Supporting Innovation in Dementia Research: The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre

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University of Tasmania
Challenges in providing services to people with dementia

- Increasing numbers of people with dementia
- Dementia is a terminal condition: unequivocally linked to high mortality rates (Mitchell et al, 2009)
- In the community: Issues with diagnosis, service fragmentation & carer burnout
- In residential care: Issues with capacity in the context of increasing demand and complexity
- Rural & regional contexts: Ageing demographic, limited service options and dispersed populations, inhibited help-seeking behaviour
We need to prepare Tasmania for a future where there will be far greater numbers of people with dementia.

Need to build partnerships and pursue innovative approaches to service development & capacity building with a key focus on utilising translational research approaches.
Tasmania is uniquely placed as a site for developing & trialing strategic research based dementia programs

- Island state with relatively stable population
- Highest proportion of people in 65+ and 80+ years cohorts.
- In 2051, Tasmania’s 65+ group will comprise 33.8% and 80+ 14.1% of population.
- Tasmanian health indicators for 65+ are worse than national average
Wicking centre established in June 2008

- **Major funding from JO and JR Wicking Trust (ANZ Trustees)**

Centre also supported by:

- UTAS School of Nursing & Midwifery,
- Menzies Research Institute,
- Utas Office of the Pro-Vice Chancellor Research,
- Tas Govt Dept of Health and Human Services
Growing synergies in the dementia effort

Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre

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**Industry affiliates**
Community and Aged Care Services DHHS, Geriatric Services DHHS, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (Tas), RHH, Roy Fagan Centre, Mental Health Institute Victoria, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, residential aged care providers, ACST, ACST/ACSA, Advocacy Tas, Commonwealth Respite and Carelink

**University affiliates**
Griffith; Monash; Curtin; ACU; La Trobe; UOW; UniSA; Dementia Collaborative Research Centres (QUT & UNSW)

**UTAS collaborators**
Menzies Research Institute, UDRH, Clinical School, & Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Psychology, Computing and Information Systems, Architecture

**Community affiliates**
People with dementia and their carers, Alzheimer’s Australia, AAG, TIME for Dementia, Carers Australia

**Funding—internal**
JO & JR Wicking Trust (ANZ Charitable Services) UTAS—Faculty of Health Science; Office of the Pro-Vice Chancellor Research

**Funding—external**
DHHS (HACC), RHH Research Foundation, Motor Neuron Disease Research Institute of Aus (Inc), Tasmanian Masonic Centenary Foundation, ARC (Discovery & Linkage), NHMRC

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Growing synergies in the dementia effort
Human capital

Wicking staff
Professor Andrew Robinson and Professor James Vickers, Co-directors
Dr Tracey Dickson, Senior Research Fellow and NHMRC Career Development Fellow
Dr Christine Stirling, Senior Research Fellow
Diana Carter, Executive Officer (Strategic Operations)
Gillian Vosper, Project Officer
Dr Jyoti Chuckowree, NHMRC CJ Martin Research Fellow
Dr Anna King, Bill Gole Research Fellow
Dr Liz Cummings, Research Fellow
Dr Mathew Summers, Research Fellow
Dr Jerome Staal, Masonic Foundation Medical Research Foundation Fellow
Dr Adele Woodhouse, NHMRC CJ Martin Fellow (Training Research Fellow, overseas)
Dr Olivier Bibari, Research Fellow
Sharon Andrews, Research Associate/RHD student
Brendan Churchill, Research Associate
Susan Leggett, Research Associate
Barbara Lloyd, Project Officer
Graeme McCormack, Drug Discovery Platform Coordinator
Patricia Clements, Research assistant
Roslyn Foskey, Research assistant
Karen Herne, Research assistant
Sharon Hetherington, Research assistant
Heather McGee, Research assistant
Michelle Oates, Research assistant
Makrina Tsinoglou, Research assistant

... and students
Cathy Blizzard, RHD student
Heather Brooks, RHD student
Sue Lawrence, RHD student
Yao Liu, RHD student
Melinda Minstrell, RHD student
Stan Mitew, RHD student
Peter Mulholland, RHD student
Kate Murray, RHD student/Research assistant
Ruth Musgrove, RHD student
Nichole Saunders, RHD student
Chris Showall, RHD student
Lorraine Smith, RHD student
Ree Van Galen, RHD student
Sam Alexander, Honours student
Katherine Hosie, Honours student
Penny Johnson, Honours student
Shannon Klekociuk, Honours student

School of Nursing & Midwifery

UTAS

Faculty of Health Science
Wicking associates

Professor Jenny Abbey, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, MRI
Professor Michael Ashby, Director of Palliative Care Royal Hobart Hospital, and Honorary Fellow, WDREC, MRI
Dr Joanna Bkas, Roy Fagan Centre
Dr Toby Croft, DHHS
Prof Roger Fay, School of Architecture and Design, UTAS
Professor Mary Fitzgerald, School of Nursing and Midwifery, UTAS
A/Professor Richard Fleming, Director Dementia Services Development Centre, Hammond Care UNSW
Dr Emily Hansen, PHCREDS Coordinator, Menzies Research Institute (MRI)
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A/Professor Fran McInerney, Australian Catholic University/MRI
Dr Peter Orpin, Senior Research Fellow, MRI
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Dr Kristy Sanderson, Research Fellow, MRI
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Dr Velandai Srikanth, Monash University
Professor Jeff Summers, School of Psychology, UTAS
Dr Jane Tolman, Geriatric Services, DHHS
A/Prof Chris Toye, Curtin University
A/Professor Paul Turner, Research Fellow, MRI

… and collaborators

Dr Paul Adlard, Mental Health Research Institute Victoria
A/Professor Lyn Barnes, University of South Australia
Janet Carty, Community and Aged Care Services, DHHS
A/Professor Inn Chuah, School of Medicine/Menzies Research Institute, UTAS
Dr Roger Chung, Senior Research Fellow, Menzies Research Institute, UTAS
Dr Michael Dreyer, DHHS
Professor Glenda Halliday, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute NSW
Dr Claire Shepherd, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute NSW
Larraine Millar, DHHS
Professor David Small, Menzies Research Institute, UTAS
David Spence, Community and Aged Care Services, DHHS
Professor Adrian West, School of Medicine/Menzies Research Institute, UTAS
Wicking research programs

External grant funding won during the period November 2008 to November 2009
$2,057,330*
in addition to the $450,000/year core funding

*some grants cover projects extending for more than one year
External funding sources:

- National Health and Medical Research Council
- Australian Research Council (Discovery & Linkage programs)
- Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation
- Alzheimer’s Australia
- Tasmanian Masonic Centenary Medical Research Foundation
- Australian Rotary Health Research Fund
- Motor Neuron Disease Research Institute of Australia Inc.
- The Victorian and Tasmanian Dementia Training Study Centre
- Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
- Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services
An integrated Centre: Research Streams

• Developing health services
  ➢ Community Care
  ➢ Acute Care
  ➢ Residential Care

• Exploring the trajectory of dementia
  ➢ Healthy Brain
  ➢ MCI & trajectories

• Investigating the biological basis of dementia
  ➢ Brain changes of Alzheimer’s
  ➢ Therapeutic drugs
  ➢ cellular mechanisms
Health Services

Community based research

Current Projects

• Development of an innovative self help coping program for dementia care givers (Carers Care)

• Managing dementia in the rural context

• The GOLD Book project - A carer decision aide for respite care

Strategic Imperatives

• Diagnosing dementia in primary care

● PhD students X 2
Residential aged care based research

Current Projects

• Building capacity to support a palliative approach to care provision
• Environmental design for people with dementia
• The teaching nursing home

❖ PhD students X 2
Acute care based research

Current Projects

• Best practice and the care of older persons with dementia in the Emergency Department

❖ PhD students X 1
**2009 Publications (cont.)**


## 2009 education program

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<th>Developing human services</th>
<th>Exploring the trajectory of dementia</th>
<th>Investigating the biological basis of dementia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industry training workshops</strong></td>
<td>13 workshops (738 attendees)</td>
<td>2 workshops (33 attendees)</td>
<td>2 workshops (115 attendees)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public seminars</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 attendees</td>
<td>47 attendees</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conference presentations</strong></td>
<td>6 papers 3 posters 1 videoconference</td>
<td>2 papers 2 posters</td>
<td>2 papers 1 poster</td>
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<td><strong>Media publicity</strong></td>
<td>15 (magazine article, radio, television news, or online discussion item)</td>
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