Our place in the Coronavirus World....

You could be excused for believing that Science has the Coronavirus research “market” cornered. But you would be wrong. As you will be aware from recent What's New announcements, Charles Sturt is providing internal funding for COVID-19 related research in areas that are particularly suited to the research of the Faculty of Arts and Education. Details are provided under Funding Opportunities below.

In fact there is some impressive work coming from the arts and humanities in relation to the COVID-19 virus. One renowned artist in the UK, Luke Jerram has produced a remarkable glass sculpture of the virus (pictured above) You Can Get up Close to This Coronavirus—It’s Made of Glass. Last week the ABC reported on artists from the Walkatjara Art Centre in Uluru who have painted a COVID-19 health message Uluru artists depict COVID-19 health messages through traditional Indigenous dot paintings. And Associate Professor Mehmet Ozalp from CISAC has also had an article in The Conversation this month on How coronavirus challenges Muslims’ faith and changes their lives.

COVID-19 Expert Database—call to register

Led by the Australian Academy of Science, Australia's learned academies, representing the nation's best and most eminent researchers across all fields, have launched a national COVID-19 Expert Database. The database is championed by Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO.

We are calling on experts from a broad range of fields who can contribute to the national and global effort to tackle and recover from COVID-19 to register on this database

Now, more than ever, decision-makers must be enabled to readily access the expertise they need to make the best possible decisions. This includes consulting with experts in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, health, humanities, arts, and social science.

FOAE HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH STUDENT NEWS
Welcome - New Candidates

Welcome to the following new candidates:

Halil Ibrahim Saluk in the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation. Halil will commence in 202030 as an online candidate and will be supervised by Mehmet Ozalp and Suleyman Sertkaya.

Deborah Mitchell in the School of Teacher Education. Deborah will commence in 202030 as an online candidate and will be supervised by Lena Danaia, Matthew Winslade and Rachael Jefferson-Buchanan.

Ismail Haskara in the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation. Ismail will commence in 202030 as an online candidate and will be supervised by Mehmet Ozalp and Zuleyha Keskin.

Congratulations - Approved for Graduation

Congratulations to the following candidates who have now been approved to graduate:

Katherine Rainger, School of Theology. Katherine’s thesis is titled Overhearing Ten Canoes, The Tracker and Charlie’s Country. Theology in dialogue with the collaborative films of Rolf de Heer and David Gulpilil, and she was supervised by Jane Foulcher and Ockert Meyer.

Melissa Boyes, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Melissa’s thesis is titled Folklore in Contemporary Australian Literature: Baba Yaga as guardian and mentor in antipodean narratives, and she was supervised by Lachlan Brown and Ruth Bacchus.
COVID-19 Student Support Grant

You may have received an email from the university in the past couple of days, but just in case you missed it – the university has created new grants of up to $500 for full-time students (and pro-rata for part-time students) to help with any extra expenses incurred during the COVID-19 outbreak, impacting your ability to study. These grants are open now, with applications closing on 21 April. Find out more!

For research students, we will ensure that no student is disadvantaged in completing their project. Scholarship extensions and leave provisions can be managed through the usual process and assessed on a case-by-case basis.

If you need any help, please contact Leanne.
3MT® @ CSU is coming soon - GET READY!

Do you want your research to change the world? Lead to a post doc or an industry job? Be reported in the news? Or just simply understood by your family and friends?

The Asia-Pacific Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition is an academic competition that challenges PhD students to describe their research within three minutes to a general audience. 3MT celebrates the discoveries made by research students and encourages their skill in communicating the importance of research to the broader community.

The winning candidate will go on to compete in the 2020 Asia-Pacific 3MT Competition held in Brisbane on Thursday 1 October, 2020.

For more information and to register your interest please click here and you can find information about how to win 3MT here.

Graduate Research Facebook Group

Welcome to the Charles Sturt University Graduate Research group.

Mentoring at Charles Sturt University is here to help you connect with your fellow online students and share ideas and resources as appropriate.

All our mentors are experienced students who know what it feels like to balance study and life. They have all experienced the wins and challenges about study and can help you find the answers to your questions.
Mark Layson - School of Theology

What was your occupation prior to commencing your PhD?
I spent over 11 years serving as a Police Officer and Firefighter before pursuing fulltime ministry as an Anglican minister which I did for 19 years. During that time I also became a chaplain with NSW Ambulance with the aeromedical unit which I have done for the last 8 years.

What led you to wanting to undertake this study?
Having served for many years in the emergency services I have become passionate about the wellbeing of staff. I have recognised that Moral injury is a significant and important new way of understanding what is happening to emergency workers. Having previously researched different angles of moral frameworks I was fascinated to try and explore what that all means for emergency workers.

Why did you choose Charles Sturt?
Many years ago I studied policing through CSU and have recently been undertaking a Grad Dip of Psychology there as well. My supervisor from undergraduate and Masters research projects, Andrew Cameron, is now Director of St Mark’s Theological College and Associate Prof at CSU. His interest in the subject, my history with CSU and the intimate connection between CSU and Paramedics and Police Officers made it a great fit for this research and any future research that arises.

What do you like to do when you are not working on your PhD?
I still serve as an Ambulance chaplain as a volunteer but enjoy triathlons and water polo when I am not hanging with my family to enjoy good music, good food, and good wine.

Mark commenced his PhD with Charles Sturt this year. His thesis is titled Betrayal as the catalyst for PTSD in emergency workers. Follow this link to YouTube to view Mark’s thesis pitch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbVNNCxX-oU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbVNNCxX-oU)
Rev. Mark Layson
Emergency chaplain & PhD candidate

FOAE RESEARCH HAPPENINGS
Dr Andi Salamon – SOTE – Welcome and ARC Linkage Success

Andi Salamon commenced as a Lecturer with the School of Teacher Education in January, although this is not her first time to be with the School or Charles Sturt, having completed her doctorate with us in 2015.

Andi’s research interests include:

- Infant and toddler social and emotional development
- Infant and toddler pedagogy and practice
- Individual and social practices
- Interdisciplinary research bridging early childhood education and developmental psychology.

Andi is part of a successful ARC Linkage grant led by the Australian Catholic University. The project aims to identify shared practices of young children, their families and educators in digital society. The project brings together international scholars from five other Universities and involves partnering with seven nationally significant organisations, including the Australian Federal Police, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Early Childhood Australia, and Raising Children Network, among others. The outcome of the project is an Online Tool with new resources, materials and programs in areas including: digital media production, cyber-safety education, digital play and digital parenting for the partnering organisations, and benefiting Australian children, their families and educators.
Willie Wahlin – SCCI

2019 was a full year for Willie and 2020 was shaping up to be the same. Willie was supposed to be travelling to New York in mid-March to attend the Fourteenth International Conference of Design Practices and Principles where she had been asked to chair panel discussions and receive an Emerging Scholar Award.

When the conference was cancelled due to COVID-19, Willie had two papers accepted for what was hoped would be a virtual conference: The Ligatures of Life - The Design and the 'Difficult' Exhibition with Leora Kahn ((PROOF: Media for Social Justice) and Picture Justice Australia - Designing for Youth Engagement in Community, Citizenship, and Processes of Democracy.

The Picture Justice Australia program is a pilot research project that includes an intensive, multidisciplinary workshop series for senior high schools students in regional Australia. Picture Justice was originally created by the New York non-profit organisation, PROOF: Media for Social Justice to teach New York secondary students about issues related to social justice and human rights. Picture Justice Australia is adapting the program under the theme of ‘community, citizenship, and processes of democracy’, and with an underlying design thinking methodology, asks whether it can increase the participants sense of agency as citizens within their community, and seeks to understand how young people are engaging in democratic processes.

In January, Picture Justice Australia held an exhibition of works from the Port Macquarie workshops - Use your Outside Voice: Young Changemakers. And in February Willie presented at the Advancing Cohesive Communities conference at Western Sydney University. This was a joint paper with Cymbeline Buhler (Whitlam Institute) and the research assistant involved with the project.
SIS Research Seminar Presented By Dr Simon Wakeling - Reflections on preparing a DECRA application or: How I learned to stop worrying and love the ARC

In March 2020, Simon submitted an application for an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA). In a recent School of Information Studies seminar, Simon described the process of developing his application as long, arduous, time-consuming (some 400 + hours) and complicated. But he also described the process as highly rewarding (regardless of the outcome), and an experience from which he learned a great deal. The purpose of the seminar was to reflect on that experience. Simon shared some thoughts about preparing his application, considering technical, procedural and intellectual aspects.

The presentation is well worth listening to and a recording can be found [here](#).

**Important note:** this was not an expert seminar on how to prepare a winning ARC grant proposal. Simon is still awaiting the outcome....
A/Prof Amy MacDonald (SOE), A/Prof Lena Danaia (SOTE) and Steve Murphy (SOE)

MacDonald, A., Danaia, L., & Murphy, S. (Eds.), STEM education across the learning continuum: Early childhood to senior secondary. Singapore: Springer

Dr Hakan Coruh - CISAC

Theology, health and hygiene: How the Islamic tradition addresses the threat of pandemics. Opinion, ABC Religion and Ethics, 6th April.
Dr Tamara Cumming, Dr Elizabeth Wulff and Dr Helen Logan - SOTE

Two publications from the Early Childhood Educators Wellbeing Project team:


Issue 16 of Fusion Journal - Engaging Technologies in Practices


*Fusion Journal* is an international, online scholarly journal for the communication, creative industries and media arts disciplines. Co-founded by the Faculty of Arts and Education, Charles Sturt University (Australia) and the College of Arts, University of Lincoln (UK),
CSU News - 2020 Quarterly Faculty Round-Up

17 January World Religion Day: where to from here for modern religion? Dr Bernard Doherty, Professor Stephen Pickard (SoT), Dr Zuleyha Keskin (CISAC)

21 January Charles Sturt academic’s article published in top-ranked international cultural studies journal Associate Professor Dominic O’Sullivan (SHSS)

6 February Playtime for kids at home is important all year round, not just in the school holidays Dr Brendan Hyndman (SOE)

20 February The Human Right to Belong: Indigenous rights and sovereignty in Australia Associate Professor Dominic O’Sullivan (SHSS)

26 February It’s time to stop feeding the walking dead Ms Victoria Erskine (SCCI)

5 March Charles Sturt journalism lecturers said AAP closure affects ‘diversity of news’ Mr Jock Cheetham and Mr Harry Dillon (SCCI)

18 March Closing the Gap 2020’ Report...there’s nothing new to see here, Professor Susan Green and Dr Holly Randell-Moon (SIAS)

2 April How COVID-19 is impacting Muslims throughout the world Associate Professor Mehmet Ozalp (CISAC). The article was originally published on The Conversation on Thursday 2 April 2020.

Podcasts
Law, Order and Activism
Episode 5: Jock Cheetham on government suppression of investigative journalism
Episode 8: Mehmet Ozalp on middle eastern politics and activism
How to Create an APA Style Reference for a Cancelled Conference Presentation

https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/canceled-conferences

Thanks to Sharynne McLeod for sending through for inclusion in the RaGS Bulletin

Conducting Qualitative Fieldwork during COVID 19 - Professor Deborah Lupton

Deborah Lupton is a SHARP Professor in the Centre for Social Research in Health and the Social Policy Research Centre and Leader of the Vitalities Lab, UNSW. She blogs at This Sociological Life and tweets @DALupton

Conducting Qualitative Fieldwork during COVID 19

Further open access resources:
Social Research for a COVID and post-COVID World, An Initial Agenda

Thanks to Tamara Cumming for sending through for inclusion in the RaGS Bulletin
Social Media and Research Impact

During the last two weeks of March a number of the Faculty attended Paul Willis’ professional development sessions hosted by the Research Office: *Creating Impact for Research through Social Media and Social Media Networks for Researchers*. Both were highly worthwhile sessions. Paul is due to appear on the Research Office professional development calendar again in 2020.

To raise the profile of our Faculty’s researchers, please consider sharing your various social media platforms and send to FOAE-RLO@csu.edu.au so we can compile a comprehensive Faculty list but, more importantly, begin to utilise social media to support and to increase your own and the Faculty’s research impact. Looking to share your sites from Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, Tumblr, YouTube, blogs or others that you may use for your research dissemination.

For a start here are a few examples from our Faculty:
Early Childhood Educator Well-being Project (Helen Logan, Tamara Cumming and Kim Woodland)
https://www.facebook.com/EarlyChildhoodEducatorWellbeingProjectECEWP/

Baby & Toddler Maths (Amy MacDonald)
https://www.facebook.com/babyandtoddlermaths/

Speaking My Languages Blog (Sharynne McLeod)
https://speakingmylanguages.blogspot.com/
IMPORTANT - Your 2019 Outputs Recorded in CRO

In mid-March, all relevant staff received an individual email from the Research Office containing a list of their 2019 outputs currently recorded in the Charles Sturt Research Output (CRO) database. Outputs were due by Friday the 27th March. If you were unable to make this deadline can you please contact the Research Outputs team as soon as possible. Outputs-related enquiries can be directed to the researchoutputs@csu.edu.au.

FACULTY RESEARCH GROUPS NEWS

Critical Research in Indigenous Studies Research Group

On January 23rd, 2020, the Critical Research in Indigenous Studies group met at the Dubbo campus to plan their activities and discuss some of the key issues relating to Indigenous Studies research at Charles Sturt University. The Group contains researchers, educators, and supervisors across the University’s Schools and Faculties. The Group decided on a number of strategic research priorities including: Cultural competency education and training and Data sovereignty and research ethics. They also made a formal submission to the University’s consultation for the Proposed Research Strategy and Plan 2020-2026. The Group has completed literature reviews on decolonising methodologies and data sovereignty. The Group comprises Professor Susan Green, Dr. Nicholas Ruddell, and Dr. Peta Jeffries from the School of Indigenous Australian Studies. They are joined by Kay Nankervis from the School of Communication and Creative Industries (Faculty of Arts and Education) and Dr. Catherine Easton from the School of Community Health (Faculty of Science). The Group is rounded out by Chris Orchard, Sub-Dean, Academic and Dr. Matthew Winslade, Sub-Dean, Workplace Learning from the Faculty of Arts and Education. The Group is co-chaired by Associate Professor Jay Phillips and Dr. Holly Randell-Moon from the School of Indigenous Australian Studies. For more information on the Group and its activities, please contact Dr. Holly Randell-Moon at: hrandell-moon@csu.edu.au
Accessing ABS Data & Other Important Datasets

WHEN
Tuesday, April 21st, 1-2pm

WHERE
This is an online event.

MORE INFORMATION
Gain practical knowledge regarding how to access ABS data and data from other important data sets and learn more about the CSU support services available to you in this endeavour.

Register
Strategies for Research Design and Data Collection

WHEN
Thursday, April 30th, 10am-12pm

WHERE
This is an online event.

MORE INFORMATION
This session is run by Dr Jenine Beekhuyzen of Adroit research who has a wealth of experience in qualitative research design and analysis. Jenine has more than a decade of experience training in NVivo software, and has more than 50 peer-reviewed publications.

Register
Who is noticing your Research?

WHEN
Wednesday, May 13th, 10am-12pm

WHERE
This is an online event.

MORE INFORMATION
As you start your research journey, you will need to engage with wider community – it could be at the start of a project to find participants in your study, or at the end to promote the results of your research around graduation time.

This session will help you develop and promote a good research story, one that says “This is why you should take notice of my story”.

This session’s presenter Dr Wes Ward is an active social researcher with nearly 25 years’ experience as a media officer with CSU, and has helped promote research for many years.

Register
Lifting your research profile

WHEN
Wednesday, May 13th, 1-3pm

WHERE
This is an online event.

MORE INFORMATION
You may have a few research studies under your belt, but now you want to take it to the next level.

This session is aimed at researchers seeking to lift their profiles to become better known as experts in their fields, discussing the opportunities and challenges that this presents when working through the media.

We will consider case studies from the University and support services available to help you achieve your research goals.

This session’s presenter Dr Wes Ward.

Register

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
NEW Tri-Faculty Open Access Publishing Scheme

A new Open Access Publishing Scheme is now open for applications for articles published after 1/4/2020. This scheme is open to Charles Sturt researchers in all faculties.

A maximum of $2500AUD is available as a contribution to open access publishing fees. For this scheme the article must be published in a 100% open access journal. Please read the guidelines before applying.

The guidelines and application form are available to download from: S:\Common\ Temp Folder Less Than 90 Days\Tri-Faculty Open Access Publishing Scheme

If you need any further information please contact your Faculty Research Liaison Officer. FOAE-RLO@csu.edu.au
Call For Applications: Charles Sturt COVID-19 Research Grants

The current COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented health crisis with wide-reaching impacts on our families, our communities, our health service and our national and global economy.

To respond to this extraordinary event, the University is releasing $200,000 of internal funding to support projects focused on understanding the impacts on the health, wellbeing, business performance, communities and economy of Australia. Projects can be in any discipline area and with any deliverable outcome providing that these are focussed on:

- generating new knowledge regarding the impact of this virus on our people or communities;
- delivering solutions for post-COVID-19 resilience;
- economic rebuilding; or
- a combination of the above.

Amount: Up to $50,000 per project, however, larger requests will be considered where clear justification can be given for additional funds.

Duration: Funds must be spent by 24 December 2020. An interim report will be requested in September 2020, with a final report to be delivered by 31 January 2021.

Eligibility: This funding is for new projects, or novel breakthrough projects that currently do not have external funding. It is not funding for extensions of existing projects or projects that have been funded through previous internal competitive application processes. The Chief Investigator must be a current CSU employee. Projects that involve laboratory work, animals and/or travel will not be considered at this time.

Applications close: 5pm 24 April 2020

Guidelines
Research Professional - Select Research Funding Opportunities related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Research Professional have dedicated a site to COVID-19 News and COVID-19 related funding opportunities:

You can find the news here:

https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/

And funding opportunities here:

Moonshot R&D program - Japan Science and Technology Agency

The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources welcomes the Government of Japan’s public call for proposals to participate in its Moonshot Research and Development Program, a new $1bn+ research funding initiative. This program is aimed at addressing the challenges posed by Japan’s ageing population and climate change through the development of frontier technologies and areas of research including Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), automation, robotics, AgriTech, MedTech, healthcare, and space applications. Australian researchers and companies are eligible to compete for funding through the Moonshot program based on criteria prescribed by Japan, specific to each goal.

Moonshot Goals 1, 2, 3 and 6 - Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

English Website: https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/application/index.html

- (1) Realisation of a society in which human beings can be free from limitations of body, brain, space, and time by 2050
- (2) Realisation of ultra-early disease prediction and intervention by 2050
- (3) Realisation of AI robots that autonomously learn, adapt to their environment, evolve in intelligence and act alongside human beings by 2050
- (6) Realisation of a fault-tolerant universal quantum computer that will revolutionise economy, industry, and security by 2050

Winston Churchill Fellowships

Applications are now open for the 2020 Churchill Fellowships

It is for anyone who has exhausted alternatives within Australia and would like to see what other countries are doing successfully in a similar space to inspire new ideas, innovation, and excellence.

Applications close 11.59pm AEST Thursday 30 April 2020

Apply here
Online Safety Grants - eSafety Commissioner

The OSGP, administered by eSafety will provide $9 million in grant funding over three years (2020-21 to 2022-23). This funding is only available for non-government organisations (NGOs).

NOTE: While you must be an NGO to apply for this grant opportunity please refer to 7.1 Joint (Consortia) Applications in the guidelines. Information and the guidelines

Applications sought from NGOs that can demonstrate an ability to use evidence-based research and best practice in online safety education to develop services, resources and products that provide new solutions for improving online safety. These can be:

- for use in schools and other places of learning
- designed for parents and carers, communities or support workers
- focused on at-risk communities, and/or
- aimed at scaling up new services, resources or products

The objectives of the OSGP are to:

- support innovative development, collaboration and implementation of online safety education programs
- ensure children, young people and their communities can access inclusive, citizen-focused online safety education resources
- promote and increase the positive and safe use of digital technologies in at-risk communities, via improvements in service delivery
- contribute to driving diversity and inclusion online
- maximise opportunities for all Australians to understand the online safety support, complaints and referral pathways they can access
- create a culture where safe online behaviours among children and young people becomes the ‘norm’
- deliver projects that use co-design and evidence-based frameworks as standard practice for delivering online safety education, and
• embed Safety by Design principles, in the development of solutions and programs, where appropriate.

The OSGP have identified five focus areas for where these objectives can be met.

• preparing our schools
• preparing our citizens
• preparing our communities
• delivering safer online services, and
• supporting innovation

A more comprehensive listing of funding opportunities will be emailed to all staff each month.

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED

The Creative Practice Circle

The Creative Practice Circle at Charles Sturt University were to be holding an exhibition April 17-May 8th and symposium on the theme of “Listening in the Anthropocene” which has now been postponed until August 28 & 29 for the symposium, and 9-29 August 2020 for the exhibition. Later in 2020 they will also co-edit a special edition of Fusion.

You can view more information about The Creative Practice Circle, and the events mentioned above on the website: https://arts-ed.csu.edu.au/education/creative-practice-circle

Expressions of interest are being sought for:
• Submitting an abstract for a presentation for the symposium;
• Submitting an electronic version of an artwork to the pop-up exhibition with 4-minute explanation to be presented during symposium lunch in August.
Faculty of Arts and Education Research and Graduate Studies Committee

The next meeting of the Faculty of Arts & Education Research and Graduate Studies Committee will be held 22nd April 2020, 2.00-4.00pm.
Introducing Members of the FOAE Research Committee - Professor Manohar Pawar

How long have you been at Charles Sturt?
I have been serving Charles Sturt for more than two decades. I joined the university in February 1998.

Have you worked at another University?
Yes, I worked at a very prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences (A deemed University), Mumbai, India, and La Trobe University, Melbourne.

What are your research areas?
My research areas are very broad. For convenience, I can bring all my research under one nomenclature, social work and social development. My research and publications include the topics of International Social Development and Social Work, Social Policy, Social Aspects of Climate Change and Water, NGOs and Community Development, Informal Care and Ageing, Social Work/development Education and Training, Virtues and Social Work professional Practice.

Are you currently working on any research projects?
I am currently engaged in several research and writing projects relating to social policy practice choices by students, the sustainable development goals, social unrest, peace and development, developmental social work and virtue ethics in social work practice.

Who is funding your research?
Recently, we completed a project that was funded by an ARC Discovery Grant. My other research project were funded and supported by the Institute for Land, Water and Society and the Faculty Compact grant.

What would be your key piece of advice for a new researcher?
Your name should be identified with a particular research problem/solution you are pursuing. It is very important to have a clear idea of exactly what the research is about.
researching. That means, it a research community, nationally and globally, thinks about the research problem/solution, it should remember you or think of you. Towards achieving that, researchers need to keep long-term focused, believe in themselves despite distractions, keep asking bold research questions and have a positive attitude to discovering answers to those questions, temporary hurdles notwithstanding.

**What interests do you have outside of academic life?**
Not really! My life is only academic. I get better and new ideas when I relax and walk, particularly, with my lovely pet, Labrador, which I should do regularly.

**STAFF UPDATES**

**Welcome back to Leanne Phillips**

Leanne returns as the Faculty Graduate Studies Liaison Officer after her secondment with the Division of Student Administration.

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**Thank You Associate Professor Amy MacDonald**

We echo the thanks extended by our Executive Dean, Professor John MacDonald, for Amy’s dedication to the Faculty’s research effort as the Acting ADR and wish her well for the completion of her DECRA project.

**Welcome Professor Philip Hider**

Philip will commence as Associate Dean Research on the 14th April.

**AND FINALLY**
Grazie Italia

If you were asked to suggest who have been the greatest researchers the world has seen, who would make your top ten list? Certainly Italian, Leonardo da Vinci would have to be one of the greatest but perhaps a less well known Italian researcher, Rita Levi-Montalcini who won a Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1986, can provide some inspiration for us in these times of isolation in our homes.

Rita graduated from University of Turin Medical School at age 21 with a degree in Medicine and Surgery in 1936. Her time at University was interrupted by Mussolini’s “Manifesto per la Difesa della Razza,” Manifesto of Race. The manifesto deprived Jews of their Italian citizenship and also barred them from academic and professional careers. Rita was Jewish. However, and where this has relevance for our present times, Rita was not put off in conducting her research and continued to research from her bedroom! At times interrupted by bombings, she would take her microscope down to a basement, and return to her bedroom when all was clear.

In 1986 she was the third woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine. After receiving this award she dedicated the rest of her life to encouraging women in science, promoting scientific research, advocating for refugees and pursuing international peace. She served as a senator for life of Italy from 2001 until her death in 2012 at the age of 103.

Photo above: Rita Levi-Montalcini the 98 year-old mother of neuroscience at the international NGF meeting in 2008: Kfar Blum, Israel.

Guarisci presto! (Get well soon) Italy...Here's a link to another great Italian Luciano Pavarotti to lift your spirits over the Easter Break.

Please send us your news and photographs for the next RaGS edition due out 8th May
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