BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

SPARC SEMINAR

09 November 2012
1. **PROFESSOR TOM COCHRANE**

*Professor Tom Cochrane* is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Technology, Information and Learning Support) at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia. The position heads a Division (approximately 500 staff) which combines the services of the Libraries, Information Technology Services, Learning Environments and Technology Services, eLearning Services and a number of other areas in the one structure. One of his roles in the University Executive is the chairing of QUT’s Information Technology Governance Committee.

In his current role Professor Cochrane's external duties include Chair, Australian eResearch Infrastructure Council; Director, Australian Digital Alliance; Chair, Australian Libraries’ Copyright Committee; and Director, Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation. He is also a member of the National Research Infrastructure Council, the Board of the Queensland Museum, and the Publications Board of the CSIRO. He is a foundation Board member of the international *Enabling Open Scholarship* (EOS) organisation. Professor Cochrane is also a Director on the Board of the University’s commercialisation company, QUT *bluebox*.

He was co-leader of the Creative Commons project in Australia for which QUT was the institutional lead for Australia and developed the approach mandating open access for refereed research produced by the University into formal policy in 2003.

2. **MS EVE GRAY**

*Eve Gray* is currently an Honorary Research Associate in the Centre for Educational Technology and an Associate in the IP Law and Policy Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, where she specializes in research and policy advocacy on changing models of research publication and intellectual property. Her particular interest is in using new publishing and licensing models to increase the visibility and impact of African research.

A scholarly and academic publisher, Eve was Director of Wits University Press from 1989-1994, rebuilding the list at the start of the post-apartheid era and subsequently, in 2001, formulating an open access strategy for the HSRC. In 2006, she was awarded an Open Society Policy Research Fellowship to review research publication policy in South Africa. She has participated in Experts’ Workshops for the development of UNESCO Open Access policy, which prioritizes open access policy development in Africa.

Eve works in donor-funded research projects that explore the ways in which African researchers can harness a changing environment to increase the reach and impact of their research outputs.

A recent surge in global open access policies is underpinned by the understanding that scholarly communication is a core function of the research endeavor, and that open access to knowledge has a positive correlation with innovation and economic development. Large-scale open access mandates are now being formulated and applied by UNESCO, the World Bank, the EU and the UK, with considerable sums of money being dedicated to the creation of open scholarly communication networks and institutions being called upon to realign publishing systems in order to qualify for and administer new funding frameworks.
This paper will map a number of global policy initiatives and their provisions in comparison with the South African situation, where national and institutional policy and infrastructure planning for research communications in a digital age remains fragmented. It will review changing patterns of research communication and new developments in impact measurement, drawing attention to the emerging factors that South African institutions will need to include in strategic planning in order to stay abreast of global knowledge production and ensure eligibility to funding.

3. **MS SUSAN VELDSMAN**

Susan Veldsman was appointed to the position of the Director, Scholarly Publication Unit at the Academy of Sciences in South Africa, in January 2009. She is responsible for raising the quality, visibility and accessibility of South African scholarly journals through Open Access. Early in a career she started of as an Information Librarian, at various Higher Education Libraries in South Africa where she eventually was promoted to Assistant Director: Client Services, Library Services at the University of Johannesburg. During 2002 she moved to national and international projects where she was responsible for negotiating access to commercial databases and was actively involved in promoting Open Access and setting up Institutional Repositories within transitional and developing, member countries.

4. **PROFESSOR VINESS PILLAY**

Viness Pillay, a Fulbright Scholar, is an NRF Research Chair in *Pharmaceutical Biomaterials and Polymer-Engineered Drug Delivery* at the Tier 1 Level. He is also a Personal Professor of Pharmaceutics and the Head of the Division of Pharmaceutics in the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology. Funded by the Technology innovation Agency (TIA), the MRC, NRF and other leading grant funding institutions, Prof. Pillay is the Director of the Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform (WADDP), being the only Platform in its domain in the country. The Platform encompasses the research and development of innovative drug delivery systems. As an extension to this research, his team aims to eventually commercialize these products locally and abroad. He is currently recognized as a B2-rated scientist with the NRF for his work in drug delivery and rate-modulating polymeric complexes. Prof. Pillay has also been awarded a Center of Excellence in ‘Advanced Drug Delivery Technology’ from the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics (ANDI). Prof Pillay is also the designated Institutional Director of the Wits Hub of the National Medical Devices Innovation Platform (NMDIP), an initiative of the MRC Innovation Center. He is a member of several prestigious academic associations, some of which include the Academy of science of South Africa (ASSAf), the American Chemical Society (USA), American Association of Pharmaceutical scientists (USA), New York Academy of Sciences (USA), Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (SA), the Biomaterials Network (Portugal) and the Pharmaceutical Society (SA). He has also served as an Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, USA. His research in the USA has led to the award of a US patent on a monolithic device for controlled drug delivery. This patent has been licensed by a US Pharmaceutical company. His team has over 30 local and international patent applications currently granted or under prosecution in the USA, Europe and Japan. His research findings have been extensively published with over 100 publications and over 300 scientific
presentations at both local and international conferences. He has written over 10 book
chapters. Prof. Pillay currently supervisors the largest cohort of postgraduate students in
the Pharmaceuticals Sciences in South Africa with a team of over 50 Honors, Masters and PhD students, Postdoctoral Fellows and Researchers. He currently serves on
the Reviewer and Editorial Advisory Boards of numerous international scientific journals
and books.

5. LUCI ABRAHAMS

Luci Abrahams is Director of the LINK (Learning Information Networking Knowledge)
Centre, Faculty of Humanities. LINK conducts research in ICT policy and regulation for
the 'information society'. Luci's area of research interest and scholarly publishing is
"institutions and economic sectors in the network economy" including work in open
access to knowledge. She has served on numerous public sector Boards and Committees,
including the National Research Foundation Board, the DBSA Board and she currently
serves as a Commissioner on the Financial and Fiscal Commission.

6. GERHARD VON GRUENEWALDT

As consultant and part time research advisor to the University of the Witwatersrand
Gerhard von Gruenewaldt has in recent years been extensively involved with issues
pertaining to research infrastructure and the review of several national funding
programmes. These have included a study on “The Required Physical Infrastructure to
Attain the Vision of the National System of Innovation” for the National Advisory
Council on Innovation, an investigation on “An Optimal Model for the Establishment
of a South African Polar Research Entity”, and an Internal Review of the SARChI
Programme both for the National Research Foundation, a Review of the National
Equipment Programme for the DST, and served as chairperson of the five yearly

Gerhard von Gruenewaldt studied Geology at the University of Pretoria and spent
1973 at the University of Munich on an Alexander von Humboldt research fellowship.
He joined the University of Pretoria as a lecturer in 1965 and was appointed professor
and director of the Institute for Geological Research on the Bushveld Complex in
1974. In 1978 he took on the added responsibility as Head of the Department of
Geology. He is the author and co-author of more than 60 research papers, many of
which were read at international conferences. Twenty-three masters and seven
doctoral students completed their studies under his supervision. He served on various
national and international scientific committees, inter alia of the South African
Council for Natural Scientists, the Society for Geology Applied to Ore Deposits and
the International Association for the Genesis of Ore Deposits.

His scientific achievement is based on the contribution made in respect of research on
the genesis of rocks in the unique Bushveld Complex and associated ore deposits,
particularly the platinum minerals, which earned him international recognition as a
scientist and an A-rating by the FRD in 1989. In recognition of his contribution to
geological science, he received the Award for Excellent Achievements of the
University of Pretoria in 1989 and the Draper Memorial Award of the Geological
Society of South Africa in 1990.
He joined the Foundation for Research Development as Vice-President responsible for programmes and planning in 1992. In this capacity he was instrumental in realigning the research support for higher education with changing realities and needs of the new South Africa. He became Vice-President of the National Research Foundation on its establishment on 1 April 1999 and Managing Director of its Research Support Division (RISA). In this capacity he was intimately involved in integrating the activities of the former FRD and the Centre for Science Development (CSD) and the establishment of the new research support framework for the natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities. The Division also handled the Technology and Human Resource for Industry Programme (THRIP) on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry and from September 2001 also the Innovation Fund on behalf of the Department of Science and Technology. He retired from the NRF on 31 March 2005, but remains involved with the evaluation and rating of scientists.