from world leaders travelling across the globe, to the homeless struggling to find a safe place to sleep and new parents waking up frequently to feed a newborn baby. And of course, in conflict zones fear and trauma impact the ability to sleep. Sleep loss can impact mood, cognitive processing, decision making and if chronic it can adversely affect health.

“This exhibit explores the biology of sleep, what happens when you don’t get enough and looks at the ‘sleep hacks’ sleep researchers have uncovered that may help people achieve a better quality of sleep.

“Good restful sleep, leading to improved mood, better cognitive processing and decision-making, might well be a path to global peace.”

Who controls the satellites that surround us?

Other exhibits include [Orbitopia](#) in the Universal Gallery where visitors can see how thousands of satellites crisscross the globe, providing communications and security technologies.

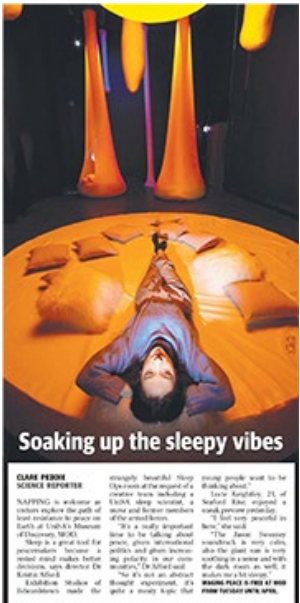
The exhibit also includes video presentations from key satellite and telecommunications researchers working on the latest challenges and opportunities, especially important as space industries are seeing increasing corporate and citizen participation.

Waging Peace also features a [games arcade](#) where people can tune into some of the most innovative interactive games set to test their mind, empathy, ethics and wisdom, rather than just their trigger fingers.

“There is much more to discover at the *Waging Peace* exhibition and I think it is one where people will spend some time thinking differently about peace while they are here,” Dr Alford says.



MOD. Director Dr Kristin Alford took some of UniSA’s emeritus professors on a tour of the *Waging Peace* exhibition. Photo by Catherine Leo.



Advertiser article



Orbitopia

“We live in times where politics and social movements are increasingly polarised. Uncertainty and social unrest is pervasive and it is ever harder to ascertain what is true or accurate.

“Yet we recognise, that while peace may be the sum of individual actions, it should also be underpinned by justice, quality education, economic opportunities, access to technological development, healthcare and mechanisms for cross-cultural understanding.

“This exhibition will help people see their actions towards peace in a new light and consider how, as a community, we can fight for peace through technology, art, politics, music and science.”

Find out more at <https://mod.org.au/>

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Joel, Jack and Joshua set sights on Japan, Korea and China

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by Annabel Mansfield



INSIDE UNISA

Joshua Bernardi, Jack Donaldson and Joel Ransley were presented their scholarships at a ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra

Three of UniSA's top students – Joel Ransley, Jack Donaldson and Joshua Bernardi – have each been awarded a prestigious New Colombo Plan scholarship, and will travel to the Indo-Pacific in 2019 to undertake further study and learn more about the region's culture, people and business practices.

Joel Ransley, will head to Japan in January next year, to study with the [Shibaura Institute of Technology](#) in Tokyo. A [Bachelor of Architectural Studies](#) student, he hopes to secure an internship with an architectural firm involved in the 2020 Olympics to explore how buildings can be repurposed for the local community after the Games end.

A member of the Australia Japan Association, and a seasoned traveller to Japan, Joel says he is looking forward to fine tuning his knowledge of Japanese culture and language.

"I've always had a love of Japan and I'm passionate about Japanese language," Joel says.

"This scholarship will not only help extend my language skills but also expose me to a whole range of new opportunities in business and study, and I can't wait to get started."

[The New Colombo Plan](#) (NCP) is a Federal Government program which aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and undertake internships in one of 40 countries in the region.

The highly competitive scholarships are awarded to Australia's best and brightest students who demonstrate adaptability, resilience, and leadership in the community, as well as understanding the importance of deepening

Australia's relationships in the region.

UniSA [Bachelor of Business \(Management\)](#) student, Jack Donaldson, was made an NCP Fellow under the NCP scholarship program, making him the highest ranked person among the scholars travelling to South Korea. Jack will spend a semester with UniSA's exchange partner [Sogang Uni](#), before seeking an internship within the Korean shipbuilding sector. And when he is back, Jack hopes to direct his passion and skills in complex project management, to the defence or construction industries.

UniSA [Bachelor of Design \(Product Design\)](#) student, Joshua Bernardi, will be undertaking the second semester of his honours year at UniSA's partner [Tianjin University](#) in 2019. With previous experience working with design firms, Joshua says he is hoping to better understand how new and sustainable modes of transport fit into future urban environments.

UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd says the NCP scholarships are a wonderful opportunity for students to gain experience and knowledge of one of the fastest growing and most exciting regions in the world.

"It's fantastic to see our students take such an enterprising approach to their education by putting their hats in the ring for the New Colombo Plan's scholarship program," Prof Lloyd says.

"These experiences will give them an invaluable sense of international business, broaden their connections and give them cultural insights into Australia's neighbouring countries.

"This is a fantastic opportunity and I congratulate Joel, Jack and Josh on their scholarship wins. We look forward to following their journey in the coming year, hearing about their successes and benefitting from their experience."



Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne with the 2019 New Colombo Plan scholarship recipients from across Australia.

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From the Vice Chancellor –



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**University of
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news

December 2018

> from the University of South Australia

Team UniSA-Australia 2019 teams unveiled

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by Adam Joyce and Cycling Australia



COMMUNITY

2012 world championship silver medallist Rachel Neylan will be competing for Team UniSA-Australia again. She was part of the 2018 team.
Photo courtesy Kirsty Baxter.

WorldTour expertise and next-generation talent punctuate the UniSA-Australia women's and men's team selections for the 2019 Santos Tour Down Under.

The UniSA-Australia team provides a development opportunity for athletes who are on an upward trajectory in [Cycling Australia's](#) performance pathway, or riders currently either not aligned with, or whose professional team is not contesting the Tour Down Under (TDU).

The seasoned and versatile Lauren Kitchen (from [FDJ Nouvelle Aquitaine Futuroscope](#)) will spearhead the line-up as the women's team captain, with 2012 world championship silver medallist Rachel Neylan ([Movistar](#)) further bolstering the team's knowledge and expertise to mentor the other riders. Both were part of Team UniSA-Australia in 2018.

Kitchen says she likes working with the younger riders and trying to get the most out of them.

"I think I have progressed in this area professionally in the last few years with my FDJ team, so I look forward to the opportunity with UniSA-Australia for the Santos TDU," Kitchen says.

The women's team also includes Emily Roper (QLD), whose comeback continues to gain momentum following a solid 2018 domestic season which saw her finish second overall in the NRS General Classification. Former track world champion Rebecca Wiasak (ACT) continues her progression on the road with her 2018 season including several wins in the American circuit in addition to claiming the Australian national criterium crown.

[NSW Institute of Sport](#) and High Performance Network scholarship holder Josie Talbot (NSW) has enjoyed a strong season in the USA, and 2018 UCI World Road Championships junior women's road race representative Anya Louw (TAS) who will line up in her first race against an international elite age field, add youthful firepower

to the outfit.

Men's team dominated by #1 national road series team

Five of the seven riders in the men's team were provided by the number one National Road Series (NRS) team, [Team Bridgelane](#) (formerly Bennelong SwissWellness), including Neil Van Der Ploeg (VIC) who brings a wealth of experience to the outfit as team captain in his third TDU.

Oceania champion and 2018 FedUni Road Nationals bronze medallist Chris Harper (SA) and 2018 Tour of Tasmania winner Dylan Sunderland (NSW) add climbing prowess.

All-rounders Ayden Toovey (NSW), who claimed two NRS Tours and finished third overall in the 2018 NRS, plus Jason Lea (VIC) who found the under 23 podium three times at Nationals and Oceania level in 2018, have been selected. The sixth member of the team is Nick White (VIC) who finished second overall in the 2018 National Road Series for Oliver's Real Food Racing.

The seventh and final member of the men's team will be announced following January's [Road Nationals](#). UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd says the 2019 Santos Tour Down Under promises to be another great event on the SA sporting and cultural calendar.

"We have sponsored this event since 2001 and it just gets better every year," Prof Lloyd says.

He says sponsoring the development teams at the tour offers young riders the chance to test and prove their abilities in a pro-tour event and to an international audience.

"And history shows many of the riders use this as a springboard to a career in professional cycling," Prof Lloyd says.

"We want to wish them great success and let them know there are a crowd of Team UniSA-Australia supporters out there who will be cheering them on."

Cycling Australia performance director Simon Jones says the men's and women's teams support the ongoing development of athletes.

"We know that the route to being a world class road rider takes time, persistence and patience," Jones says. "Our framework for future success supports athletes and teams and this selection process supports our overall performance strategy."

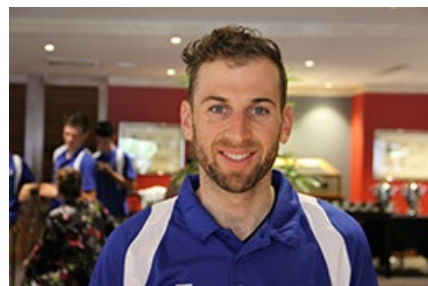
UniSA-Australia Women's Team

- Lauren Kitchen (NSW - FDJ Nouvelle Aquitaine Futuroscope)
- Anya Louw (TAS)
- Rachel Neylan (SA - Movistar)
- Emily Roper (QLD)
- Josie Talbot (NSW)
- Rebecca Wiasak (ACT)

UniSA-Australia Men's Team

- Chris Harper (SA)
- Jason Lea (VIC)
- Dylan Sunderland (NSW)
- Ayden Toovey (NSW)
- Neil Van der Ploeg (VIC)
- Nick White (VIC)

The final member of the team will be announced following January's FedUni Road Nationals.



Team UniSA-Australia captain Neil van der Ploeg has competed for UniSA-Australia before, including in 2015.

The Santos Women's Tour Down Under starts on 10 January 2019 and is the opening professional women's race on the international cycling calendar. See the dates and stages on the [TDU website](#).

This will be followed by the Santos Tour Down Under, which opens the [2019 UCI WorldTour](#) with six official stages and the [Down Under Classic](#) on the streets of Adelaide. See the dates and stages on the [TDU website](#).

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UniSA researchers awarded almost \$300k for projects into children's health

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by Candy Gibson



INSIDE UNISA

Five UniSA academics have received funding from the [Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation](#) (CRF) for specific projects aimed at improving the health, education and wellbeing of children.

Almost \$300,000* has been awarded to the researchers for projects relating to childhood asthma, paediatric cancer, the children of refugees, bone fractures among children, and childhood eczema.

[Associate Professor Kristin Carson-Chahhoud](#) will use her \$75,000 grant to investigate a technology-based solution to tackle depression and anxiety in asthmatic children.

"Australia has one of the highest asthma rates in the world and half of young people with asthma also have anxiety or depression, which is double the rate of anxiety experienced in the wider community," Assoc Prof Carson-Chahhoud says.

Her team will develop a smartphone app to deliver a cognitive-based therapy program to help young asthmatics struggling with depression and anxiety.

The novel *iHealth tool* will be personalised on age and gender.

"With the use of this smartphone app we hope to empower children to self-manage their own care, improve their confidence and help to reduce the serious health and economic benefits that asthma has on society," Assoc Prof Carson-Chahhoud says.

Improving bone healing and fracture healing

[Dr Yu-Wen \(Michelle\) Su](#) has been awarded \$75,000 to help improve bone healing and repair among children with fractures.

"The two major challenges in paediatric orthopaedics are faulty bone repair and delays in healing, which cause disease and pain to children," Dr Su says.

"We know that a specific signalling molecule is critical in fracture healing and bone repair and our pilot studies suggest this is inhibited by proteoglycan, a protein, which suppresses healing. We hope to investigate the underlying mechanisms which cause this and to explore therapeutic treatments," she says.

New treatments for eczema

Another \$74,888 will go towards a project led by [Dr Kwok Ho \(Dave\) Yip](#) to develop new treatment strategies for children with eczema.

"Eczema affects 15-30 per cent of children in developed countries and has traditionally been treated with topical corticosteroids, which is not always effective and often has substantial side effects", Dr Yip says.

"We hope to use recently developed small molecules called sphingomimetics to suppress key immune cells which result in eczema," he says.

Early career researcher [Dr Mingfeng Yu](#) will use her \$35,000 grant to develop new therapies for childhood acute myeloid leukaemia, which is the second leading cause of cancer in children.

Investigating the role of refugee parents on academic performance

The fifth project to be funded is a \$33,452 study by [Dr Hannah Soong](#), another early career researcher, to investigate the role that refugee parents play on their children's academic outcomes.

"Evidence linking the benefits of parents' educational aspirations to their children's academic outcomes, particularly first-generation migrant parents, is hard to ignore," Dr Soong says.

"Most of the research to date has centred on parents with middle and upper incomes, as well as migrant parents with a good education. By contrast, this project will investigate the role of parents from refugee backgrounds on their children's education, from primary to tertiary level."

Chair of the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation, Len Frankham, congratulated the grant recipients and said the CRF was keen to encourage talented early career researchers to remain in the State.

"We are proud to support South Australian researchers in their quest to improve the wellbeing of children in all aspects of their lives and look forward to the outcomes of their research," Frankham says.

*Under the funding arrangement, a maximum of \$75,000 is available to senior researchers and \$35,000 to early career researchers, hence the difference in amounts, which does not reflect the quality or significance of the selected research projects.

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UniSA International Partner Week

UniSA rolled out the red carpet for its top performing international education agents in November, showcasing Adelaide and the University to 65 visitors from 10 countries.

International Partner Week (26-30 November) was the largest gathering of international agents in South Australia's history, acknowledging the \$100 million-plus economic injection the agents have made to the State in 2018 alone via international student enrolments.

The following countries were represented: Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Kenya, India, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea. Agents visited all of UniSA's metropolitan campuses, as well as iconic local attractions including Glenelg, the Central Market, Adelaide Oval, McLaren Vale and Cleland Wildlife Park.







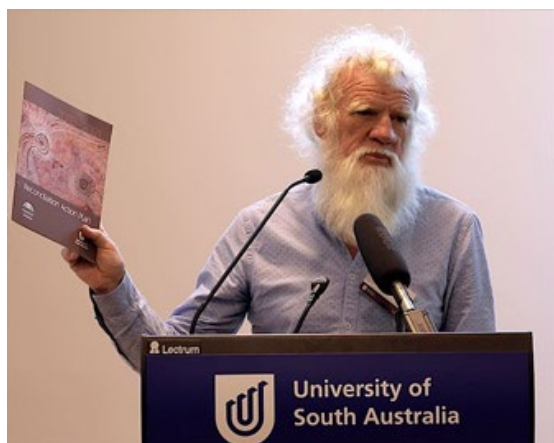
Launch of Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan

UniSA's [Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (Stretch RAP) was officially launched at a special event at Pridham Hall in November.

The Stretch RAP is guided by Universities Australia's Indigenous Strategy for 2017 to 2020; and builds on UniSA's previous [RAP](#) which extended UniSA's proud history in Aboriginal education by embedding real and measurable actions into the organisation.

The Stretch RAP supports Aboriginal students to achieve success by providing a culturally safe and appropriate environment — and shows UniSA's dedication to a two-way relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

To find out more, see [this story](#) in UniSA News.



Professor Bruce Pascoe, acclaimed Aboriginal historian, writer and academic, delivered the keynote address at the launch.



The RAP launch began with a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country, from Kurna man Jack Buckskin.



Aunty Lynette Crocker, Senior Kaurna Elder, and Pauline Carr, UniSA Chancellor.

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