A health supplement used by bodybuilders could be the key to treating a life-threatening muscle disease affecting hundreds of Australian children, new research shows.

There is currently no cure for Nemaline myopathy (NM) – the most common congenital muscle disease – which causes muscle weakness of varying severity in an estimated 500 Australian children.

Children with NM experience delayed motor development and weakness in the arms and legs, trunk, throat and face muscles. The condition can lead to difficulties breathing and moving and, in its severest form, can cause death.

However, medical researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) have shown that consuming the amino acid L-tyrosine can significantly improve muscle strength and mobility, and reduce many of the negative symptoms of the disease.

The amino acid is readily available in health food shops and is used as a body building supplement and as a memory booster. The findings raise the possibility the supplement could also be effective in a range of other degenerative muscle wasting conditions.

A team of scientists led by Professor Edna Hardeman, from UNSW’s Neuromuscular and Regenerative Medicine Unit, were able to test the efficacy of the supplement after creating – for the first time – a genetically modified mouse which display the same genetic changes found in children with NM.

“These mice have a remarkably similar disease profile to the
children, with many of the animals dying young,” Professor Hardeman said.

After feeding the mice the L-tyrosine, the team observed improvements in muscle strength, increased mobility and a reduction in a range of muscle pathologies.

The findings will now be used as the basis for a clinical trial to test L-tyrosine’s ability to alleviate symptoms in children.

“This is the first clear demonstration that L-tyrosine supplements can significantly reduce both the clinical and pathological features of NM,” Professor Hardeman said.

“L-tyrosine is readily available, it is easy to administer and our data suggest that long-term use is relatively safe,” Professor Hardeman said.

“What’s more, the rapid and dramatic impact of L-tyrosine in NM mice also raises the possibility the supplement may be beneficial for dystrophy patients and other muscle degenerative conditions.”

Other team members included Dr Mai-Anh Nguyen and Josephine Joya from UNSW.

The study was funded by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council.

About Nemaline Myopathy

Nemaline Myopathy is one of 40 neuromuscular diseases covered by the Australian Muscular Dystrophy Association, and was first identified in 1958 by an Australian physician, Dr Douglas Reye. It was originally named ‘rod myopathy’ because of the presence of distinct rod-like inclusions in sufferers’ skeletal muscle fibres.

NM has an estimated incidence of 1:50,000 live births. However, it may be more common in some populations, with some studies suggesting an incidence of 1:500 in the Amish community.

People with NM have muscle weakness (myopathy) throughout the body, but it is typically most severe in the muscles of the face, neck, and limbs. This weakness can worsen over time. Affected individuals may have feeding and swallowing difficulties, foot deformities, abnormal curvature of the spine (scoliosis), and joint deformities (contractures). Most people with NM are able to walk, although some affected children may begin walking later than usual. As the condition progresses, some people may require wheelchair assistance. In severe cases, the muscles used for breathing are affected and life-threatening breathing difficulties can occur.

About Nemaline Myopathy
Rakesh Kumar

Prof Athol Lykke was my boss, friend, mentor and – in very many ways – an inspiration to me. I first met him in 1977 when I began my academic career in the then School of Pathology at UNSW. I can still remember our first encounter, and feeling more than a bit overwhelmed by this larger-than-life person who absolutely radiated energy and enthusiasm for teaching and for his discipline.

Prof Lykke was my joint PhD supervisor, with Prof Ron Penny. He was a wonderful advisor and I was remarkably fortunate to have the opportunity to interact with him closely in this role. I’m not so sure whether having me as PhD student could be described as fortunate for him, but he coped amazingly well, all things considered!

For 18 years I had the privilege of working with Prof Lykke as my Head of School. However, after the death of Prof Don Wilhelm, the Foundation Head of School, it took a while for the university to figure out that they needed to appoint Athol Lykke as the Head – he spent over a year as Acting Head of School, so eventually the other members of academic staff got together and bought him a T-shirt with "Permanent Acting Head" emblazoned across it. It must have worked …

Prof Lykke was a passionate teacher, who was (in)famous for randomly picking on medical students in lectures and asking them questions, which mostly succeeded in terrifying them but certainly kept them attentive. Then again, the way in which he picked on students wasn’t entirely random – wearing a brightly coloured shirt was a fairly sure way of getting his attention. Especially if the shirt was yellow, in which case the wearer was likely to hear something like "Hey, jaundice! You there in the yellow shirt! What do think is the explanation for …" (whatever it was he was asking about). In the early 1980s, an entire 3rd year Medicine class retaliated one day, and everyone came to his lecture wearing yellow T-shirts!! It was memorable but I don’t think it restrained Prof Lykke at all.

Thanks to his leadership and example, all the members of academic staff in the School of Pathology took a serious interest in giving medical students a quality education. He was always willing to spend time discussing effective approaches to teaching, and he certainly taught me a great deal of whatever I know about the skills needed to work effectively in a classroom.

Having suffered through supervising my PhD, Prof Lykke decided that he was going to recruit me on to his research team, and thus I moved out of cancer research and into the study of lung disease, which has remained my interest ever since. He was an excellent research mentor. What I remember most of all is his enthusiasm for developing new experimental approaches to solving tricky problems. He tackled these with the same sort of energy and enthusiasm that struck me when I first met him.

In fact, over the years, I learnt that tackling things with energy and enthusiasm encapsulated Prof Lykke’s approach to life. I am sure it is how many of us will always remember him.
The change of venue for the School’s End of Year celebrations in December saw record numbers of staff taking time off from their busy schedules to enjoy the festivities held in the Mathews Pavilions. The pinnacle of the day was the announcement of the SoMS Staff Awards for 2011. Detailed below are last year’s recipients:

**SoMS Teacher of the Year**

- Angela Finch

**SoMS Community Engagement**

- Sally Meldon

**SoMS Distinguished Administrative Staff Award**

- Vicky Sawatt

**SoMS Award for Contribution to the Student Experience**

- Paul Bertrand

**SoMS Researcher of the Year**

- Peter Gunning

**SoMS Conjoint or Sessional Teacher of the Year**

- Graeme Jones

**SoMS Distnguished Technical Staff Award**

- Paul Sellers

**SoMS New Researcher fo the Year**

- Rowena Bull
Industry Awards for Outstanding Performance in Pharmaceutical Medicine and Drug Development Announced

John Langlands

The Pharmaceutical Medicine and Drug Development Program in Medicine at the UNSW recently announced the winners of the ARCS Awards for Outstanding Performance in Postgraduate Studies. ARCS is a not for profit organisation which supports the educational and career development needs of professionals in the pharmaceutical industries. For many years it has been a strong advocate of high quality education and training of graduates working in the drug development industry. ARCS was a founding supporter of the Postgraduate degree programs in Pharmaceutical Medicine and Drug Development established at UNSW 15 years ago.

The Awards Ceremony was held on 5 March at UNSW during a reception for students graduating from the program. Joe Badolato, from ARCS, presented Dr Devonie Waaka with the Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Master of Medical Science in Drug Development for 2011. Joe also announced that the Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Program for 2010 was received by Natasha Stevens.

At the ceremony with the graduat-
ing students, Dr John Langlands (Program Authority) thanked ARCS for their continued generous support of the programs at UNSW. He remarked how the Pharmaceutical Medicine and Drug Development Programs at UNSW continue to be strong and are recognised as the premier programs in their field throughout Australasia.

Over the past few years, a number of important changes have been made to the courses and program, as a result of interactive feedback from students and industry. These have significantly helped improve the delivery of material and in turn this has enhanced the learning experience of students. Courses are now delivered on-line, with tasks designed to reflect real-world scenarios, and on-line tutorials provide the visual dynamics to discussions.

In accepting the award, Devonie shared her experience from completing the program: "As a Pharmaceutical Physician working in the industry, the Drug Development Program has provided me with a strong appreciation of the various disciplines involved in the development of new medicines. The courses give an in-depth understanding of the different perspectives, goals and pressures of these disciplines, and of how they interrelate to bring medicines from the bench-top to the bedside. This knowledge is directly applicable to my work environment, benefitting me both in terms of everyday decision making, and in my interactions with other industry specialists.”

Natasha Stevens, now in the UK at Queen Mary University Hospital, said: “The Master’s Program really helped me succeed in my chosen area of Medical Research. Being a part-time program, it enabled me to study while continuing to work in the field. With courses being run by academics and industry professionals of the highest calibre, and who were always available for advice, made learning a pleasure.”

John noted that the graduating students have been fortunate to have had exposure during their coursework to such a wide variety of topics important in the development of new medicines, and to have been able to gain some expertise in each. They have been privileged to have such dedicated and knowledgeable tutors from academia, industry and regulatory agencies who are keen to share their experience and support. In passing on congratulations to all graduating students, John reminded them of how their efforts during their studies, how the programs helped shape career changes and advancements, and the friendships they have made through weekend workshops.

John also thanked several pharmaceutical companies (Boehringer Ingelheim, Shire Australia, Merck Sharp and Dohme (Australia), Mundipharma Australia, iNova Pharma, sanofi-aventis, Pharmabioquintet and Alphapharm) who have provided generous donations to support the Postgraduate Program Travel Grants to assist students in defraying costs when traveling from out of state to attend the weekend schools. It is hoped that the travel grant program will continue in the future.

A number of tutors have decided to retire from teaching in the programs: Professor Garry Graham, Professor Andrew McLachlan, Dr. Robert Creek, Dr Guy Gavagna, Dr. Glen Pater, Dr Norma Rohde, Dr. Robyn Isaacson, Dr Helen Allars. Mr Peter Dwyer, on behalf of the Faculty, John recognised their dedication and passion for sharing knowledge, thanking them for their contributions. In closing, Professor Richard Day (Program Advisor) expressed his gratitude to the large number of tutors for their continued hard work, and especially thanked Dr John Langlands for his dedication and energy to the programs. He also thanked Faculty staff, including Professor Nick Hawkins (Head of School) and Professor Margaret Morris (Head, Pharmacology), for their ongoing support. Professor Day reiterated John’s enthusiasm for ensuring the programs continue to deliver high quality graduates, ensuring Australia competes at a world-class level in the industry. He also looks forward to continued collaborations between ARCS and the Pharmaceutical Medicine and Drug Development Group at UNSW.

Some of the 2012 graduating Drug Development students
SoMS Seminar Series Presents

Wednesday 11th April
Professor Roger Daly
Senior Principal Research Fellow, Group Leader, Cancer Research Program Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Wednesday 9th May
Professor Rodney (Rod) Minchin
Chair of Molecular Pharmacology at The University of Queensland

Wednesday 20th June
Professor Christina Mitchell
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University

Wednesday 18th July
Professor Stephen Lord
Senior Principal Research Fellow, Neuroscience Research Australia

Wednesday 15th August
Professor Geoff McCaughan
Medicine, Central Clinical School, AW Morrow Gastroenterology and Liver Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Seminars held on Level 4, Lowy Cancer Research Centre commencing at 4pm. Seminars may be subject to change without prior notification. Further dates for 2012 series to be announced.
All enquiries should be directed to: Dr Phoebe Phillips at p.phillips@unsw.edu.au

http://medicalsciences.med.unsw.edu.au/SOMSWeb.nsf/page/SoMS Lecture Series

Save the Dates
Awards Recognize Scientists Pioneering the Study and Advancement of Immunoglobulin Therapy for Neurologic Disorders

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland, Feb. 15, 2012 /CNW/

CSL Behring announced today the four recipients of the 2012 Interlaken Leadership Awards. Now in its second year, the Interlaken Leadership Awards program recognizes scientists whose proposals are likely to advance innovative medical research and knowledge about the potential role of immunoglobulin therapy in the treatment of neurologic disorders. The total value of the four awards is estimated to be more than US$1 million.

CSL Behring created the Interlaken Leadership Awards program to support research designed to identify new potential clinical applications for polyvalent immunoglobulins, with the goal of improving the lives of patients who have disabling neurologic conditions.

The winners of the 2012 Interlaken Leadership Awards are:

- Cindy Shin-Yi Lin, PhD
  University of New South Wales, Australia
  Nerve Excitability Substudy of Polyvalent Immunoglobulin Treatment in Patients with CIDP

- Milan Basta, M.D., PhD
  BioVisions, Inc., United States
  IVIG in Acute Ischemic Stroke

- Cory Toth, M.D.
  University of Calgary, Canada
  A Cross-Over Study of SCIG Therapy for Early Onset of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathic Pain

- Josep Gamez, M.D., PhD
  Hospital General Universitari Vall d’Hebron, Spain
  Intravenous Immunoglobulin for Preparing Myasthenia Gravis Patients for Thymectomy and Other Surgical Procedures Preventing Myasthenic Crisis

“I am privileged to receive the 2012 Interlaken Leadership Awards from CSL BEhring, an Australian owned global biopharmaceutical company that aims to identify, develop and commercialize important, new, biotherapeutic products that save lives by preventing or treating serious medical conditions,” said Cindy.

“This award will assist me in establishing industry links for my future research with the aim of improving treatments for patients with inflammatory neuropathies. It came as a surprise and I am very honoured to win this award.”

“Neurologic conditions, such as those being studied by these investigators, can be debilitating for patients and have a negative impact on their quality of life,” said Jeffrey Baggish, M.D., Director of Medical Affairs, Immunology & Pulmonary at CSL Behring. “These scientists’ efforts to advance innovative research into the potential role of immunoglobulin therapy for neurologic disorders could lead to the discovery of new treatment options that may improve the lives of patients, an undertaking CSL Behring is proud to support.”

The recipients of the Interlaken Leadership Awards were selected by a global, cross-functional CSL Behring review committee. The committee evaluated recipients based on scientific merit, strength of hypothesis, relevance to neuroimmunology and research feasibility.
Did you or do you have a nickname, how did this come about?
People in school started calling me “Ted” when I was about 15, and it stuck. It’s a common nickname for people named Edward. It’s a bit of an inconvenient nickname, in that it changes my first initial. I always put “Edward” on anything formal.

What’s your earliest memory?
I have a few memories from about the age of three, when I lived in Tumut. For example: Looking into the toy-shop window with my older siblings, at the Hornby wind-up toy train sets. Also, warming the house with the wood-burning kitchen stove.

What’s your most treasured possession?
My wife, Jenny. We’ve been married for almost 30 years.

What’s under your bed?
Carpet, which gets vacuumed by me every week or two.

My worst job was...
Helping to install electronic instrumentation in a Coal Washery near Cessnock, about 1977. The coal was processed in a slurry of Magnetite. At the end of each day, I was covered in black grime from the coal and magnetite; a shower was definitely needed before going for dinner. There were also welders operating overhead, with sparks showering down from their work. My hard hat was used several times, bumping into overhead pipes. It was quite an educational experience, learning how people work in that type of industry.

The book that changed my life...
The Bible.

Do you have any pets?
No. I had goldfish some years ago. However the neighbours’ cats spend quite a bit of time in our yard, and are quite cute.

Where did you grow up?
I was born in Tumut NSW, moved to Grafton when I was almost four, then Kingsgrove when I was 10. The moves were because my father was a Presbyterian minister. I’ve lived in southern Sydney since then.

What is your special talent?
I play the flute. Also some cooking.

Have you ever met a famous person?
No.

How do you spend your free time?
Gardening, relaxing, home maintenance, I sometimes have to help my two sons with their university I.T. studies, some TV especially documentaries & music. Church on Sunday mornings.

What languages can you speak?
English. (And several programming languages.)

If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be?
Probably Sydney. I don’t have the travel bug. After moving several times as a child, I’m happy to stay in the one general area. It’s also simpler – no passport or extra vaccinations needed!

Complete the statement: “I recommend…”
...Dropbox’s “Shared Folders” facility as an easy way to share up to 2GB of files with people, free. For example you can easily send a large file to a colleague outside UNSW or overseas. Just share a folder to an email address. See www.dropbox.com.

What do you most enjoy about your profession?
Being able to work with in a multi-disciplinary setting with medical researchers, solving complex technical/instrumentation problems by developing/specifying an optimal combination of Electronic Hardware and Software to match the problem, and trying to make it an elegant design at the same time. Also, a friendly work environment in this School.

My favourite song to dance to...
“Jumping Jack Flash” had a terrific beat for dancing, though I’m not really into dancing.

Ted Crawford is a Professional Officer within the School of Medical Sciences with a specialised knowledge of IT.

Ted can be contacted by email at e.crawford@unsw.edu.au
Flow Cytometry is a technology that uses light scatter and fluorescence to simultaneously measure and analyse multiple physical characteristics of single particles, usually cells, as they flow in a fluid stream through a beam of light. Flow Cytometry has an important role in the translation of knowledge from the research setting to the clinical area, where it has become invaluable as a resource for both cell identification and isolation.

Researchers interested in cancer cells use fluorescent proteins to internalise (transfect) material into cells, such as DNA and RNA. Flow Cytometry uses lasers that optimally excite these fluorescent proteins, and provides the technology for cancer researchers to both analyse and sort these cells into tubes or plates for further in vivo or in vitro studies, proliferation assays or drug testing.

Flow Cytometry has to-date been used in studies of cancer stem cells and side populations, ovarian cancer cells, epithelial cell migration, and cell signalling in cancer therapy. The technology has also identified free cancer cells in the blood from solid tumours, and was integral in the identification of the breakdown pathway of the KRas protein.

The UNSW Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre Flow Cytometry Facility offers advanced Flow Cytometry technology, including the BD LSRFortessa™ Special Order Research Product (SORP) which can measure up to 21 cell properties and particles as small as 0.3μm. Other features of the facility include multi-laser instruments allowing characterisation of cancer cells with up to 18 fluorescent parameters to more accurately define the rare event populations, especially leukaemia cells and stem cells.

The facility provides comprehensive and technical cell analysis and sorting services to research groups throughout the wider Sydney area. TCRN members can learn more about the facility at http://www.bril.unsw.edu.au/FlowEquipment.htm, and can follow their Twitter feed @UNSW-Flow.

See our Research Spotlight on TCRN member Dr Vivien Chen to learn more about Flow Cytometry in action.
Vijayaganapathy Vaithilingam, Nayeem Quayum, Mugdha Joglekar, Jan Jensen, Anandwardhan Hardikar, Jose Oberholzer, Gilles Guillemin, Bernard Tuch

“Effect of alginate encapsulation on the cellular transcriptome of human islets” Biomaterials, doi:10.1016/j.biomaterials.2011.06.044

This is the first study examining the effect of alginate encapsulation on the global gene expression and miRNA expression profile of human islets. We find very few genes that are affected by encapsulation, with almost all of these up-regulated. Importantly, no genes associated with the survival and function of β-cells were identified to be significantly altered in their expression patterns. Similar is the case with miRNA expression, indicating that encapsulation does not alter the expression of these micro-regulators of endocrine pancreas function. In conclusion, we show that alginate microencapsulation does not alter mRNA or miRNA expression of human islets isolated at 3 different Centres in the world. These novel data suggest that microencapsulation is safe for encasing islets and perhaps other insulin producing cells as a cellular therapy for type 1 diabetes.

Malgorzata Drwal, Keli Agama, Laurence Wakelin, Yves Pommier, Renate Griffith

“Exploring DNA Topoisomerase I Ligand Space in Search of Novel Anticancer Agents” PLoS ONE, 6(9): e25150

This study was the result of our collaboration with Dr Keli Agama, Prof Yves Pommier and the Developmental Therapeutics Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI, USA). It describes the use of combined structure- and ligand based molecular modelling techniques and virtual database screening to identify novel human topoisomerase I inhibitors. Our methods enabled us to suggest several compounds for biological testing which was conducted in the NCI. The hit compounds displayed mild to moderate enzyme inhibitory activity as well as mild cytotoxic activity, and can be regarded as promising starting points for future developments of anticancer agents.

and

Liying Dai, D Shevy Perera, Denis King, Bridget Southwell, Elizabeth Burcher and Lu Liu

“Hemokinin-1 stimulates prostaglandin E2 production in human colon through activation of cyclooxygenase-2 and inhibition of 15-hydroxyprostaglandin dehydrogenase” Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (JPET), doi:10.1124/jpet.111.186155

Sharpley Hsieh, Michael Hornberger, Olivier Piguet and John Hodges

“Neural basis of music knowledge: evidence from the dementias”, Brain, 134: 2523-2534.

This is the first paper for Sharpley Hsieh’s PhD. The paper investigates the neural basis of music cognition, in particular that of musical knowledge, which is currently an emerging field within neuroscience. The study synthesized data from both behavioural and neuroimaging tools in cohorts of patients with differing dementia syndromes, including semantic dementia, which is a relatively rare early-onset dementia. Findings from this study contribute to understanding of the neural basis of cognition but also have important clinical implications for the diagnosis and management of differing dementias.

The paper was featured on the journal cover as well as the editorial section. The research study has drawn national and international media attention, including the New Scientist, SMH, ABC Science and ABC Radio National.
Hepatitis C virus infection is a global pandemic with more than 120 million people infected worldwide, including some 200,000 Australians. The virus causes progressive liver disease leading to cirrhosis, liver failure and cancer. Current antiviral treatments are arduous, costly, and only partially effective.

Using a new technique called next generation deep sequencing and sophisticated computer analytics, they were able to identify the ‘founder’ virus responsible for the initial infection and then track changes within the virus as it was targeted by the immune system.

“We discovered that hepatitis C has not one but two weakest links that provide opportunities for vaccine development,” said Dr Fabio Luciani, the research team’s biostatistician. “If we can help the immune system to attack the virus at these weak points early on, then we could to eliminate the infection in the body completely.”
And the Award goes to....

"It is my great pleasure to announce that A/Prof Nicodemus Tedla has been selected to receive a Vice Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence (VCATE) for 2011," said A/Prof Gary Velan. "I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Nicodemus on this well-deserved recognition of his achievements in teaching."

Patent not pending

"Each year UNSW awards prizes for inventor of the year in four categories including BioMedical. This year, I was awarded the prize for an invention which came out of a collaboration with Jake Baum at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI)," commented Prof Peter Gunning. "Jake is studying the way in which the malaria parasite invades its host human cell. For a long time it has been thought that this involves building a special scaffold but has been impossible to see it. A chance encounter between Jake and a Swedish scientist directed him to talk to me. As a result I realised that I had a specific antibody which would allow him to see if this scaffold really existed. It worked and the net outcome is some novel approaches to incapacitate the parasite which have been patented by WEHI in partnership with NSi."

Darting ahead

Dr Virginie Lecomte was successful in securing a Diabetes Australia Research Trust (DART) general grant for 2012. Her work will involve using a diet-induced obesity rodent model to study the causes of the development of metabolic defects in offspring of obese fathers. This follows on from previous work conducted in Prof Margaret Morris’ lab that was recently published in Nature. Virginie commented, "We will also test how exercise in the obese fathers can reverse these detrimental effects on the offspring’s health."

Higher Degree student raising the bar

In late 2011 Ria Arnold, a Post-graduate candidate in the Translational Neuroscience Facility was delighted to find that her work was to be recognised by dual awards. She was awarded one of the sought after TOW Research Awards in the category Open Junior Division Competition - oral presentation. The Awards provide the only common forum on the Randwick hospitals campus for junior investigators to present their clinical research, and are intended to foster collaborations between clinical investigators and research scientists who are located at the many research institutes and hospitals around the Randwick hospitals campus. If this wasn’t enough for one year Ria was then selected for the Novartis Award for best free communication at the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists Clinical Physiology Workshop.

Ria’s PhD project involves conducting neurophysiological studies in patients with neuropathies relating to diabetes and chronic kidney disease. She says, "My focus is on developing physiological biomarkers for early neuropathy and on understanding the mechanisms underlying axonal dysfunction in acquired metabolic disorders."

Ria’s supervisor, A/Prof Arun Krishnan said, "these awards are a clear recognition of the excellent work that Ria has undertaken in her PhD so far and are further evidence of the important outcomes that are being achieved in clinical research in SoMS."

Star performers

At the end of 2011 the Gold Star Awards were announced by the Faculty of Medicine. We would like to formally congratulate the SoMS staff that received Gold Star funding.

- Prof Margaret Morris
- Dr Mary Kavurma
- Prof Rakesh Kumar
- Dr Stewart Head
- Dr Shane Thomas
- A/Prof Arun Krishnan
- Dr Andrew Moorhouse
- Dr Patsie Polly
- A/Prof Nick Di Girolamo
- Dr Paul Bertrand
- Prof Gary Housley
- Dr Rowena Bull
Every Tuesday night this summer, The Australia Museum opens its doors for after-hours sessions featuring art, live music, drinks and new ideas. All presented against a spectacular backdrop of dinosaur skeletons, precious gemstones and native animals.

The Museum of Human Disease was invited to present its successful iHeartJazz event as a part of the Australian Museum’s Jurassic Lounge’s anti Valentines night on the 14th February this year.

By all reckonings the event was a tremendous success with well over 1,500 people attending the event. The Museum exhibition attracted huge numbers.

Special thanks to; Our illustrious Queens of the blade Tanya Grassi and Christine van Vliet for what was reported to be the double act of the night. They sliced their way through two pigs hearts and due to popular demand continued on to two (we will call them little sheep) hearts which they bizarrely enough just happened to have upon their persons. Thanks so much for your support, time, expertise and professionalism which were praised by more than one punter.

Thanks to the king of the pots Nicodemus Tedla who is now considered pathological royalty – who delivered three hours of continual discussion and description to an endless stream of eager “broken hearted” lovers.

To our crown prince of volunteers, the man who would do almost anything for the Museum, Michael Chan who once again took to the Ultrasound table, thankfully uneventfully this time. And who told his story and described pots and

For excellence in late night education New Museum staff Ruth Miller and Bridget Murphy dealt with a continuous queue of attendees all wanting to record their hearts. They recorded nearly 100 audience members.

For support and loans thanks to Vincent Strack Van Schijndel and David Cutting.

Super special thanks to Dr of drums Simon Barker and Guitar God Carl Dewhurst for making time in busy national and international schedules to resuscitate the event.

Extra Super special thanks to Sonographer the Ultra VJ MJ (Melanie Json from Philips) for an awesome drop in as resident video creator.