

# Newsletter

August 2008

## *United States University to acquire rights in the Australasian Genetics Resource Book, 8th edition.*

A United States University is seeking exclusive North American rights to publish their own version of the Australasian Genetics Resource Book, which has been created by the NSW Centre for Genetics Education located at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney.

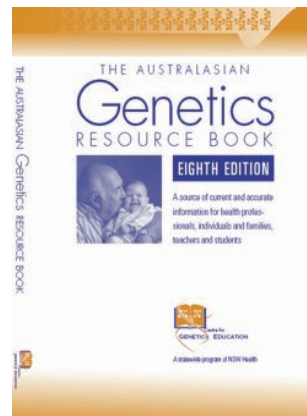
Associate Professor Kristine Barlow-Stewart, the Director of the Centre and the instigator of the 443 page book, is very pleased that the concept of the essential triad of:

- Information on genetic conditions and the wider aspects and impacts of genetics technologies,
- Community support services and
- Professional services that are epitomised by the Australasian Genetics Resource Book, will be developed and fostered outside of Australia.

“The concept arose from my experience of the needs of families affected by genetic conditions when I first started working as a genetic counsellor in the early 1980`s” said Associate Professor Barlow-Stewart. “At that time, there was no way of finding the support groups that existed, many of which had been formed around a kitchen table. In order to facilitate access to this essential peer support and understanding empathetic ear, I produced the first listing of genetic support groups in NSW in 1989 when I was appointed as the Director of the NSW Genetics Education Program (that has since developed into NSW Health`s Centre for Genetics Education). The next year I added groups from other states in Australia.

Evaluations showed that what was missing for the users who included doctors, social workers, clinical genetics staff, teachers, developmental disability workers and others was information about the often rare conditions and an understanding of their genetic basis. It was also clear that genetic conditions affect families and therefore geographic or state boundaries are irrelevant. So in 1993 I, and my one staff member, applied

for funding from NSW Health to produce the first edition of the Australasian Genetics Resource Book, endorsed by the Human Genetics Society of Australasia. As my funding was for the NSW population, and this was national information, we had to sell the book to recover costs. All of our information except for this is provided free to those resident in NSW; we sell at minimal cost to the other states. There is no other Centre like ours in Australia and so much of our information is used nationally”.



Now in its 8th edition, and with impressive contributions from the staff and consultants of the Centre who include experts in clinical genetics throughout Australia, it is indeed a valuable resource.

The United States has nothing like the Australasian Genetics Resource Book and a representative of the University believes an American version will fill a huge gap in knowledge and resources. So impressed have they been with the education material from the Centre that they have requested an option on all other programs and material produced by the Centre.

An international publishing agreement is currently being negotiated with the University by Sandra See from the Office of Commercialisation at NSCCH.

## **2008 IP CONFERENCE - 11th SEPT 2008**

### **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES 8TH AUG**

The 2nd Annual *IP Management and Commercialisation for Hospitals Conference* is being held in the Loewenthal Auditorium at Westmead Hospital, Darcy Road, Westmead, Sydney, NSW on Thursday 11th September 2008. See <http://www.Officeofcommercialisation.com> for details.

**DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE AN INVENTION? OR DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION - CONTACT THE OFFICE OF COMMERCIALISATION**

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