

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 28, 2000

A WORLD-FIRST study has discovered a link between taking aspirin and protection against gum disease.

The study by Adelaide University dental researchers has found that even ex-smokers can benefit from small doses of aspirin.

Severe gum disease, otherwise known as periodontitis, causes deterioration of the structures in the gums that hold the teeth in place. This can ultimately lead to the teeth falling out.

Gum disease is a major problem in Australia, with an estimated 10% of the population suffering from its most severe forms. The problem particularly affects smokers and ex-smokers.

In the first study of its kind, Dr Arthur Drouganis and Dr Robert Hirsch at Adelaide University's Dental School investigated the dental health of 392 men who were ex- or non-smokers. (Men were chosen for the study because mature-aged women can be affected by hormonal changes which can influence the health of the gums.)

Gum health was assessed using a periodontal probe to measure the extent of gum deterioration around all the teeth.

The study found that men from the general population aged 50 and above who were taking low doses of aspirin to prevent heart attacks, strokes and other vascular diseases, had significantly better gum health than those who did not take aspirin.

Non-smokers were better off than ex-smokers 819 -122richRcan ber9acks,-392 meT8docuralt(women can b31(-Fl(fougw(eeth in122r)Tjen ea neheas]] eal ch 29 Tw[(schos1nrstm hhose who)T0.OS22ric8]TJT*

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Jonathan Pincus
**George Gollin Professor of
Economics**

Commonwealth government policy towards universities is inverted. The Commonwealth is encouraging the public universities of Australia to sell what they should be giving away; and at the same time requiring universities to give away what they should be selling.

Canadian ensemble a music coup for Adelaide

IN a major coup for Adelaide, an international music event will be staged, in collaboration with the Elder Conservatorium, at Adelaide University as part of the Telstra Festival of Arts in March.

Forum 2000 is a musical event featuring new works from some of the world's most exciting young composers.

At the centre of Forum 2000 is Canada's leading new music group, the 15-piece *Nouvel Ensemble Moderne* (NEM) which is based at Montreal University.

Young composers from around the world are chosen to write original pieces for the NEM. The four finalists' compositions will be performed during the two weeks of the forum (7-18 March), with the forum winner chosen on the final night.

The entire second week of the forum will be held at Adelaide University's Elder Hall. Music students and staff will also feature throughout the week, including a final-night performance by Adelaide's premier new music ensemble, LIGHTS, alongside members of the NEM.

Forum 2000 (otherwise known as the Forum International des Jeunes Compositeurs) represents the culmination of years of work by Adelaide Festival director Robyn Archer, NEM director Lorraine Vaillancourt, and Grahame Dudley, director of LIGHTS and senior lecturer with Adelaide University's Elder Conservatorium.

In 1998 Ms Vaillancourt spent two weeks as an artist-in-residence at Adelaide University working with staff and students of the Conservatorium. Grahame Dudley was invited to participate in Forum 1998 in Montreal, and this year he will be one of three judges at Forum 2000, joining Lorraine Vaillancourt and celebrated Canadian composer John Rea.

"This is a major event for Australia because the biennial forums have never before been held

outside of Canada," Mr Dudley said.

"It's more than just a series of performances; there are public rehearsals, lectures and workshops which are fascinating and educational in their own right.

"The benefits to Adelaide from an event such as this are enormous, because the NEM and the forums are world renowned."

Around 180 young composers submitted works for the Forum 2000. The jury of three in Montreal had the hard task of selecting only four finalists, including works by composers from Australia, Canada, Portugal and the UK.

In addition to these works being performed in Adelaide, the Telstra Adelaide Festival has commissioned Quentin Grant to write a composition for the NEM and the Elder Conservatorium music ensemble.

Famous Canadian composer Denis Gougeon has also been selected by the Canadian Broadcasting Commission (CBC) to compose an original piece for LIGHTS, which will be showcased at Forum 2000.

"This event is truly international in every sense, and the contribution it is making to new music is extraordinary," said Mr Dudley.

"One of the most important aspects of it all is the fact that our music students and staff will have a greatly enriched experience thanks to the presence of the NEM on campus. And, of course, this builds on the international links between our two universities and generates enormous goodwill between staff, students and composers.

"Being able to attract the Forum and the NEM from Canada says a lot about the quality of our new music programs in Adelaide, and we can only gain from associations such as this."

Performances at Forum 2000 will be broadcast by ABC-FM and recorded for broadcast by the CBC. ABC Television is also making a program of the event.



The collaboration between the Elder Conservatorium and NEM has been generously sponsored by a grant from the Division of PALACE (Performing Arts, Law, Architecture, Commerce & Economics).

Music Review: interview

A COMMITTEE appointed by Adelaide University and the Department of Education, Training & Employment undertook a review of Tertiary Music and Education Training in South Australia last year.

It recommended that a merger of the Elder Conservatorium of Music and the Flinders Street School of Music would be in the best interests of music education and training in the State. No decision has yet been made on the review's recommendations.

Professor Richard Johnstone, recently appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Quality Enhancement) at the University of Technology, Sydney, was convenor of the review committee. He discussed the Music Review with the *Adelaidean*.

Why was your committee asked to review music education and training in South Australia?

There was a general feeling in South Australia that the time had come to look at ways in which the two institutions could collaborate and cooperate more effectively and position themselves for an increasingly competitive climate in music education.

We were very impressed by the number of people who took a strong interest in these issues. They were very keen to see an effective outcome that would allow the two institutions to work together more productively.

What changes have been taking place in music education generally?

The competition is becoming more global. As this happens, you have to look at whether it's effective to continue competing with an organisation in the same city or state. It becomes increasingly difficult to sustain your own ambitions if you're competing with someone so close to home. If you join forces you can compete more effectively on the

national and international stage.

What are some of the benefits you have identified?

Eliminating areas of duplication would provide flexibility to explore new areas of interest to potential music students. One area is electronic music, for example. The associated costs in terms of equipment are quite high, but if you can get the economies of scale that come with a large institution it increases your ability to expand what you're doing in areas like that.

For students and staff there are immense

Advertisement

Robot mouse no trap for students

TWO Adelaide University students have performed well in an international robotics competition known as the "Micromouse" competition, held in Singapore late last year.

Mechatronic Engineering students Daniel Stanef and John Kaesler comprised the first Australian team to take part in the competition, finishing a respectable fourth out of 10 teams.

The competition sees students developing and programming a small autonomous robot 'mouse' capable of traversing an unknown maze in the shortest time possible.

Team member Mr Stanef described the competition as a "great eye-opener", particularly since other teams had much more time to prepare their entries.

"Being the inaugural Australian team at the competition, and having no prior experience with the "mouse", John Kaesler and I were destined to be up against it," he said.

"However, after a four-day crash course on the mouse, we became competitive and finished a creditable fourth, with Thailand taking out first place honours.

"The members of the other teams had been preparing for this competition for a lot longer than John and I—all had had at least one month, and some up to a whole year.

"Consequently, their 'mice' were a lot better 'trained'—capable of accelerating faster, braking later, turning sharper, turning in arcs and even doing 'diagonal' turns.

"All in all, the Micromouse competition was a great experience, and John and I look forward to working on the mouse that we brought back with us, to train it well and take it to the 2000 Micromouse Competition in Manila, Philippines later this year."

The Micromouse Competition has been running for more than 10 years, and recently has been held in conjunction with the annual South East Asian Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) Conference.

Teams to compete in last year's event against Australia were two each from host nation Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong, and three from the Philippines.

—Ben Osborne

Anti-violence project wins award

VIOLENCE in the home, bullying in the school yard, torture in the prison cell.

All are issues that ought to engage doctors at every level of the profession, according to Jennifer Schaffer, affiliate lecturer in Adelaide University's Department of Public Health.

Ms Schaffer, a social worker, is the developer of an innovative curriculum project, Violence as a Public Health Issue, which has won an Australian Violence Prevention Award.

The program taught third-year medical students about the effects of different types of violence on the health and welfare of groups in society.

It covered various types of violent behaviour, including global conflict, use of land mines, school and workplace violence, homophobia, racism and domestic violence.

Students were taught how to detect signs, and intervene effectively, in situations where patients may be experiencing violence or abuse.

They were also encouraged to take a more public role in campaigning against violence of all kinds.

"The response to the course was

very positive," Ms Schaffer said.

"Because of their backgrounds, many students were unaware of the oppression and disadvantage experienced by various groups in the population—refugees who have suffered torture, or children abused by their fathers, for example.

"The project has enabled them to become more aware and sensitive to the disadvantages with which others may live."

Ms Schaffer said the program had underlined the social responsibilities of doctors, both locally and internationally.

"Doctors have a duty to speak out about human rights abuses.

"They can do it at a local level by going to their local school and talking about preventing bullying or they can join international organisations campaigning against torture."

The idea for the elective course developed from a series of domestic violence workshops run for final-year medical students. Until 12 months ago, all six year medical students attended a day-long workshop on how to identify domestic violence and provide appropriate and effective help for the women, children and men living



State Attorney-General Trevor Griffin with Jennifer Schaffer. Photo courtesy of Sascha Brooker.

with, or escaping from, violent homes.

South Australian Attorney-General Trevor Griffin said the Australian Violence Prevention Award recognised projects which aimed to correct misconceptions about violence and encouraged people to

challenge existing thinking on domestic violence reduction.

Although the courses are no longer running Ms Schaffer hoped the crucial issue of violence and abuse would be covered in the curriculum for medical students.

—John Drislane

Industry award goes to pig researcher

For the past two years, the organisers of the SA Pig & Poultry Fair have awarded a prize in the form of financial support to people in South Australia, who are keen to investigate areas that may practically benefit pig and poultry producers.

This year, the \$2500 award was presented to Thomas Banhazi, a researcher with the SARDI - Pig and Poultry Production Institute (PPPI) and a postgraduate student with Adelaide University's Animal Science Department.

Thomas has a special interest in air and environmental quality within intensive livestock buildings.

Previous research work demonstrated that the

health, feed con6.439nLI8ow winstrion oigtP

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COMMENTARY

UPSIDE DOWN EDUCATION

From Page 2

The recent white paper policy on research and research training gives universities a financial incentive to produce more private-goods research. This may be defensible if public-goods research was being sustained. However, the real value of public funding for university research has fallen, outside of medical research; independent consultants have verified that there has been a serious deterioration in university research infrastructure.

The Chief Scientist, Dr Robin Batterham, in his recent paper "Investing in Knowledge Generation for the Twenty First Century", stated that governments "...will ensure that public goods research continues to be performed"; but he also quoted Gus Nossal that "Australia, by cutting support and funding, is drastically shooting itself in the foot" (pp. 5, 13).

In these circumstances, public universities will divert resources from the production of public-goods research to the production of private-goods research for profit; and, like private firms, they will increasingly restrict the publication of public-goods research.

The correct combination, reversing both errors, is more public finding for public-goods research, and superHECS for university fees.

CAREER PATHS

KEEPING YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

GRADUATES from Adelaide University can find a career anywhere.

*With that in mind, the Adelaidean is this year
running8 T1224 reo93hp8AY*



Bulletin Board

FEBRUARY 28, 2000

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

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1.10pm Student Workshop: Learn deep relaxation with Mark O'Donoghue. Counselling Centre, Ground Floor, Horace Lamb Building (every Monday for Semester 1).

Ground Floor, Horace Lamb Building
(every Wednesday for Semester 1)
(every Monday)

12noon Child Health Research Institute Seminar: Postnatal Development of the SI by Dr Adrian Cummins (Gastro, QEH). Seminar Room, 7th Floor, Rieger Building, WCH.

10.10am Electrical & Electronic Engineering Seminar: Signal Processing Techniques for Calibrating Sonar, Radar and Radio Astronomical Arrays by Professor Doug A Gray (Deputy Director, CSSIP). Room S112, Engineering South Building.

1.10pm Invitation for New Students: Coffee, Cake and Conversation with Susan Howard. Counselling Centre,

University Reviews for 2000

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) is planning to hold a number of Reviews during the coming year, following approval by the Vice-Chancellor's Committee.

The following Reviews have now been scheduled:

- An International Review of the University of Adelaide Libraries in the first half of the year.
- A Review of the Department of Geographical and Environme

Counselling Centre



WORKSHOPS

- Learn Deep Relaxation
- Developing a Lifestyle that Reduces Stress and Worry
- 101 Tips on Improving Sleep
- Confident Tutorial and Seminar Presentations
- Balancing Family and Relationship Commitments with Study
- Relationships
- The Perfect Procrastinator
- Effortless Exams
- Surviving a PhD
- Coffee, Cake & Conversation

LUNCH TIMES - FREE BOOK ON 8303 5663 OR CALL IN

DAILY DROP IN SERVICE

1.00 - 2.30PM Brief consultations only - no appointment required

Teaching at University courses 2000

Semester 1 dates: Tuesdays 9.15am - 12noon, 14, 21, 28 March, 4 April, 2, 9 & 16 May.

These courses are open to all academic staff at the University. Teaching at University focuses on learning and teaching at Adelaide University and consists of seven sessions and a project. The course is designed for staff teaching, or intending to teach, in a university. One of the conditions of tenure is that staff should undertake a program of teaching development.

Please contact Lynne Bradshaw, 8303 5771, for enrolment details.

Dental implants

**Had enough of your partial denture?
Having trouble with you full lower denture?**

Volunteer to be part of a research project into dental implants and your denture could be a thing of the past. The latest types of titanium dental implants are being investigated. The cost of the implants and to have the superstructure made is 10000.00. For more information contact Dr. John (Del) Tj0.661s1.931niD(ur)Tj0.-ij-24.157t24

