

## News Bite

June 2016

### High Achiever

Dr Aoife McGarvey, Physiotherapist, received the Research Higher Degree Excellence Award for the Faculty of Health and Medicine for 2015 from the University of Newcastle for her PhD thesis titled 'Physiotherapy for Patients with Head and Neck Cancer'. Only one recipient may receive the award from a faculty in any one year. The award recognises excellence in research and celebrates outstanding achievement in research by Research Higher Degree candidates.

Aoife commented, "It was an honour, particularly for a clinician-researcher, working part-time on a PhD to receive such a prestigious award. I see this as the first step towards a change of patient care towards improving the access to physiotherapy and promoting physiotherapy for patients with head and neck cancer."

Dr McGarvey has been successful in obtaining a two-year Implementation Project Grant from the Hunter Cancer Research Alliance to undertake translation of physiotherapy care into practice for those with head and neck cancer at three hospital sites.

Aoife was recently invited to present an evening lecture as the keynote speaker to members of the Australian Physiotherapy Association, which is an opportunity given to physiotherapists who are considered experts in their clinical field.

