



MONASH University

2006 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence
in Research for Early Career Researchers



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Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research for Early Career Researchers



In order to recognise, reward and encourage excellent early career researchers at Monash University, I am proud to introduce the Monash University Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research by Early Career Researchers.

The Award recognises research excellence by researchers who are within ten years of the start of their research careers when they submit their applications.

One award will be made each year. Award recipients will receive a grant of \$10,000 to be used at their discretion to further his or her research interests.

The definition of an Early Career Researcher (ECR) means either:

- a researcher who has had a PhD awarded, or equivalent research qualification or experience, within the last 10 years from the date of application
- researchers who have had career interruptions (for example non-research employment, misadventure or carer responsibilities). An ECR is defined as a researcher with the equivalent of 10 cumulative years of research experience

Applicants must demonstrate that they have achieved the highest levels of sustained excellence in research and only recipients of each year's Faculty ECR awards are eligible to apply.

The award is based on research achievements over the last five years. Applicants must provide tangible evidence of research excellence represented by a combination of:

- high-quality published papers
- peer recognition by invitations to speak at conferences/meetings
- originality and quality of research
- success in obtaining external research funding
- quality supervision of HDR students (evidenced by completions or publications data)
- awards/prizes
- any evidence that is verifiable of the high impact (including commercialisation and industry engagement) of their research within the scientific and broader community

It is with much pleasure that I congratulate the 2006 recipient of the Monash University Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research by Early Career Researchers, and I applaud all nominees for their commitment to sustained research excellence.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard G. Larkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Professor Richard Larkins AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

Dr Stuart Batten

Faculty of Science

Stuart is the inaugural winner of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research for Early Career Researchers. He completed his BSc(Hons) and PhD at the University of Melbourne. Following postdoctoral positions at Bristol, Melbourne, and Monash, he was awarded an Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship and then an Australian Research Fellowship, both at Monash. He started a Lectureship in the School of Chemistry in 2006, and was immediately promoted to Senior Lecturer (from 2007).

He is a leading researcher in crystal engineering, which aims to understand and control the way molecules assemble in solids. This will ultimately allow control over the physical and chemical properties of solid materials, including magnetic, electronic or optical properties, microporosity, heterogeneous catalysis, molecular sensing and sieving, and ion exchange.

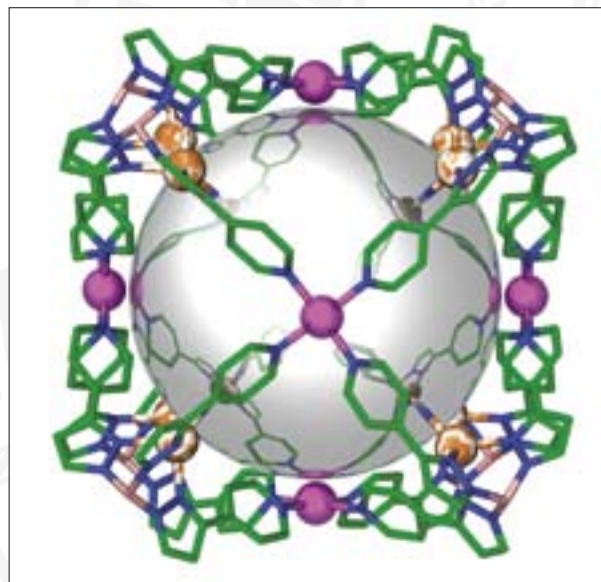
Stuart has developed an international reputation in this field. Highlights include more than 100 publications, high citation rates (over 50 per published paper), extensive local and international collaborations, three separate national medals for research excellence, and significant research funding success.

Stuart's research excellence has been acknowledged by the receipt of the HG Andrewartha, Edgeworth David and Rennie Memorial medals. Stuart was also the inaugural recipient of the Faculty of Science Award for Excellence in Research by Early Career Researchers and, to add to the accolades, he has been awarded the 2006 Victorian Young Tall Poppy Science Award.

He has secured personal research funding to the amount of \$1.2m since 1998, and he was Chief Investigator on grants of more than \$3.5m. He has been awarded several ARC Discovery, LIEF and Research Networks grants, as well as research and postdoctoral fellowships and bursaries/grants to attend international conferences.

Currently Stuart supervises two Honours undergraduate students, three PhD students and three postdoctoral students.

Stuart is Chair of the Inorganic Chemistry Special Interest Group of the Victorian Branch of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) (2004-); the Victorian representative for the Inorganic Division of the RACI (2003-); and a Member of the Single Crystal Instrument Advisory Team for the OPAL Research Reactor, Lucas Heights (2003-).



The structure of a hollow molecular 'nanoball' synthesised by Dr Stuart Batten and his co-workers. The central sphere illustrates the size of the internal cavity (1.5 nm).



Dr Daniel Palmer

Faculty of Art and Design

Daniel's research focuses on photomedia, contemporary art and media theory. He completed his PhD (University of Melbourne), entitled *Participatory Media: Visual Culture in Real Time*, in December 2004.

His most significant published contribution to the field is *Photogenic: Essays/ Images/CCP 2000 – 4* (2005), which surveys recent developments in Australian photography. He also recently co-authored a book with Blair French, *Traces and Imaginings: Contemporary Australian Photo-Artists*, to be published by Piper Press in early 2007 – an authoritative analysis of twelve established artists.

Daniel is regarded as one of Australia's most articulate art critics. He is regularly invited to deliver public lectures to audiences around Australia, act as an external examiner, and write catalogues, critical reviews and essays for all of Australia's art journals, as well as comment in the Australian media on issues related to photomedia and contemporary art.



Dr Jason Beringer

Faculty of Arts

Jason's research interests lie broadly on the Australian biosphere, an essential ecosystem service provider of water, carbon, air, and biodiversity. His particular focus is on gaining an insight into ecosystem and land surface processes that ultimately underpin ecosystem sustainability. Part of his work informs policy decisions to develop strategies to manage carbon emissions and sequestration.

Jason has brought together a large scale network of researchers to build a national research capacity with global links and establish a nationally co-ordinated network to detect early warning signs of changes to Australia's terrestrial ecosystems.

Jason was the lead Chief Investigator on a successful ARC Discovery grant through Monash. He was also a named Chief Investigator on two ARC Linkage grants through other institutions, and is the external supervisor for a third ARC Linkage grant at another institution.

Dr Andrew Pirola-Merlo

Faculty of Business and Economics

Andrew has held academic positions at the University of Melbourne (Melbourne Business School), UNSW (School of Psychology) and Monash University (Department of Management).

Andrew has also worked as a senior executive in a local management consulting firm, been chairman of the College of Organisational Psychologists, reviewed for Australian and International research journals, and is an international expert reviewer for the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Andrew has been a Chief Investigator in three successful ARC grants (two are current) on the topics: building innovative R&D teams; the relation between age and innovative productivity of academics; and leadership and workgroup climate in not-for-profit organisations. His research aims to understand how to create workplaces that foster innovation and employee wellbeing.



Dr Alex Kostogriz

Faculty of Education

Alex is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education. His primary research interests are in the area of language and literacy education in multicultural conditions.

Since completing doctoral studies in 2002, Alex has co-edited a book and several special journal issues, written or co-written five book chapters and eight journal articles. During the period 2002-2006 he has been Chief Investigator on a number of projects, including an ARC Discovery Project and a large-scale national project funded by DEST.

The main outcomes of Alex's work have been a more complex understanding of relations between learning and identity and how this understanding might help us create the effectual classroom or workplace communities of difference. This work is directly related to the issues of multicultural education and multiculturalism that are currently debated in Australia and elsewhere.





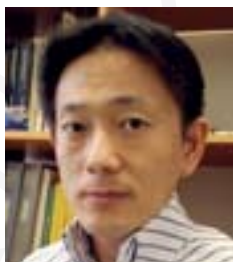
Dr Helen M. G. Watt

Faculty of Education

Helen has previously held positions at the University of Michigan, University of Western Sydney, University of Sydney, and Macquarie University. Her interests include motivation, mathematics education, gendered educational and occupational choices, motivations for teaching, teacher self-efficacy, longitudinal research, and quantitative methods.

She has received national and international research awards, attracted substantial external funding, published in leading journals, and received international recognition. Helen is on the editorial board of four journals, and a reviewer of manuscripts for over 10 journals.

Her current research work has implications for redressing the gender imbalance in mathematics-related careers, and for supporting the career and professional development of beginning teachers.



Dr Kiyonori Suzuki

Faculty of Engineering

Since Kiyonori received his PhD from the University of New South Wales in 1997, he has been awarded grants for a total of six ARC Discovery/Fellowship projects on nanostructured alloys for information and energy storage applications.

In Australia, iron based nanostructured magnetic alloys, developed by Kiyonori and his co-workers, have the potential to suppress two to three million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually when used as transformer cores.

Kiyonori's work on nanostructured alloys has been acknowledged by the international research community through well-circulated publications and there have been more than 1000 citations of his research papers to date.

Dr Manzur Murshed

Faculty of Information Technology

Manzur received his BScEng(Hons) degree from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1994 and PhD from the Australian National University in 2000. He is currently an Associate Professor, the Deputy Head, and the Director of Research at Gippsland School of Information Technology, Faculty of Information Technology. He is also leading the faculty's proposed Centre for Multimedia and Intelligent Computing.

His major research interests include digital video processing, wireless communications, and parallel and distributed computing. He has published more than 90 refereed research articles and received several research grants, including an ARC Discovery grant on video coding in 2006. He has so far successfully supervised six PhD and one masters by research students.

Manzur is the recipient of numerous academic awards including the University Gold Medal from BUET.



Dr Greg Taylor

Faculty of Law

Greg completed undergraduate degrees (Arts and Law) at the University of Adelaide and postgraduate degrees in law at Marburg University, Germany, where he obtained his Doctor of Laws in 2001.

His research encompasses constitutional law and the history of the law, as well as property, evidence, comparative law, criminal law, torts and contracts.

He has just published the first book on Victorian constitutional law since 1897. At the moment he is writing a history of the Torrens system of land transfer in order to prove that it originated in Australia, not Germany as is sometimes claimed, and to show how this famous Australian export got to Canada, where it is now the dominant system of land titles.





Dr Karen Moritz

Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Karen completed a BSc at Melbourne University majoring in physiology and pharmacology. She subsequently completed a MSc and PhD at the Howard Florey Institute in the field of foetal renal development.

Upon award of an NHMRC Peter Doherty Fellowship in 2002, Karen moved to the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Monash University. In 2006, Dr Moritz was awarded an NHMRC Career Development Award.

She is currently investigating how exposure of the foetus to a sub-optimal environment in the womb may alter the normal development of the kidney and predispose an individual to many adult diseases, including high blood pressure and renal disease.



Dr Tim Stinear

Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Tim did his PhD in microbiology at Monash University. This was followed by three years at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, before returning to Monash where he now directs a research group in the Department of Microbiology.

He studies a devastating human skin disease called Buruli ulcer, a major public health issue in Africa, caused by *Mycobacterium ulcerans*. Tim is an expert in genomics and his research has led to new diagnostics that have dramatically improved Buruli ulcer patient care, as well as showing how bacteria produce chemicals that suppress the human immune system. His research is helping fight Buruli ulcer and other important mycobacterial diseases such as tuberculosis and leprosy.

Successful grants include an NHMRC Project grant (2006-2008) and Tim is currently an NHMRC RD Wright Research Fellow (2006-2010)

Dr Ben Boyd

Victorian College of Pharmacy

Ben has over six years of industry experience in the diverse fields of pharmaceuticals and explosives prior to commencing his current position as Lecturer in Pharmacy and Formulation Science. He has published over 20 papers, two invited book chapters and is a named inventor on seven patent applications.

Ben currently holds an ARC Discovery grant, and his industry research focus is evident in an ARC Linkage and a \$2.4m Commercial Ready grant in collaboration with Australian pharmaceutical companies.

His primary research interests are in the field of pharmaceutical nanotechnology, designing smart drug carrier systems that will revolutionise the treatment of problematic diseases such as cancer and macular degeneration, and in understanding the nanoscale interactions that occur during the absorption of drugs.





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