

## **Executive summary**

The University of Melbourne's third Health Informatics Roundtable for 2008 departed from the face-to-face meeting format of previous events and was held in the format of a videoconference between The University of Melbourne, Australia (6 November) and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA (5 November).

This was in keeping with the aim of this event, that is, to develop the use of sophisticated conferencing technologies to enable specific research collaborations in biomedical and health informatics.

The event centred on discussions among leading researchers at both Universities in three major fields - colorectal cancer, neuroscience and global health.

The event also included observers from a range of Faculties, service areas and The Chancellery at The University of Melbourne who are interested in e-collaboration aspects of e-research.

The event used IOCOM™ and Access Grid systems designed for high-definition video streaming and remote log-in desktop sharing.

The event had outcomes for organisational development, in terms of lessons learned about infrastructure requirements, staff training and development and research collaboration dynamics, to improve future conferencing activities for this purpose. There were immediate benefits for one of the biomedical research collaborations on which the event centred.

Further details and a list of participants can be obtained by contacting [health-informatics@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:health-informatics@unimelb.edu.au)

**E-collaboration for research in biomedical and health informatics Roundtable 5/6 November 2008**  
**Sponsored by The University of Melbourne Steering Committee for Health Informatics**  
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Melbourne Time	Detailed Program
8:00-8:45	Technical set-up by Bernard Meade and Mary Marler
8:45	All participants seated
9:00-9:05	<p>Peter Harris (Associate Dean – Information, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry &amp; Health Sciences, University of Melbourne)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>welcomes participants</li> <li>introduces Glyn Davis (Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne), Frank Larkins (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne) and Joel Harrington (Assistant Provost for International Affairs, Vanderbilt University)</li> </ul> <p>Joel Harrington greets participants and introduces Nicholas Zeppos (Chancellor, Vanderbilt University)</p>
9:05-9:15	<p>Peter Harris invites Glyn Davis and Nicholas Zeppos to make opening remarks</p> <p>Glyn Davis and Nicholas Zeppos talk about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vision for collaboration between Melbourne and Vanderbilt Universities</li> <li>today's exploration of using information and communication technologies to support collaboration</li> </ul>
9:15-9:45	<p>Peter Harris introduces the first research focus, colorectal cancer, and the leading presenters, Marianne Hibbert (BioGrid Australia, Melbourne) and Bob Coffey (Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center)</p> <p>Marianne Hibbert and Bob Coffey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introduce co-researchers who are present</li> <li>outline aims and key aspects of research collaboration</li> <li>discuss issues and plans for advancing research collaboration</li> <li>take questions and comments from other participants (as time permits)</li> </ul>
9:45-10:15	<p>Peter Harris introduces the second research focus, neuroscience, and the leading presenters, Gary Egan (Howard Florey Institute, Melbourne) and John Gore (Institute of Imaging Science, Vanderbilt University)</p> <p>Gary Egan and John Gore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introduce co-researchers who are present</li> <li>outline aims and key aspects of research collaboration</li> <li>discuss issues and plans for advancing research collaboration</li> <li>take questions and comments from other participants (as time permits)</li> </ul>
10:15-10:45	<p>Peter Harris introduces the third research focus, global health, and the leading presenters, Jim Black (Nossal Institute for Global Health, Melbourne) and Alfredo Vergara (Institute for Global Health, Vanderbilt)</p> <p>Jim Black and Alfredo Vergara:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introduce co-researchers who are present</li> <li>outline aims and key aspects of research collaboration</li> <li>discuss issues and plans for advancing research collaboration</li> <li>take questions and comments from other participants (as time permits)</li> </ul>
10:45-11:00	<p>Peter Harris, Joel Harrington and John Manning (Vice-President, Research Operations, Medical Center, Vanderbilt University) make closing remarks about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>potential for research collaborations in biomedical and health informatics</li> <li>perspectives on today's conference and future directions for e-collaboration</li> </ul> <p>Peter Harris closes the meeting</p>