

# Letter from the Associate Dean (Postgraduate)

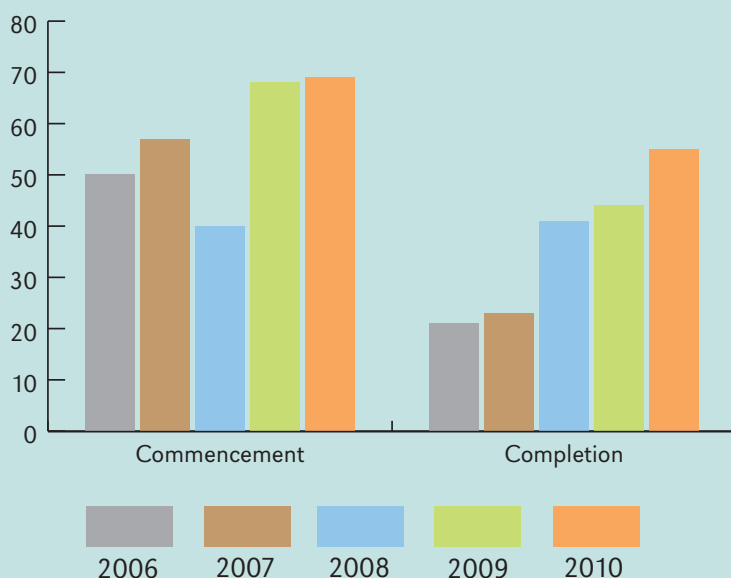
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## How did we do in 2010?

The faculty's doctoral programme did extremely well in 2010.

We had a record 55 doctoral completions, our unfunded (out of time) percentage of doctoral candidates is reduced to 8% (18% in 2009) and we had 69 new doctoral candidates. Well done to all.

### FMHS doctoral commencement and completion



### 2011 PhD regulations

We have held two well attended seminars at Grafton and Tāmaki to discuss the new 2011 doctoral regulations, in particular Thesis with Publication. This looks to be an attractive option for many of our students and I am always happy to talk with anyone considering this option.

A second 2011 change is the Creative Practice option. Although this may be thought of as most relevant to NICA, (dance, sculpture etc), it will open opportunities for our doctoral candidates as well. Future digital theses could include dynamic biological models, new ways of digital teaching, and new ways of presenting data.

### Deans International Doctoral Scholarships (FMHS)

Applications close on 30 April annually for this newly created international student scholarship. There are up to three scholarships available per year. Please encourage any intending international PhD students to consider applying for this scholarship.

More details can be found on faculty's postgraduate scholarship page.

[www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/scholarships/postgrad-scholarship.aspx](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/scholarships/postgrad-scholarship.aspx)

### Good international students that don't "quite fit"

If you receive an EOI from a well qualified externally funded international student but their chosen topic is not quite in your area, consider suggesting another topic to them rather than declining them outright. The current EOI system requires potential candidates to nominate a topic at an early stage in their research career but the student may not necessarily be fully committed to that, and may be quite amenable to alternative suggestions.

### Chinese Scholarship Council candidates

The Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) has started a new round of awards closing on 20 May 2011. The CSC funds overseas PhDs for some of the top Chinese students from some of their best Universities. These students are given conditional acceptance by us, and then the CSC awards scholarships to the top students of those who have received conditional offers. The Faculties of Science and of Engineering seem to have attracted the most CSC students. The students appear to be almost uniformly good value so if one expresses an interest in your work it is worth seriously considering them and if interested giving them a conditional offer. Their thesis proposal is usually almost non-existent so conditions could include their gaining a CSC scholarship and writing a draft thesis proposal by email with you to your satisfaction.

### International student support

Yvonne Marren has been appointed by the Faculty to provide mentoring and support to international students, especially those new to Auckland. Please remind your students to contact her as soon as they arrive. Yvonne has been with the faculty for over one year, and is still "finding" international PhD students. We would like to ensure that every international PhD student is met by the FMHS International team even those that have settled well.

## Funded international students that are not ready for a PhD

Occasionally an international student with funding from their government will complete an EOI but their entry qualifications imply they may struggle if admitted. We always have the option to offer these students entry into a Masters degree plus additional English language training. Many overseas funders are prepared to accept that option. The advantage of this is that we have a chance to observe them and to decide if they will succeed if they subsequently enrol in a PhD. For the really good students they can be considered for a Masters upgrade to a PhD after six months.

## Saudi Arabia Masters students

The Saudi Arabian government is prepared to fully fund Master's students so that they can eventually apply for a fully-funded PhD. Some applications are coming in and these are good students and worth serious consideration. The Dean of Graduate Studies (A/P Caroline Daley) has visited Saudi Arabia twice recently and her comment is that so far we have lost some potentially very good Master's and Doctoral candidates to other Universities because we have been too slow to respond to the student's initial enquiries.

## Impressive performance

Congratulations to Dr Isuru Jayasinghe who gained one of the five Vice Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis (2010). This is a prestigious award and Dr Jayasinghe wrote his thesis on Resolving the Structural Basis of Cardiac Excitation-Contraction Coupling. Congratulations also to his supervisor A/P Christian Soeller and co supervisor Prof Mark Cannell.

The Faculty also has two new doctoral graduands whose theses were of such standard that they were placed on the 2011 Dean of Graduate Studies' "Deans List". On average only two theses university wide make this list each month. Congratulations to Ms Ruth Allen who was on the April list, (supervisor Dr Janine Wiles, co-supervisor Prof Ngaire Kerse), and to Miss Amanda Potts who was on the March list, (supervisor Dr Guy Warman, co-supervisor Dr Brian Anderson).

## Tips from Barbara Grant

When supervising students who have English as a second language, consider asking them to send notes from your supervision meetings back to all parties so that everyone is clear on what has been agreed.

## Anne and David Norman Fellowship in Leukemia and Lymphoma Research

The faculty are looking for applications for the Anne and David Norman Fellowship in Leukemia and Lymphoma Research to support research into improving the outcomes for patients with leukaemia and related cancers. This Fellowship will provide a \$25,000 per annum PhD stipend for three years for promising research scientists and medical graduates who are training in haematology or oncology, allowing them to continue their research at The University of Auckland.

Full details of this additional funding support and application are available on the faculty's postgraduate scholarship's page.

[www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/scholarships/postgrad-scholarship.aspx](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/scholarships/postgrad-scholarship.aspx)



Associate Dean (Postgraduate)  
Ross McCormick

## NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

Visit postgraduate student's page to view archive of last issues.  
[www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/current-students/pg-students.aspx](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/current-students/pg-students.aspx)

## NEW DOCTORAL STUDENTS PAGE IS UNDERWAY

New section of website will be launched for our doctoral students. This website will provide useful resources and information to our students and supervisors.

## DATES TO NOTE..

### POSTGRADUATE WEEK

Wednesday, 18 May:  
4-5.30pm

Café 85, Grafton Campus

Encourage your students to register the event by visiting:

[www.auckland.ac.nz/postgraduate-week/](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/postgraduate-week/)



### HEALTHEX 2011

Friday, 9 September:  
9am-3.30pm

Café 85, Grafton Campus

