



University Lecturer Wins Award For Revolutionary New Magnetic Resonance Imaging Teaching Technology

Robert Davidson from the School of Clinical Sciences, Charles Sturt University, has won the prestigious 2000 Pearson Education UniServe Science Teaching Award for his outstanding and innovative CD-ROM teaching tool, *MRI Concepts*.

MRI Concepts is an invaluable teaching tool which is set to have a significant impact on the way undergraduate science and medical imaging students learn about and understand the difficult but crucial area of MRI imaging. MRI is the latest imaging test that enables medical practitioners to visualise the patient's anatomy and pathology without the use of x-rays. MRI is a highly sensitive means of diagnosis especially for many cancers.

Previously, medical imaging students were taught about MRI through lectures and static images. *MRI Concepts* actively involves students, allowing them to input MRI factors, analyse images and progress at their own rate. Students can visualise and measure the changes in the images from the MRI factors they alter. It is similar to allowing the students to play on these large MRI units, but using their own computers.

This sophisticated teaching technology has proved incredibly successful, with student results showing a mean 8% improvement. This will translate directly into more students being able to step in to the clinical environment with a greater understanding of MRI which will benefit both the patient and the hospital.

Mr Davidson said "It's great to see the students get the benefits - that's the aim of the software. The physics and principles are difficult learning areas." Mr Davidson will give a keynote address at the 2001 UniServe Science Annual Workshop in April at The University of Sydney.

ABOUT THE AWARD

Susannah Bowen from Pearson Education (formerly Prentice Hall and Addison Wesley Longman publishers) said "the Pearson Education UniServe Science Teaching Award is designed to recognise and reward those who make an outstanding contribution to student learning outcomes through the innovative and integrated use of information technology in university science departments." The prize will be awarded annually and entries are open to Australian university science academics.

The Award is a joint initiative of UniServe Science and Pearson Education Australia. UniServe Science is the national clearinghouse for information about the use of technology in science teaching and learning. UniServe Science is sponsored by The University of Sydney.

Pearson Education Australia is Australia's leading publisher of educational products and supports UniServe Science's aim to promote the use of technology in science teaching and learning.

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ABOUT THE JUDGES

This well-regarded award attracted judges of the calibre of Professor Shirley Alexander, Director of the Institute of Interactive Media and Learning, University of Technology Sydney, and Dr Roy Lundin from the Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology. Professor Alexander is a leading expert in education technology in Australia. Dr Lundin is well known for his work on flexible teaching and learning.

Other judges were Associate Professor Robert Hewitt from UniServe Science and the School of Physics, The University of Sydney; and Shane Donnelly, eLearning Consultant from Pearson Education.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Honourable mentions were awarded to Associate Professor Hilde Lovegrove and team from Deakin University for the *School of Psychology Electronic Warehouse*. The Psychology Electronic Warehouse is an innovative educational software package that encourages students to make conceptual links between the discipline's fundamental knowledge and the methodology used in psychology research. The PEW consists of twenty on-line workshops, each addressing a theoretical issue presented as a research problem.

Associate Professor Roy Tasker and team from the University of Western Sydney Nepean were awarded an honourable mention for *VisChem: Learning Chemistry Through Visualisation of the Molecular Level*, an innovative teaching approach to chemistry that uses a combination of animations, evaluation studies, teaching strategies and interactive computer aided learning resources.

Dr Heiko Daniel and team from the School of Rural Science and Natural Resources, University of New England, were awarded an honourable mention for *Oz Soils: interactive multimedia teaching modules*. The Oz Soils CD-ROM uses a flexible self-directed learning structure to assist students to understand fundamental concepts and processes of soil science, using interactive animations, still graphics and text and self-assessment questions.

MORE INFORMATION:

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Information about the Pearson Education UniServe Science Teaching Award, publisher focus on flexible learning technologies.

www.pearsoned.com.au

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Information about the Pearson Education UniServe Science Teaching Award, use of technology in science teaching.

<http://science.uniserve.edu.au/>

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For information about *MRI Concepts* teaching tool, improvements in undergraduate medical or science student training, improved outcomes from better MRI teaching.