What is the current focus of your research? The research focus of my group is clinical application of cardiovascular imaging and particularly ultrasound and in vivo small animal imaging for the evaluation of cardiovascular, metabolic and inflammatory disease. We are developing new imaging tools and techniques that are based on microbubble contrast agents and are using these to study cardiovascular, inflammatory and metabolic disease in large and small animals. We continue to work with Dr. Craig Riddington from USC and our colleague Prof. Mark Colegrave from the Victorian College of Pharmacy to develop new imaging techniques to monitor cardiovascular disease and its progression. As a very early stage in the clinical translation of our imaging tool, we have developed a method using albumin microbubbles that allows for non-invasive monitoring of the clinical status of patients with heart failure. We have also developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. What is the biggest challenge? The biggest challenge is the need to develop new methods to detect disease in a very early stage of the disease. One of the main challenges is to detect disease before it is too late to prevent progression. In the field of cardiovascular imaging, this is particularly challenging because it is not only important to detect disease early, but also to monitor the progression of disease. The use of albumin microbubbles is not only in the context of studies collection but also in clinical practice. People can be identified at an early stage of disease and monitored for progression. What are some of the recent findings from your work? Some of the recent findings from our work include the following: 1. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. 2. We have developed a method using albumin microbubbles that allows for non-invasive monitoring of the clinical status of patients with heart failure. 3. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. 4. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. 5. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. 6. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. 7. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. 8. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. 9. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks. 10. We have developed a method to monitor myocardial function for a heart transplant patient on the day of surgery and to monitor the patient’s progress over a series of weeks.
**Director's message**

**Blood pressure clinic opens its doors**

Tasmanians with high blood pressure can now access care from a specialist-led blood pressure clinic. The new blood pressure clinic provides a self-hit clinical service for Tasmanians with high blood pressure, supported by medical research. Established by the University of Tasmania and Jean Haigh Medical Research Trust, the clinic offers specialist advice for managing high blood pressure.

**Grants for the community**

Grants offered for community partnership projects to make a difference in the lives of Tasmanians. The grants are open to any Tasmanian community or organisation, providing opportunities for organisations to implement projects that positively impact the health and wellbeing of their communities.

**Classifieds**

For sale: Various sizes of residential buildings for sale. Email for details. www.menzies.utas.edu.au/classifieds

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**Thank you to our valued supporters**

Thank you to all our donors for their ongoing support and commitment. Without your generous support, the work of the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania would not be possible. To view a full list of our donors for 2019, visit www.menzies.utas.edu.au/donors

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**Blood pressure clinic opens its doors**

The clinic is open to anyone, and we encourage you to come along and see what it’s all about. For more information, contact the clinic on 03 6226 4710 or email clinic@menzies.utas.edu.au.
**Provisioning a roadmap for mental health services**

After centuries of research on mental illness, there are many areas in any year, and most of us will experience a mental health problem at some time in our lives. What is more, these health issues appear to be on the rise.

**Menzies Research Institute Tasmania** was recently named “Tasmanian Scientist of the Year” at the 2013 Tasmanian Science Excellence Awards.

The Tasmanian Scientist of the Year 2013 Award was presented to Professor Graeme Jones, Dean of the University of Tasmania. Professor Jones was presented with a special award at a seminar at the Menzies Research Institute, Hobart.

**Tasmanian scientist recognised for outstanding achievements**

Menzies Research Institute Tasmania is deeply indebted to all our generous supporters and donors. A full list of all our supporters for 2013 is available at our website under www.menziestasia.com.au/our-supporters. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

**Director’s message**

By Professor Tom Marwick


Many of you are likely aware of this Cancer Council study into the quality of life of people with cancer that was published in 2011. The study, which was conducted by Professor Graeme Jones and Dr Clare Sullivan from the National Heart Foundation of Australia, found that the quality of life of people with cancer is strongly linked to their mental health.

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Tasmanians with high blood pressure can now document their pressures at the new blood pressure clinic. The new blood pressure clinic provides a full-blooded clinical service for Tasmanians with difficult-to-treat high blood pressure, according to Tasmanian Premier Peter Gutwein.

**Tasmanian politician**

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Director's message
By Professor Tim Marwick

Welcome to the final edition of the Bulletin for 2013. This year the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania (MRT) has continued to focus on core strategic priorities and to continue to make significant research progress in Tasmania and around the world. We remain committed to fostering an environment which will attract the best and brightest researchers from both within and beyond Tasmania.

As 2013 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the formidable progress we have made as an Institute over the last year and the important resources we have received. I would also like to acknowledge the cutting-edge research which is being conducted by our staff and our supporting partners and institutions.

This year has seen a number of significant achievements by our staff and the wider community. The Institute has continued to grow in terms of its research capacity and to attract significant funding and partnerships to support this growth. The Institute has also continued to attract high-quality staff and to develop new relationships with local and national stakeholders.

In the coming year, we will continue to focus on our core strategic priorities and to continue to make significant progress in our research. We will also continue to work closely with our partners and stakeholders to ensure that our research has a real impact on the community and on the health of the people of Tasmania and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff, our volunteers and our donors for their hard work and commitment to the Institute. We are grateful for their support and for the important role they play in making our research possible.

I would also like to thank the Directors of the Institute and the Chairs of the MRT Research Advisory Board for their support and for their dedication to the Institute.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of our stakeholders and to continue to make significant progress in our research over the coming year.

Isobel S. "Ike" Monteith
Director, Menzies Research Institute Tasmania

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Blood pressure clinic opens its doors

Tasmanians with high blood pressure are the beneficiaries of a new blood pressure clinic. The new blood pressure clinic provides a fully-funded clinical service for Tasmanians with high blood pressure. The clinic is staffed by highly qualified and experienced health professionals.

The clinic, located at the Medical and Health Science Precinct, the clinic uses the latest technology to manage high blood pressure.

Providing a roadmap for mental health services

After years of research and development, the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania has released a report providing a roadmap for mental health services in Australia. The report focuses on the mental health needs of Tasmanians and provides a series of recommendations for improving mental health services in the state.

The report provides an evidence-based approach to improving mental health services in Tasmania. It identifies key areas for improvement and provides recommendations for how these areas can be addressed.

The report is a valuable resource for anyone involved in mental health services in Tasmania and provides a clear and concise roadmap for improving mental health services in the state.

Tasmanian scientist recognised for outstanding achievements

Menzies Research Institute Tasmania has recently named “Tasmanian Scientist of the Year” at the 2013 Tasmanian Science Excellence Awards. The Tasmanian Scientist of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to science in Tasmania.

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More than Flowers

In Memoriam

August 2013 – October 2013

Researcher Profile:
Dr Kazuaki (Kaz) Negishi

What is the current focus of your research?
The research focus of our group is clinical application of cardiovascular medicine. We are researching the pathophysiology of heart disease as well as developing new treatments. We are also involved in medical management and improving patient care.

What is the biggest challenge?
The biggest challenge is to develop new treatments that are safe and effective. It is important to make sure that the new treatments are not only effective but also not harmful to the patients.

What is the most interesting aspect of research?
I find it interesting to explore the biological mechanisms behind heart disease. It is fascinating to understand how the heart works and how it can be affected by various factors.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
I enjoy playing sports and spending time with my family.

Menzies embraces the local Chinese community

Menzies was delighted to host over one hundred members from the local Chinese community recently. The visit to Menzies was part of our ongoing commitment to support and engage the local community.

Taking heart screening to regional communities

Menzies new heart screening project for regional Tasmania was successfully launched in September. First stop was in Merimbula, followed by the start of an ongoing tour of regional centres in the south of Tasmania.

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Join us at our events this year to learn more about the latest developments in cardiovascular imaging.

What: Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year 2014: Dr Clare Smith

Where: Menzies Research Institute Tasmania

When: Saturday, 20 September 2014

Dr Clare Smith was recently named the 2014 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year. As a result of her work, Dr Smith was awarded the prestigious prize for her investigations into the development of a complex protein, disease fighting drug, kindly known as ‘kinase inhibitors’. Dr Smith is now working on the patented research now underway in a major collaborative research project to study the potential benefits of these inhibitors in a clinical setting.

To view the card designs online visit www.cardmama.com.au/cardmama/ChristmasCards/ or phone 1300 509 263 to order.

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Thank you!
In Memoriam
August 2013 – October 2013

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Thank you for your support.

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