

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS research receives ARC funding

Research to determine the relative contribution of human and climate ignitions in driving bushfire activity around the Southern Hemisphere over the last 10,000 years is part of more than a dozen successful Australian Research Council (ARC) research grants awarded to the University of Tasmania.

Almost \$4 million dollars has been granted for 12 Discovery projects commencing in 2011, including \$560,000 to examine ecologically sustainable fire management and understand the risk posed by climate change.

UTAS has also received ARC Linkage grant funding for a marine engineering project, looking at the optimisation of large, energy-efficient multihull vessels, operating at critical speeds.

Led by Professor Neil Bose from the Australian Maritime College, this project will address the need to develop new energy-efficient multihull vessels using computations and model testing.

UTAS Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the funding is a tangible example of the quality of research currently being undertaken by researchers at the university.

"This announcement continues the University of Tasmania's history of securing funding from the ARC for our research work," Prof Le Grew said.

"It is also pleasing to note that two of our researchers are ARC Fellowship winners. Dr Robert Shellie from the School of Chemistry has secured a much sought after Australian Research Fellowship while Dr Rebecca Carey from the School of Earth Sciences has been successful in obtaining an Australian post-doctoral fellowship," Prof. Le Grew said.

Other successful Discovery projects include:

- Prof. Diane Nicol from the Faculty of Law – *The age of personalised medicine; regulatory challenges for Australia* (\$281,000)
- Prof. John Dickey from the School of Mathematics and Physics - *A survey of the interstellar medium in the Milky Way and Magellanic Clouds using the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder* (\$230,000)
- Assoc. Prof Peter Chapman from the School of History and Classics - *Researching, editing and publication of historical records of Australia* (\$285,000)
- Dr Menna Jones from the School of Zoology - *Investigating the genetic basis for heterogeneous susceptibility of Tasmanian devils to a novel infectious cancer* (\$370,000)

- Dr Greg Jordan from the School of Plant Science - *Capturing Proteus: 65 million years of ecosystem change revealed through evolution of Proteaceae in Australasia* (\$330,000)
- Prof. Pavel Nesterenko from the School of Chemistry – *Micro-disperse sintered nano-diamonds: a new class of versatile adsorbent for high performance liquid chromatography* (\$350,000)
- Dr Anya Reading from the School of Earth Sciences - *Southern Ocean storms and noise sources from Australian seismic array recordings* (\$140,000)
- Dr Rebecca Carey from the School of Earth Sciences - *Submarine volcanoes: degassing of silicic magma with implications for ascent and eruption processes* (\$280,000)
- Prof. Jim Reid from the School of Plant Sciences – *Hormonal regulation of plant growth* (\$360,000)
- Dr Robert Shellie from the School of Chemistry - *A field-portable comprehensive multidimensional gas chromatograph* (\$580,000)
- Assoc. Prof. Rene Vaillancourt from the School of Plant Science – *The genetics of adaptation: changing development trajectories in eucalypts* (\$285,000)

Information Released by:

UTAS Communications and Media, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 8519/2691 Mobile: 0418 510 121

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au