

EMERITUS

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Health leader to advance Indigenous genomics

“There is no population that suffers the long-term consequences of early life challenges more than Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and our program of research will combine genomics, precision medicine and public health to address this.”

Internationally-acclaimed Aboriginal researcher and clinician Dr Alex Brown will take up a new appointment as Professor of Indigenous Genomics as part of a new strategic partnership between Perth's Telethon Kids Institute and The Australian National University. Telethon Kids Institute Board Chair and ANU Chancellor, the Hon Julie Bishop, said the appointment reflected a joint commitment of both organisations to working with community to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“Professor Brown is widely regarded as one of Australia's top Aboriginal clinician researchers,” she said. “His work has already had a significant impact in improving health care and services, and also in the way we conduct research in partnership with Indigenous communities to ensure the greatest relevance and results.

“The field of genomics unlocks the information in our DNA to enable personalised, more targeted approaches to preventions and treatments.

“Professor Brown's work in this area will help to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are very much part of this exciting new frontier in medicine.”

Professor Brown has long associations with both organisations, having served on the governing boards of the ANU National Centre for Indigenous Genomics and Telethon Kids Institute, as well as being the scientific lead on the Institute's 1000 Families Initiative.

"This role is a great opportunity for me to leverage the strengths of two highly regarded organisations to bring new capacity and focus to this program of work," he said.

"There is no population that suffers the long-term consequences of early life challenges more than our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and our program of research will combine genomics, precision medicine and public health to address this."

Professor Brown's priorities will be to:

Support community awareness and genomic literacy to underpin informed participation and empowerment in research.

Establish ethical, culturally and socially appropriate ways of conducting genomic research in partnership with communities.

Document and understand the diversity of Indigenous peoples and the drivers of disease in different communities.

Deepen understanding of biology and enhance knowledge of complex diseases among Indigenous Australians to directly improve health outcomes.

Translate scientific understandings of genomic diversity into enhanced and targeted delivery of health care within Indigenous health services.

Develop the capacity of the Indigenous genomics workforce.

Dean of the ANU College of Health and Medicine, Professor Russell Gruen, welcomed the partnership with Telethon Kids Institute and the opportunities Professor Brown's appointment brings for serving society, and particularly Indigenous people, through transformational research.

"Professor Brown is leading population genomics to a new level, and will now align his own deep expertise with that of the Telethon Kids Institute and the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics at ANU to advance human health, and ensure people everywhere can benefit from such great science," he said.

Telethon Kids Executive Director Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM, said Professor Brown's appointment reinforces the Institute's ambition to be the global leader in Indigenous child health research.

"Professor Brown is driven by integrity, respect and deep compassion. We are very excited to have his wisdom, expertise and leadership guiding our commitment to see real change for WA Aboriginal children and families, to make sure we can grow up the next generation of Aboriginal children to become leaders."

The ANU and Telethon Kids strategic partnership will drive a common agenda for research excellence and internationally significant scientific outcomes, as well as facilitate the training of higher degree by research students and the development of early-mid career researchers. Professor Brown and his team will take up their new positions in 2022 and be based at the Institute's Adelaide office.

A celebration of ANUEF lives

James J. Fox, Chair, ANU Emeritus Faculty, has announced the electronic publication of the ANU Emeritus Faculty's *LIFE CELEBRATIONS* volume, the Faculty's contribution to the ANU's 75th Anniversary celebrations. He writes, "This volume, which runs to over 650 pages, contains 192 obituaries of ANU members whose deaths occurred between 2000 and 2021. As a collection, it provides a historical glimpse of some of the extraordinary men and women who have worked at the ANU and presents a picture of the University as it has developed over the years." *LIFE CELEBRATIONS* is available for direct download from the Emeritus Faculty website under Publications:

<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/250556/1/LIFE%20CELEBRATIONS.pdf>

Printed copies have been ordered and should be available by the end of the month. The price per copy will be approximately \$50 and those wishing to pre-order can do so by sending an email to the Emeritus Faculty Secretary (secretary.emeritus@anu.edu.au).

James Fox adds, "At some time in November, an official launch of this volume will be held as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations. I wish you all the best in these final days of lockdown here in Canberra. We hope to be able to resume some of our activities before the end of this year."

Life Celebrations has been uploaded to Open Research here: <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/250556>

It is also described on the Archives database here: <https://archivescollection.anu.edu.au/index.php/life-celebrations-anu-obituaries-2000-2021>

Brittany Higgins joins ANU

Former political staffer and women's safety and equality advocate Brittany Higgins has been appointed as the inaugural Visiting Fellow at The Australian National University's Global Institute for Women's Leadership (GIWL).

As part of GIWL, Ms Higgins will help advance work on a proposed code of conduct to prevent and respond to abuse, harassment and sexual misconduct in Parliament House and parliamentary workplaces.

Ms Higgins will also collaborate with GIWL on other key issues, including the implementation of the Respect@Work report, advancing the outcomes of the Independent Inquiry into the Commonwealth's Parliamentary Workplaces expected in November 2021 and highlighting the importance of young women's leadership.

GIWL at ANU is a non-partisan organisation that undertakes cutting-edge research and advocacy driven by evidence to support women's leadership and improve workplace gender equality.

ANU is the first university in the world to partner with the original Global Institute for Women's Leadership at King's College London, established and led by former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

Ms Gillard said Ms Higgins was "a powerful force for change who had already greatly advanced the national conversation and push for reform in one of the most confronting and urgent issues Australia faces".

"In Brittany, Australia has an incredible leader who is already having a profound impact," Ms Gillard said.

"I applaud her courage in coming forward with her experiences, and her determination to make sure other women do not ever have to go through what she has.

"Her bravery should and must lead to meaningful change, not only in our workplaces, but across all our society.

"Brittany will be a wonderful advocate and I am delighted she has joined GIWL and ANU. I look forward to working with her and other members of the global GIWL team on these vital issues."

Ms Higgins said she was looking forward to working as a conduit between Government, academics and those in the field to ensure best practice models are adopted to bring about systemic change in Australia.

"I am dedicated to driving meaningful change in Parliament House, and all Australian workplaces, so that our systems work better to prevent and respond to inappropriate workplace conduct.

"All women have the right to feel safe and respected at work and in society more broadly.

"The 2021 Women's Safety Summit was a great first step to addressing these challenges. Now more than ever in the midst of growing inequality as a result of COVID-19, it's important to ensure words are translated into action.

"I am committed to ensuring that we are able to harness the momentum kickstarted this year to enact real change for Australian women so they can be better served by our major institutions."

Director of GIWL at ANU, Professor Michele Ryan said young voices like Ms Higgins' were fundamental to driving real change.

"Sexual harassment, sexual assault, inequality, abuse: these are issues women have been confronting in the workplace and society for too long," Professor Ryan said.

"But Brittany is a voice for change who will not only help advance the case for reform in Australia but who will inspire a new generation of women to keep demanding nothing less than what they are all owed: respect.

"We shouldn't have to demand it. But we are fortunate to have young leaders like Brittany while we still do.

"GIWL at ANU undertakes research, advocacy and practice to improve workplace gender equality and accelerate women's leadership. We have a world-class research team building the evidence base and finding out what works.

"As our inaugural Visiting Fellow, Brittany Higgins will help us in our advocacy to ensure the evidence and research we produce reaches a broader audience and is able to be transformed into policy change and better workplace practice."

For more information about the ANU Global Institute for Women's Leadership visit:
<https://giwl.anu.edu.au/>

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Australian among new WHO pathogens group candidates

Following a public call for experts, the World Health Organization (WHO) has announced proposed members of the WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO). The SAGO will advise WHO on the development of a global framework to define and guide studies into the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2. Selected from more than 700 applications, the 26 proposed SAGO members have expertise in a range of areas, including epidemiology, animal health, ecology, clinical medicine, virology, genomics, molecular epidemiology, molecular biology, biology, food safety, biosafety, biosecurity, and public health. The composition of the SAGO reflects geographic and gender diversity.

Among the 26 names short-listed is Australian-born **Dr Stuart Blacksell** who is a Professor of Tropical Microbiology at the Nuffield Department of Medicine at the University of Oxford.

Final choices will be made after a two-week public consultation period.

For a list of proposed candidates go to: • [List of proposed SAGO members](#). Should you wish to comment on any of the individuals, please send your comment to SAGO@who.int with subject, "**Public comments on SAGO members**" by **27 October 2021**.

Graduate job outlook continues to improve: national survey

Short-term graduate employment rates have stabilised, and median salaries are on the rise despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the latest national report on graduate outcomes. The 2021 Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) shows employment rates for graduates four months after leaving university. The survey, the largest of its kind and completed by 127,827 graduates, shows that after declining between 2019 and 2020 graduate employment levels levelled out this year. The full-time graduate employment rate increased from 68.7 per cent to 68.9 per cent, while the overall employment rate for both full-time and part-time employment for recent graduates remained broadly similar to last year, with 84.8 per cent in jobs (compared to 85.1 per cent in 2020).

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said the results of the survey demonstrated yet again the benefit of a graduate qualification. "While the impact of the

COVID-19 pandemic is still being felt everywhere, a degree continues to give students the edge in an increasingly competitive employment market,” Ms Jackson said.

“The survey also shows signs of a recovery in the graduate job market. As vaccination rates improve, and reach beyond 80 per cent in some places, and more states begin to open up, it is highly likely the premium for graduates will grow further. Graduate employment traditionally outstrips the trajectory of the national economy. So, a university education equips you for success in even the most challenging economic environment,” she said.

“These data show that, while the prospects for graduates after they complete their studies are strong, they improve significantly with time. Within three years of finishing their studies, nearly nine in 10 graduates are employed full-time.”

The survey shows that the number of hours graduates work has increased for both full-time and part-time employees, along with salaries. The median full-time undergraduate salary level increased slightly from \$64,700 in 2020 to \$65,000 in 2021. Female undergraduates continue to earn less than male undergraduates in 2021, \$64,200 compared with \$66,800.

“The survey shows a widening gender pay gap of 3.9 per cent, increasing from 2.5 per cent in 2020. This remains an inequity which must be addressed,” Ms Jackson said.

The report can be accessed on the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) website.

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Book Shelf

Book Shelf

Commercial offerings:

It is recommended that prices be checked for both US and English editions.

Abe Books is offering new and second hand titles including:

[Shackleton](#) by Roland Huntford. Published by Abacus, 1989

[ISBN 10: 0349107440](#) [ISBN 13: 9780349107448](#)

US\$ 3.54 Condition: Used; Good. Dispatched, from the UK, within 48 hours of ordering. This book is in good condition but will show signs of previous ownership. Please expect some creasing to the spine and/or minor damage to the cover.

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Alone on the Ice: The Greatest Survival Story in the History of Exploration

by David Roberts

Soft cover

ISBN 10: 0393347788 ISBN 13: 9780393347784

[34 New from](#) US\$ 17.01 [23 Used from](#) US\$ 5.15

On January 17, 1913, alone and near starvation, Douglas Mawson, leader of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, was hauling a sledge to get back to base camp. The dogs were gone. Now Mawson himself plunged through a snow bridge, dangling over an abyss by the sledge harness. ...

Arabian Sands

by Wilfred Thesiger (Penguin Classics)

[30 New from](#) US\$ 12.45; [28 Used from](#) US\$ 7.0

Arabian Sands is Wilfred Thesiger's record of his extraordinary journey through the parched "Empty Quarter" of Arabia. Educated at Eton and Oxford, Thesiger was repulsed by the softness and rigidity of Western life—"the machines, the calling cards, the meticulously aligned streets."

From Penguin Random House

Believing: Our Thirty-Year Journey to End Gender Violence

By Anita Hill

[Hardcover](#) \$30.00

ISBN 9780593298299

From the woman who gave the landmark testimony against Clarence Thomas as a sexual menace, a new manifesto about the origins and course of gender violence in our society; a combination of memoir, personal accounts, law, and social analysis, and a powerful call to arms from one of our most prominent and poised survivors.

Abdulrazak Gurnah wins the 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature

Abdulrazak Gurnah, winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature, was praised by the Nobel Prize jury for his "uncompromising and compassionate" approach to the effects of colonialism. The Tanzanian writer has published 10 novels and numerous short stories. His breakthrough came with *Paradise* – a novel about an African boy's coming of age.

Matters of possible interest

Mental Health Atlas 2020

WHO's Mental Health Atlas provides an overview of mental health resources available around the world. Data provided by 171 countries on mental health policies, legislation, financing, human resources, and the availability and use of mental health services, is compiled to show progress (and lack of progress) towards meeting the mental health targets set by the global health community. The Atlas was released in the lead-up to World Mental Health Day on 10 October, for which the focus this year is scaling up access to quality mental health care.

[More information on World Mental Health Day](#)

Diary Dates

Craig Reynolds is coordinator of ANUEF's Events' Diary (creynolds697@gmail.com also Craig.Reynolds@anu.edu.au).

July 6-7, 2022 The 2022 Universities Australia Conference will be held 6-7 July at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The conference is an important opportunity for those in the higher education sector to catch up, learn and share their insights and experiences. To make next year's event as accessible as possible for everyone, the conference will be offered both face-to-face and online.

For more information contact:
Universities Australia
1 Geils Court
Deakin ACT 2600
P: 02 6285 8100
events@universitiesaustralia.edu.au

Meet the author

Colin Steele advises that it is worth booking ANU-*Canberra Times* meet-the-author events because if they are cancelled existing bookings will be moved to another date.

<https://www.anu.edu.au/events/anuthe-canberra-times-meet-the-author-series>

Catch up with the authors

To access all Meet-the-Author conversations access

<https://www.anu.edu.au/events/all-podcasts>

National Film and Sound Archive ; check latest relaxations

At the National Library - Closed during Covid lock-down but check latest relaxations

At the NGA - Closed during Covid lock-down but check latest relaxations

Administration

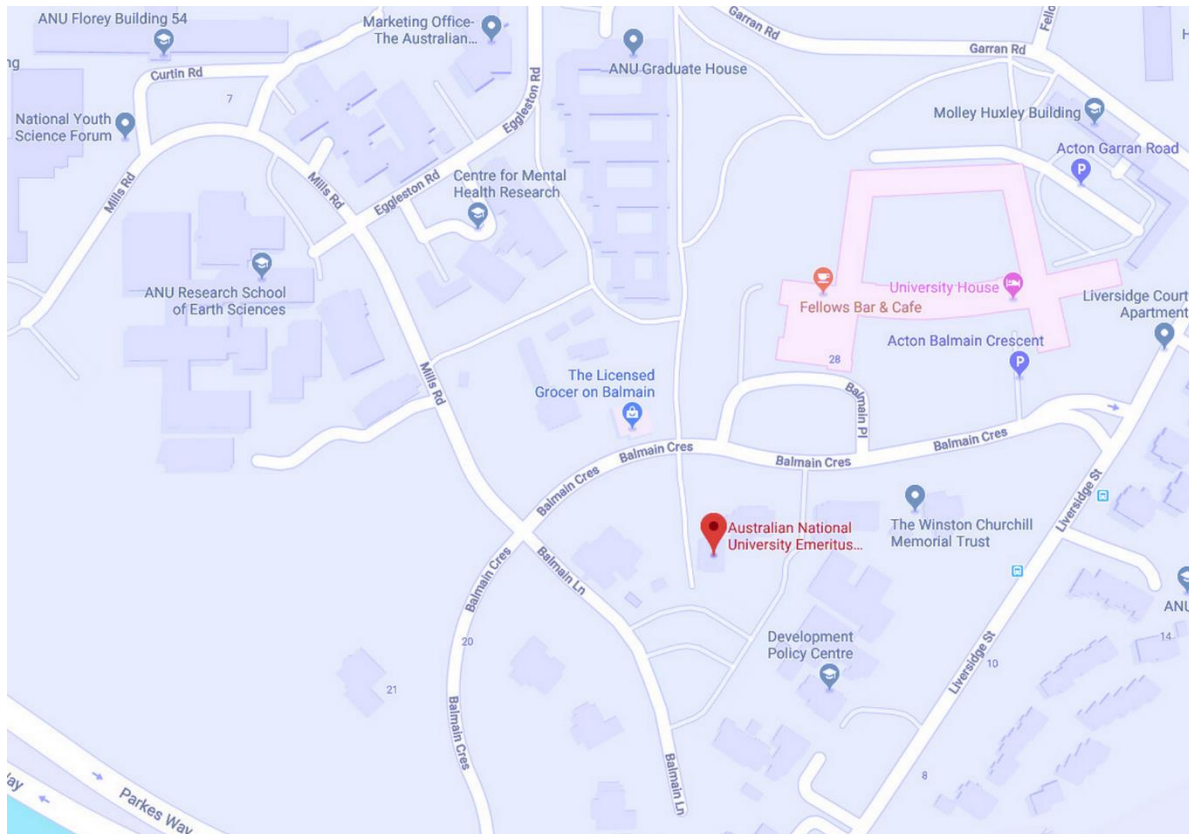
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty **Jan O'Connor** at jantancress@gmail.com or Tel: 6247 3341

Finding the Molony Room

The Molony Room is at 24 Balmain Crescent, on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House.

It is Building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj> set back between No 22 Balmain Crescent, which is the Acton Early Childhood Centre, and No 26 Balmain Crescent, which is the Academy of the Social Sciences. There are four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room. The room is marked on: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gsyqgh>



The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF e-magazine, will be published in November.