Juvenile diabetes, one of Western society’s major child health problems, has attracted combined international funding of $3 million, for a collaborative team at UWA.

Hypoglycaemia (dangerously low blood sugar levels) in children is the central focus for the five-year research program, extending across five University departments and Princess Margaret Hospital.

The team leader is Dr Tim Jones, Head of the Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes at Princess Margaret Hospital. He is co-ordinating the major research into hypoglycaemia and how to prevent it in juvenile and adolescent diabetes.

Juvenile diabetes is also known as Type 1 diabetes and is quite different from Type 2 diabetes, which is contracted later in life and is easier to treat. Type 1 diabetes, a condition characterised by the loss of the ability to make insulin, is an incurable, life-long disease that is affecting more children and babies every year. Until the discovery of insulin, being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes used to be the equivalent of receiving a death sentence.

It is still a serious illness. If while treated with insulin blood sugar is allowed to drop too low (hypoglycaemia), this can cause irreparable brain damage. If instead blood sugar is kept too high (hyperglycaemia) for several years, it can result in complications such as blindness, cardiovascular diseases and kidney failure.

Exercise, so good for most children, can become disastrous for children with diabetes.
Here is a shocker of a question which even fierce Cornelia Francis is unlikely to put to the sweating contestants on The Weakest Link!

What do the following recent events have in common – the UWA campus in July, the violent images from the G8 forum in Italy, the Federal Treasurer’s bold statement about trade liberalisation, the Opposition Leader's comprehensive vision of a Knowledge Nation, and the ABC public lecture by the Deputy Director of the World Bank analysing globalisation and education?

Beginning at the easy end, Professor Mamphela Ramphele (former VC of the University of Cape Town and now in charge of global education at the World Bank) argued powerfully that while no society could hold back ‘globalisation’, it had the opportunity to influence its impact provided it had the capacity – not only political but intellectual. Kim Beazley has put forward a great challenge for Australia to commit itself to an investment in education (and research) as a basis for long-term national development. Peter Costello has, as Treasurer, set out starkly the public policy choices we face economically in addressing globalisation, and from the G8 Forum we vividly see played out the divisive drama over globalisation and international inequality of peoples.

As to UWA … our campus calm is deceptive, in the sense that over July we have been hosts to exciting major conferences, both in sciences and arts, which have brought together scholars from across the nation and the world.

I had the good fortune to be involved in the official launching and plenary addresses of several such international conferences at UWA. These scholarly meetings reinforce the profound sense that knowledge is an international phenomena. And that for the advancement of our researchers, for the work of our post-graduate students, and for the 'scholarship of discovery' which informs our teaching and learning, we vitally need to be involved in that global network of scholars, academics, research centres and world-class universities where new knowledge ‘happens’. Not to be involved is now to commit a kind of intellectual suicide. This is why we put such considerable resources behind study leaves, travel and research grants, special funds for the hosting of conferences and the support for the publication of scholarly journals, quite apart from resourcing the UWA Press and the Institute of Advanced Studies.

Developing such a network of formal connections, leading to some form of global alliance-network, is a bold step for all good universities. Our strength has so often been 'local' in resourcing, support and growth. But the dynamic university of the new globalised era will, I believe, work naturally across national boundaries.

Now that our internal re-structuring into new Schools and Faculties begins to become a positive reality, turning our Academic Profile into a bold new configuration of disciplines, we can advance our internationalisation strategy, in terms of our global role and networks.

The challenge for UWA – and Australia – is to build the strongest of international linkages.

Professor Deryck Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
Western Australia is set to become a world leader in community participation in the development of human genome research.

Genomics, Society and Human Health, an ambitious 18-month project, sponsored by the Institute of Advanced Studies, is a huge professional and community education program, designed to explore every avenue of genomic research and involve the public in its development.

Academics from 17 departments and centres at UWA are involved, as well as postgraduate students and the health industry.

Speakers from across the country and around the world will address the myriad of issues involved in genetic research, on a scale unprecedented in this state.

There will be many public events, workshops, lectures and opportunities for the community at large to become involved in this research which will have such a huge impact on humankind.

Chair of the program council, Professor D'Arcy Holman, said the program was an important developmental process, bringing together the scientific and biomedical disciplines with law and humanities groups in shared learning and the joint creation of a foundation for excellence in human genome research.

"The project will also create and strengthen national and international networks for this research," Professor Holman said.

"But most importantly, we aim to engage the people of WA, to raise public awareness of the benefits and concerns, to break down academic elitism and to empower educators, journalists, politicians and consumers with knowledge so they can participate in the future directions of genomics in relation to society and human health.

"Perth can't be the world leader in genetic technology but we can be world leaders in informing our community. I would like to see the people of WA the best informed in the world about the human genome project and all its ramifications," he said.

A major project on which Professor Holman has been working, the linkage system for medical records, provides the perfect base for population-based genome research.

"But before we move ahead with that, the people of WA must understand what's happening so we can have their cooperation."

"There is some research that can't be done in a laboratory. It can only be done in a community and I feel that WA could easily become a world leader in community-based genome research."

Genomics Society and Human Health will be launched on August 14 by the Governor, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, at the Octagon Theatre.

Professor Grant Sutherland, an award-winning molecular geneticist from Adelaide will present the opening lecture: The Human Genome Project: Progress and Prospects.

Described as a 'gene detective' Professor Sutherland's work in unravelling genetic codes won him a place in the group of 42 scientists from around the world who formed the Human Genome Organisation in 1998.

Some of the anticipated benefits of genome research include improved diagnosis of disease, earlier detection of genetic predisposition to disease, new energy sources, environmental monitoring to detect pollutants, migration studies of different population groups based on female genetic inheritance, DNA forensics, disease-, insect- and drought-resistant crops and healthier, more productive farm animals.

The benefits are as wide-ranging as are the people from UWA who are involved in this big project: from anthropology, biochemistry, computer science, law, medicine, microbiology, philosophy, pathology, pharmacology, psychiatry, psychology, anatomy and human biology.

Continued overleaf
Don’t think ‘rocks’ when you go to see the new exhibition at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

Although Geo.Images is a collection of photographic studies on a geological theme, you’ll be amazed at the images you see before you.

A collection of big beautiful colourful prints that evoke feelings of speed or serenity, space or intimacy, have been put together by Jenny Bevan, curator of the E.de C. Clarke Geology Museum, from images supplied by geologists.

They are not straightforward pictures of mineral groups or landscapes. Instead they are close-ups or unusual shots which can stand on their artistic merits and are not immediately recognisable as geological material.

“It’s not meant to be a geological exhibition, but a collection of fabulous evocative images, that will doubly surprise you when you read the labels,” said Mrs Bevan.

The thirty or so images she has prepared, as part of the gallery’s art access program, range from the hugely magnified surface of a fossilised pollen grain to a piece of Mars: an igneous rock, which fell in Egypt, after being knocked off the surface of Mars and into an Earth-crossing orbit by an earlier impact.

Geo.Images is the second access exhibition this year, the first being The Art of the Christian Icon, presented by the Department of Classics and Ancient History.

Dr Stephanie Green, the gallery’s co-ordinator of the access program, says it is designed to build on the working relationships between the gallery and the University’s departments and centres.

“Calls for proposals for next year’s access exhibitions have already gone out and I urge anybody who is thinking of submitting a proposal to come and talk to me,” Dr Green said.

The Gallery pays installation and labelling costs and helps with publicity, while the departments or centres supply the art (framed or otherwise) ready to exhibit. The gallery aims to present three access exhibitions each year. The third for this year will be The Eye Within, photographs by Chris Parry from the Lions Eye Institute.

Last year, the gallery collaborated with the Department of Physics on a stunning exhibition of images based on gravity called Gravitate.

Geo.Images is on display until September 30.
Maria Osman, one of the University’s joint Equity Managers, has been chosen to be a family ambassador for Western Australia.

The new Labor government’s FamilyOne Ambassadors’ Scheme is aimed at encouraging business, government and community organisations to adopt family-friendly practices and to ensure that children and families are valued in our community.

The 10 ambassadors, all high profile individuals in the community, will promote those practices and corporate social responsibility in their own workplaces as well as in the wider community.

Ms Osman is a champion of ‘work and family’, her own employment with the University a brilliant role model.

“When I started this job, it was full-time and I had an 18-month-old daughter. After six months, I went to Fay Gale (then Vice-Chancellor) and told her it was too much for me,” Ms Osman said.

“She asked me what she could do to get me to stay … and I started job-sharing in 1990.”

Maria Osman and Sandy McKnight are the most senior job-sharing pair in the higher education sector in Australia. They are constantly referred to, held up as models and quizzed and questioned about their work by other universities and employers in other sectors across the country.

They believe they are also the longest-serving equity managers in an Australian university.

“The benefits of job-sharing are outstanding: to the job, the University and both of our lives,” Ms Osman said.

“We believe that we have done a better job between us than one person alone could have done. We each brought different experiences, expertise and ideas to the position, enriching it much more than either one of us could have done alone. And neither of us has burnt out, as can happen so easily in work like ours,” she said.

Despite the benefits of job sharing and allowing flexibility for family responsibilities, Ms Osman says there are still some managers within the University who don’t support ‘work and family’.

“In the last 10 years the University has achieved a home-based work policy, a 42/52 or 48/58 working weeks combination, flexible hours, and a re-entry program for women returning from maternity leave.

“When I first came here, there was no paternity leave and no paid maternity leave for general staff. We feel we’ve made great advances.

“But we still need to work on the culture, to help managers and employers to see that the ‘work and family’ package is a positive thing, not a negative.”

Ms Osman said some of the practices across the University could be seen as discriminatory and could even be breaking the law.

“The percentage of both men and women who combine work with family responsibilities is growing, and we must be supportive. Anecdotal evidence points to people leaving their employment if they are not supported,” she said.

“The biggest equity challenge for the beginning of this century is finding a ‘work and life’ balance. Equity managers are there to support people in this important role.”

Ms Osman said the Equity booklet, A Guide to Work and Family at the University of Western Australia, was a good working model to which all staff could refer.

Her role as a FamilyOne ambassador dovetails perfectly with her work at the University and her other voluntary and community work.

Other ambassadors include Dixie Marshall, a television presenter and mother; Warwick Hemsley, the managing director of Peet & Co, chair of Kids Help Line (WA) and the Australia Day Council and a father of three; Tony Cooke, immediate past secretary of Unions WA, a father and an advocate for more family-friendly workplace practices; and Richard Muirhead, CEO of the Tourism Commission and father of a young family.
Several aspects of the research are being covered by the Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes at PMH, the Departments of Psychology, Respiratory Medicine, Human Movement and Exercise Science, and Pathology.

The big picture includes problems with awareness of hypoglycaemia, what happens to the brain as a result of hypoglycaemic episodes, and how both exercise and sleep can trigger episodes of hypoglycaemia and what to do to prevent them.

“Diabetes is notoriously difficult to treat. It’s extremely hard to attain the perfect balance in the blood sugar (known as euglycaemia). If it is not treated adequately, diabetes will result in devastating long-term complications of blindness and kidney failure. If it is not treated at all with daily insulin injections, diabetics die,” Dr Tim Jones said.

His team has received joint funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (US) of about $2.7 million. This adds to previous funding for the group from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, of $300,000.

Under the wing of the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research, the team includes Dr Elizabeth Davis, a paediatric endocrinologist at PMH who is working closely with Dr Jones, researching the optimal clinical management of young people who have diabetes to prevent them from becoming hypoglycaemic.

Sleep expert Dr Stephen Stick from Princess Margaret Hospital is studying the risks arising from possible hypoglycaemic episodes occurring during sleep in young people with diabetes.

And Dr Paul Fournier, a biochemist and exercise physiologist from the Department of Human Movement and Exercise Science, is currently investigating the mechanisms underlying blood sugar response to physical activity in diabetes.

“Our research program has had a long and productive record in the investigation of the problem of hypoglycaemia.

“What we are currently investigating is the critical question of long term effects of severe hypoglycaemia in the young child,” Dr Jones said.

“This program will result in a unique combination of the clinical research strengths of the paediatric diabetology team in WA and the skills and facilities of a talented interdisciplinary team of scientists.

“Our aim is to allow the combined forces to tackle this difficult question together.”

Dr Elizabeth Davis will focus part of her research on the body’s protective mechanism against hypoglycaemia.

“Diabetes causes the body to lose some of its natural protection against hypoglycaemia. We don’t know why but we’ll be trying to find out. Also, if you’ve had diabetes for some years, you tend to lose the ability to detect the onset of a hypoglycaemic episode. It seems that you lose not only the protective mechanism but also the warning signs such as tingly fingers and sweating,” Dr Davis said.

“We will be looking at strategies to improve that awareness in young people with diabetes,” she said.

Dr Stephen Stick, the Head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine at PMH, says that about 40 per cent of children with diabetes have hypoglycaemic episodes during their sleep.

“This is potentially dangerous because we know that, while you’re asleep, your natural ‘fight or flight’ responses are not working,” Dr Stick said.

“When you’re awake, those responses make you sweaty, pale or hungry when a hypoglycaemic episode is coming on, so you can do something about it. But when you’re asleep, there’s no way you can know, except by monitoring the blood sugar levels of a person with diabetes, during sleep.”

Dr Stick said that nocturnal seizures and sudden death
Exercise for children with diabetes is a very tricky area. Dr Paul Fournier explains: “Blood sugar is the main fuel for the brain. But it is also an important fuel for muscles. When you exercise, your muscles use this fuel at higher rates, so children with diabetes run a higher risk of becoming hypoglycaemic. For instance, during exercise, your blood sugar level can decrease from normal to dangerously low levels within less than 10 minutes.” Dr Fournier said. “Parents try to prevent this by ensuring their children eat before they exercise, but, as you can imagine, this is often very difficult to achieve.

“It is difficult to predict the response of blood sugar to physical activity. For example, during bursts of high intensity exercise, blood sugar levels can actually go up rather than decreasing.

“We don’t fully understand why this is the case. The matter is made even more complicated when exercise of moderate intensity is combined with several episodes of high intensity exercise. This is the condition typical of most team sports. Imagine a child with diabetes playing football, who jogs around for a while, then suddenly does an intensive sprint and leaps for a mark. What will be the response of this kid’s blood sugar level? Will it go up or down? Nobody knows.

“It is our goal to explore systematically the different factors affecting blood sugar response to physical activity in children with diabetes in order to amass the knowledge to generate improved guidelines for these children, their parents and clinicians.”

Dr Tim Jones concludes: “The group hopes to be able to devise strategies that will lessen the impact of hypoglycaemia in diabetes treatment. It is anticipated that this in turn will contribute to the prevention of diabetes complications as well as reducing the burden of the disease.”

Can diabetes lead to dementia?

A fascinating link, and one of potentially major importance, between diabetes and memory, is part of two diabetes research projects.

At the same time as the major investigation into juvenile diabetes, Associate Professor David Bruce and Dr Tim Davis, from the Department of Geriatric Medicine at Fremantle Hospital, are co-ordinating a $315,000 Australian Research Council study into the link between diabetes and dementia.

The project will examine whether people with diabetes show a higher risk of developing dementia in later life.

Dr Jonathan Foster, senior lecturer in the Department of Psychology, is involved in both projects.

“There is a fascinating link, and one of potentially major importance, between diabetes and memory, is part of two diabetes research projects.”

The study is being conducted with the co-operation of the Fremantle Diabetes Study Cohort, a research project that has been going for the most of the past decade, surveying diabetes care, complications and management in an aging, multi-ethnic group.

Dr Bruce said the research team started a program of screening for cognitive problems early this year.

“There may be a link between cognitive function and hypoglycaemia,” he said. “Anybody in our study group whose screening shows abnormalities will undergo further testing and we will then be able to look at the links.”

Can diabetes lead to dementia?
Injuries, both accidental and intentional, account for 15 per cent of deaths and disabilities worldwide.

Within the next 20 years, that is expected to rise to 20 per cent, with a third of these injuries caused on the roads. Injury continues to be a national health priority for Australia, based on the profound impact of injuries on society.

As part of UWA’s move towards becoming a world leader in injury research, the Road Accident Prevention Research Unit (RAPRU) has expanded its focus to incorporate all injuries, on and off the roads, and is now the Injury Research Centre (IRC).

In recognition of its leading role in road safety research, RAPRU was made a World Health Organisation collaborating centre in 1996, and that collaboration is also extended to the new centre.

Under its new director, Associate Professor Mark Stevenson, an epidemiologist who has recently worked with World Health Organisation collaborating centre in China, the centre is already branching out, with a new book on sports injuries and their cost to the state, an evaluation of isolation fencing for swimming pools in WA, and research into hip fractures in the elderly.

The Centre is also branching out geographically, with public health projects in China and Vietnam.

UNICEF is supporting the IRC to develop a child accident prevention plan for China.

Professor Mark Stevenson explained that in underdeveloped countries, most deaths were from communicable diseases. But, as they developed, there was more road trauma and more accidents.

“China is going through such a transition. In the poorer areas in the west, illnesses like diarrhoea still claim children’s lives. But in the east, in the big cities, accidents are the major cause of children’s deaths. In Vietnam, it is much the same. Injuries become an enormous problem as a country develops.”

He said the Centre would take the cultures of China and Vietnam into account while developing a plan for them.

“For example, we are not going to advocate taking the Chinese off their bicycles because bicycle transport is a big part of their culture — even though many of them are injured by collisions with cars now.”

Professor Stevenson has restructured the centre, which employs 10 staff. The University will support the Centre to employ an epidemiologist to work in China and he hopes the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) will fund the employment of a traffic engineer.

About 80 per cent of the Centre’s research will still focus on road trauma. The Raine Foundation recently sponsored a road safety expert from the United States to work with the Centre on graduated driver training programs and other road safety issues. Dr Alan Williams also presented two public lectures.

“Australia’s new system of graduated driver training and licensing is a start but it doesn’t go far enough,” Professor Stevenson said. “Other countries, like the US, the UK and Canada go further and subsequently have fewer serious accidents among young drivers.”

He said that each year in WA, there were 112 serious injuries among first year drivers.

“That doesn’t include the little crashes and minor injuries that happen all the time.”

He would like to see zero tolerance of alcohol among first year drivers instead of the current allowable 0.02 per cent blood alcohol limit.

Alongside the Injury Research Centre, the University supports the spinal injury research team in the Department of Anatomy and Human Biology, sports injury research in the Department of Human Movement and Exercise Science, and research into young drivers by the Department of Psychology and the Crime Research Centre.

The IRC is part of UWA’s Department of Public Health and receives financial support from the Health Department of WA, the Road Safety Council, Department of Transport and the RAC.
If any conference was going to address the ‘big picture’, the international gathering of physicists earlier this month would be the one.

The fourth Edoardo Amaldi Conference on Gravitational Waves was held at UWA where 250 scientists and astrophysicists from around the world discussed the birth of the universe and the nature of time and space.

Their 200 scientific papers covered gravity wave issues from the earliest moments of creation up to the present day, including theories about black holes, solutions to Einstein’s equations and the performance of high power lasers.

The conference, presented by the Gravity Discovery Centre Foundation and UWA, featured a schools lecture by Professor David Blair and one of the researchers with the gravity group, David Coward; and two free public lectures: one on pulsars, the other on Joseph Weber, the man who first realised the possibilities of lasers and pioneered the concept of gravitational wave detectors.

Some novel short talks were held in the Octagon Theatre and delegates were timed with sparklers. They could only talk for the time it took for a sparkler to burn out.

While research into gravity waves and black holes may seem esoteric, Professor Blair said that there were already spin-offs for UWA.

Royalties were now coming in following the development of a sapphire clock in the Department of Physics that was so accurate it lost only one second every ten million years.

Another step up in medical research

Technology that revolutionised the study of cell physiology will keep UWA staff and students at the cutting edge of research in their field.

The Lotteries Commission of WA has recently funded a second ‘patch-clamp’ set-up for Dr Livia Hool’s laboratory in the Department of Physiology. The $100,000 piece of equipment has the highest available resolution and accuracy for studying cell membranes and has had a profound impact on cell membrane research around the world.

The equipment allows a tiny piece or patch to be taken from the membrane of a cell while the cell is held or clamped in a particular voltage.

“If we want to remain competitive, we absolutely need to use this technique,” said Dr Hool, an NHMRC Peter Doherty postdoctoral fellow.

She learned how to use the technique while completing her PhD at Sydney’s Royal North Shore Hospital several years ago, and will teach honours and PhD students how to use the set-up.

Dr Hool said the use of the technique, developed by Nobel Prize winners Bert Sakmann and Erwin Neher, had revealed the mechanism behind a range of diseases.

“But we still need to know more about both normal and abnormal cells before specific treatments can be designed for a range of conditions from cystic fibrosis to cardiovascular disease,” she said.

This is the fifth patch-clamp set-up at UWA. There are three in the Department of Pharmacology, one in Zoology and another in Physiology, but Dr Hool said the University needed more. “It’s used in most research institutions in the United States and Europe but Australian institutions have been slow to acquire the set-ups,” she said.
A commercial canola breeding company, with UWA as a partner, was described as “a brave new world in terms of how universities go about research.”

Executive Dean of Agriculture, Professor Bob Lindner, director of the board of the new company, Canola Breeders WA P/L (CBWA) said the unique partnership between researchers and growers effectively marked the re-emergence of plant breeding at UWA.

“It is the first time the Faculty of Agriculture has been involved in such a company structure,” he said.

The other two partners in the $6 million project are the Export Grains Centre and the Council of Grain Grower Organisations.

As the only canola breeding company in the state, CBWA will operate commercially and competitively to develop and introduce varieties of canola that add value to all stages of the production chain and are the first choice of growers in WA, eastern Australia and in suitable environments overseas.

Associate Professor Wallace Cowling, the principal research scientist for the new company, said it was the first time growers had been represented on the board of a plant breeding company.

“It makes a lot of sense because it creates strong formal links between those who do the research and those who invest and benefit,” he said.

Professor Cowling is a former lupin breeder and has considerable expertise across the plant breeding and pathology disciplines, and enjoys the challenge of breeding canola varieties resistant to blackleg disease, the major disease inhibitor to canola production across southern Australia.

“One of CBWA’s first goals is to produce a canola variety adaptable to WA’s low rainfall conditions to replace current varieties, such as Karoo, which is grown across more than 70 per cent of the wheatbelt, despite the fact it has inadequate oil and yield,” he said.

The project manager for the company is Dr Jane Gibbs.
The first account of integrity is misleading since adherence to one’s already established moral code, values or commitments may sometimes indicate a lack of integrity rather than its presence. Integrity is integral to our lives across time; in constituting who we are, and in connecting disparate parts or stages in one’s life and self. It is in part the process of mediating between one’s active commitments in the context of ever-changing values, desires and maturation. As such, integrity is at the core of self-reflection and considerations about the course one’s life should take.

Integrity is (arguably) a virtue having to do with the way in which a person is disposed to handle, and handles, various aspects of self-conflict, and how successful they are. What constitutes success is often unclear to the person themselves or to others. This difficulty in actually being able to accurately attribute integrity to oneself or others is reflected in the complexity of the notion of integrity.

It would be wrong to automatically judge the person who is deeply conflicted—whose commitments and values leads them into many dilemmas about how they ought to act—as lacking the virtue of integrity. They lack the virtue only if they are disposed to mishandle conflicts of value, desire, commitment, and principle. Sometimes even core commitments may clash. But overriding one such commitment in favour of another need not undermine one’s integrity. On the contrary, it may even enhance it. The fewer decisions of this sort that one must make the better off and luckier one may be. But it happens, and so-called “unconditional commitments” may be violated without necessarily relinquishing integrity.

Integrity is not an all or nothing thing. Integrity must be able to frequently, though perhaps not always, survive a level of inauthenticity, self-deception and mixed motive. We seem to demand or project more or less absolute authenticity, lack of self-deception, and pure motives of those we would regard as paradigms of integrity—like Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr. But as new biographical information reveals, paradigmatic case of refusing to take a bribe with the generally more problematic one of whether to divorce. Relatively few people are offered bribes (though bribes come in various guises), and of those that are, even fewer are presented with a real dilemma.

There is of course much more to say about. But for now I’ll tell you what I think it is that Yeats thinks “of all things known” “is the most difficult”. Holly Golightly knows, and so does Socrates. What is most difficult is to see it and tell it like it is. It is to “include in one’s definition of water a little duckweed or a few fish.” It is to ‘know thyself.” It is to have in one’s emotional life.

This sketch is indicative of the complexity of the notion of integrity. It also helps show why allegedly paradigm cases of integrity are not necessarily the most central or illuminating ones. In fact, they rarely are. Contrast the paradigmatic case of refusing to take a bribe with the generally more problematic one of whether to divorce. Relatively few people are offered bribes (though bribes come in various guises), and of those that are, even fewer are presented with a real dilemma.

Michael Levine is joint author of a new book on self-knowledge and integrity, with Damian Cox (University of Queensland) and Marguerite LaCaze (University of Tasmania)

Philosophers have tended to interpret Socrates quite literally and so mistakenly about all knowledge being recollection. But given a more congenial interpretation, what he says is absolutely right and insightful.

Although Yeats claims his friend’s work has come to nothing, he does not think his friend’s work worthless. He thinks his friend deserves to succeed on merit—and so a quick reading of Yeats’s poem suggests he is talking about meritocracy and bemoaning the fact that his friend’s work had gone unrewarded even if not unrecognized.

I do not think Yeats is concerned with the notion of a meritocracy or justice in the poem. He is concerned with integrity. And he knows that self-deception, hypocrisy and ambivalence are all impediments to integrity.

My attempt to understand integrity is undertaken with the conviction that there is a dearth of integrity, with profound ramifications in our lives.

What then is integrity? It is often taken to be [1] “an uncompromising adherence to a code of moral, artistic, or other values. Alternatively it is described as [2] utter sincerity, honesty, and candour; avoidance of deception, expediency, artificiality, or shallowness of any kind.”

Holly Golightly

TO A FRIEND WHOSE WORK HAS COME TO NOTHING
W.B. Yeats

Now all the truth is out,
Be secret and take defeat
From any brazen throat,
For how can you compete,
Being honour bred, with one
Who, were it proved he lies,
Were neither shamed in his own
Nor in his neighbours’ eyes?
Bred to a harder thing
Than Triumph, turn away
And like a laughing string
Whereon mad fingers play
Amid a place of stone,
Be secret and exult,
Because of all things known
That is most difficult.

What is it that Yeats thinks “of all things known” “is the most difficult?” What is the “triumph” that he is talking about?

I will tell you what I think he means at the end of the column. But one can take heart from the fact that Socrates thought that all knowledge was recollection—that you could never teach anybody anything that they didn’t already know.

I try always to keep my philosophy within such classifications of thought as will keep it to such experience as seems a natural life. I prefer to include in my definition of water a little duckweed or a few fish. I have never met that poor naked creature H2O.

W.B. Yeats

W. B. Yeats

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W.B. Yeats

Be anything but a coward, a pretender, an emotional crook, a whore; I’d rather have cancer than a dishonest heart. Which isn’t being pious. Just practical.

Cancer may cool you, but the other’s sure to. Oh, screw it, cookie—hand me my guitar and I’ll sing you a fada in the most perfect Portuguese.

Holly Golightly

W.B. Yeats

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Duckweed and Fish

what do Socrates, W.B. Yeats, and Holly Golightly

have in common?

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Holly Golightly

W.B. Yeats


duckweed and fish

or ...
Why is ‘pot’ the choice of party-goers?

Australians spend twice as much on marijuana as they do on wine!

Professor Ken Clements (pictured below), Director of the Economic Research Centre, said that, during the 1990s, Australia became one of the world’s biggest users of the illegal drug.

In that decade, marijuana consumption in Australia grew at an average annual rate of two per cent while the consumption of alcohol fell by one per cent.

“But surprisingly little is known about the economics of the marijuana market and its interaction with closely-related products, such as alcoholic beverages,” said Professor Clements.

He and Dr Xueyan Zhao from the University of Adelaide, are conducting a three-year research project, supported by the ARC, to clarify whether the popularity of marijuana was due to its ‘forbidden fruit’ status or the fact that it was cheaper than alcohol because it attracted no taxes.

“We also want to know whether policies that discourage drinking – such as random breath testing and a minimum drinking age – have had the unintended effect of shifting demand from alcohol to marijuana,” he said.

The partners are also interested in exploring the impact of legalising the drug, on both drinking and marijuana use. Research indicates that more than one-third of the adult population in Australia has tried marijuana, and half now supports legalisation.

San Roque Reservoir’s livelihood is threatened by blue-green algae.

The lake in Argentina is both a major drinking water supply and a tourist attraction but it has not been able to fulfil its potential for the past few years.

UWA’s Centre for Water Research has won a contract to develop management strategies to improve the water quality of San Roque Reservoir, and environmental scientist Dr Jason Antenucci has recently visited Argentina and installed monitoring equipment.

The CWR has internationally recognised expertise and experience designing lake destratification systems. If initial computer modelling confirms the expected benefits to San Roque Reserve, the Centre will design a system to be installed later this year.

The San Roque contract (US$244,000 from the Cordoba State Government) closely follows the awarding of two other major international contracts the three totalling almost US$1 million.
Monday 30 July
CLASS GUEST LECTURE
'The Asian Crisis and Indonesia's predicament: who is to blame and what can be done about it?', Geoff Hainsworth, former director, Centre for Southeast Asia Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada. 4pm. Seminar Room 1 (main floor), Geography Building.

Tuesday 31 July
SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR
'Salinity CRC overview', Professor Phil Cocks. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 1 August
ARCME SEMINAR
'Genomics', Associate Professor Matthew Bellgard, Murdoch University. 5.15pm, Billings Room, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Building.

HISTORY SEMINAR
'Edge of empire: the maritime struggle for the Pilbara, 1875-1914' Bill Walker, 1pm, Rm 1.46, Arts Building.

PUBLIC LECTURE
'Evolution and mind—the evolution of the social brain', Robin Dunbar, Professor of Psychology, University of Liverpool. For further information, call Terri-ann White on ext. 2114.

Monday 6 August
LAW FREE LECTURE
'What is therapeutic jurisprudence? Law as a helping profession', Professor David Wexler, Professor of Law at the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Arizona. 1pm, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre. All welcome.

Tuesday 7 August
LAW SEMINAR
'The healing potential of the law: how therapeutic jurisprudence can help change law, law practices and the courts', Professor David Wexler, Professor of Law at the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Arizona, and chaired by Chief Justice David Malcolm AC. For information and a brochure, please contact Mrs J. Rowohlt, ext. 3438 or jrowohlt@ecel.uwa.edu.au. Cost $62 including refreshments and copy of seminar paper.

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR
'Validation of models for predicting phosphate accumulation and leaching in soils and their application to nutrient management for effluent disposal or reuse in horticulture and turf production', Bob Jeffrey, Soil Management Consultants. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

ANATOMY AND BIOLOGY SEMINAR
'Developmental basis of evolutionary digit loss in a Western Australian skink', Dr Mike Shapiro, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University. 1pm. Rm 1.81, Anatomy and Human Biology Building.

Wednesday 8 August
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES LECTURE
'The 2001 Fred Alexander Lecture will be given by Henry Reynolds, Professor of History at the University of Tasmania. 7.30pm, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre. For further information, call Terri-ann White on ext. 2114.

Thursday 9 August
ZOOLOGY SEMINAR
'Use of adeno viral, aden associated and lentiviral vectors and ex vivo transduction of olfactory ensheathing glia in spinal cord injury', Dr Giles Plant, Anatomy and Human Biology. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

ICHR PERSPECTIVES IN CHILD HEALTH SEMINAR SERIES
'Child health with particular reference to problems in rural Australia', James Fitzpatrick, Young Australian of the Year. 3.30pm, Institute Seminar Room, 100 Roberts Rd, Subiaco. All welcome.

Friday 10 August
UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY
'Triple Treasure', Darryl Poulsen (horn), Roger Smalley (piano), Suzanne Wijisman (cello) and Paul Wexler, Professor of Law at the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Arizona, and chaired by Chief Justice David Malcolm AC. For information and a brochure, please contact Mrs J. Rowohlt, ext. 3438 or jrowohlt@ecel.uwa.edu.au. Cost $62 including refreshments and copy of seminar paper.

What do you crave?

There is a factual base for those bizarre stories of pregnant women eating ice cream with pickles at midnight.

Many women experience some cravings or aversions during pregnancy. UWA researchers say it is normal and could be in response to the body’s needs. But they could also be influenced by culture, in particular, society’s norms, family traditions and personal beliefs.

A research team is investigating both the foods and non-foods that women crave and avoid during pregnancy, the cultural attitudes influencing eating habits and relationships to health.

The scientists, from the Department of Anatomy and Human Biology, are seeking women of European cultural background who have been pregnant some time in the past two years and are willing to share their experiences.

If you can help or know somebody who could, please call either of the following researchers: Fiona D’Souza (9380 3499; fsdouza@anhb.uwa.edu.au), Dr Jan Meyer (9380 2966; jmeyer@anhb.uwa.edu.au) or Associate Professor Linc Schmitz (9380 3298; linc@anhb.uwa.edu.au).

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UNIVERSITY LODGE
An esteemed Freemason’s Lodge in WA Est. 1932
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This Lodge was founded on a membership of University staff and grades. They continue as majority numbers in our Lodge, though others can/do also apply.

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If you would like further information, or to talk to or meet with us or fellow colleagues, please contact our Secretary, Arnold Potts:
Phone: 9385 9322; Email: PABpotts@aol.com.au
Can you help?

Breastfeeding mothers are needed to help three medical research projects

King Edward Memorial Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital and UWA are partners in three projects involving drug transfer into breast milk.

The first is the use of nicotine patches to quit smoking. Breastfeeding mothers who want to give up smoking are needed and nicotine patches will be supplied, free of charge. The patches are to be used in decreasing strengths for about ten weeks.

Volunteers for this research project will be asked to collect breast milk samples, at home, on four separate days. They will need to visit KEMH on five occasions, four short visits of 15 minutes and one longer visit of approximately an hour.

The second study is into the effect of nasal decongestant pseudoephedrine in milk production. Volunteers would need to spend about six hours at the KEMH Breast Feeding Centre on each of two separate days. Breast milk production will be measured prior to and after taking a single 30mg dose of pseudoephedrine.

The third project is specifically for breastfeeding mothers who are already taking metformin for diabetes or polycystic ovarian syndrome. Volunteers will be asked to spend between six and eight hours on one day only at the KEMH Breast Feeding Centre. Breast milk and blood samples will be collected at regular intervals after the morning dose of metformin.

If you know any breastfeeding mothers who might be interested in helping out with this research, please call Judy Kristensen in the Department of Pharmacy, KEMH, on 9340 2723.

MALE PARTICIPANTS NEEDED for studies of Mate Choice and Face Perception

The Face Lab, in the Department of Psychology, is currently investigating the evolution of human mate choice, the role of face perception in mate choice and how factors such as attractiveness and symmetry may come into play.

We need males between the ages of 18 and 45 to participate in these studies.

Sessions usually run for 60 minutes and contribution of $10 will be made towards expenses incurred in participation for each 60-minute session.

If you are interested in hearing more please contact Marianne Peters on 9380 3573, or email marianne@psy.uwa.edu.au, or visit our website www.psy.uwa.edu.au/user/facelab.

A treasure map on the Web

http://findaid.library.uwa.edu.au/

A new guide to Australian literary manuscripts has made it easier to access the nation’s treasures.

The major new resource for Australian literary studies and research is the result of a collaborative project led by UWA, involving six major libraries, and funded by the ARC.

The initial version of the web-based guide (on the above address) provides detailed information about 85 collections from a total of 65 authors. They range from the great writers of earlier generations, such as Miles Franklin and Kenneth Slessor, to contemporary authors including Elizabeth Jolley, John Kinsella and David Malouf.

It provides researchers with a single place to browse and search for details about these previously scattered collections.

The guide is the first systematic use in Australia of the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) format, widely used in Europe and North America as a standard for describing archival and manuscript collections.
LARGE GROUND FLOOR FLAT in a Victorian house (grade 2 listed building) in Folkestone on the southeast coast of England. Trains twice-hourly to London and 20 mins drive to Canterbury (University of Kent). Ferries go to France in one and a quarter hours. Rents less than in London. Available from middle of September. References required. Those interested should email dianaclews@talk21.com.

NEDLANDS HOUSE. 3 bedroom character house, perfectly located on quiet street. Five minutes walk to Uni, two minutes to cafes, restaurants, shops and the Subiaco shuttle bus line. Available for rent, preferably to academics on sabbatical, from January 2002 onwards. Can be supplied unfurnished, partly furnished or fully furnished depending on need. Rent negotiable around $300 per week. Phone 9380 3991 or email gordon@cs.uwa.edu.au.

ACADEMICS WANTED. Shenton Park unit, furnished, 2 b/rooms. Walking distance to University. Short term lets. $200 per week. Phone 9384 5436.

WANTED TO RENT

VISITING UK ACADEMIC and family (four in all) wanting to rent a furnished house for 6 months from August/Sept. 2001 to January 2002. Can be supplied partially furnished or fully equipped.

NEDLANDS 4-bedroom fully equipped residence in on a quiet street within walking distance to shopping centre, schools and UWA. Available for renting, preferably by visiting academics, between the period of 15 September 2001 and 15 January 2002. The house features full air-conditioning, security, automatically reticulated gardens, children playing facilities in backyard, and a full range household electronics. Interested parties may contact 0410 512 697 for more information.

**WANTED TO RENT**

**TO LET**

**LARGE GROUND FLOOR FLAT** in a Victorian house (grade 2 listed building) in Folkestone on the southeast coast of England. Trains twice-hourly to London and 20 mins drive to Canterbury (University of Kent). Ferries go to France in one and a quarter hours. Rents less than in London. Available from middle of September. References required. Those interested should email dianaclews@talk21.com.