

## **Honours in Physiology**

### **Assessment**

Assessment of the honours program in Physiology is based primarily around the research project, but is broken up into components assessed at different times of the year. The emphasis in our program is on developing research skills that equip our graduates to be effective, independent researchers and science communicators (of both scientific hypotheses and their results). For this reason, we do not have a traditional book-like thesis as in some other Honours programs. Instead our students submit their final results in the form of a scientific manuscript with an overall length similar to that of a research paper as published in typical scientific journals in Physiology (total length ca. 5000 words). This is a task that requires a concise yet accurate and comprehensive approach to scientific writing – a challenging task which we encourage through an iterative process and supported by skills workshops. As testimony to the success of this approach many students who have completed our program have gone on to submit their thesis to peer-reviewed scientific journals, as well as presenting their work at national and international conferences. For further details of the assessment process please contact David O'Carroll, Honours Co-ordinator, or the staff in the Physiology Teaching Resource Centre.

### **Can I Enrol?**

If you have any doubts or concerns about your acceptability as an Honours student - please see the Honours Co-ordinator, David O'Carroll in the first instance.

### **Honours Scholarships**

A number of individual laboratories offer scholarships for specific projects (usually funded from research grants). These will be advertised during the Physiology project information session (**the date will be announced by e-mail and on MyUni**). If you are unable to make it to that session, please contact the Honours Co-ordinator, David O'Carroll, for more information. Finally, several of our external partner organizations (e.g. the QEH) offer scholarships for students who enrol in eligible laboratories. If you are interested in Honours scholarships, you should make enquiries directly with potential supervisors as to whether there are any scholarships available for projects that they offer.

### **Choosing a Project**

The range of Honours projects in Physiology available in 2009 can be studied by browsing the Honours in Physiology website. You may know some, but not all of the supervisors, from your experience with them as lecturers. We suggest that you identify at least 3-4 research areas that might be of interest to you and that you then arrange to meet with the supervisors to discuss the available projects in more detail. By meeting with supervisors you are not committing yourself. All the supervisors listed on the website are happy to be contacted and they will not expect you to have a great deal of background knowledge in their specific field, so feel free to meet with them even if you are just curious to find out more after browsing their websites. Many of these potential supervisors will be present at the initial Honours information session to be held before the mid-semester break in early October (**the date will be announced by e-mail and on MyUni**)... This will be held in the Physiology Teaching Resource Centre (Medical School South, 4th Floor) and potential supervisors will be happy to discuss possibilities with you in the casual atmosphere that this session provides. It is important that you talk with at least 3-4 supervisors so that you feel confident that you are making the right choice and don't feel pressured into making your decision too early. The application form on this website allows you to express interest in several different projects and if you are at all undecided, we would suggest that you list all of the projects that you are considering (in order of preference). It is not compulsory for you to list more than one project, but we strongly recommend that you consider alternatives, as your first choice may not be available. Whilst some supervisors work on the basis of 'first come, first served', most will wait until they have seen a number of students before they feel confident about offering their project to any one student. In the event that your first choice is unavailable, we will contact you to discuss alternatives.