

# Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

7 July 2010

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## Message from the President

Colleagues - four quick things this report. First, please complete your membership of the society before the end of July 2010. Remember completion of your membership will provide you with benefits till the end of December 2011.

Second, abstracts for the ASPR conference are now due. The ASPR conference this year offers a new format, a very attractive location (especially if you live inland!), and a host of interesting workshops and international speakers.

Third, ASPR was a signatory to a letter delivered to the Prime Minister's representative (Senator Moore) on the 24th of June at Parliament House. This letter was signed by 70 participating organisations in Australia. It welcomed labour's commitment to reshape mental health services, and the announcement that mental health will be on the agenda at COAG.

Finally, ASPR's submission to the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee was acknowledged in the Committee's report published last month. 7.27 (p.127). The submission from the RANZCP was also highlighted. This submission noted that the suicide research was considerably less well funded than other disorders such as breast cancer which has the same rate of mortality.

Regards,

Helen Christensen



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## ASPR Committee Contacts

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## ASPR Matters

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Professor Patrick McGorry who was awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia on June the 14th 2010 for distinguished service to medicine and to mental health, as a leading clinician, researcher and scientist, through innovative reform of services, the development of national programs to support youth and raising public awareness.

Congratulations are also in order for Professor Gordon Parker who was also awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia on June the 14th 2010 for distinguished service to psychiatry as a clinician and researcher, particularly as a major contributor to the understanding and innovative treatment of mood disorders and as founder and Executive Director of the Black Dog Institute.

ASPR would like to congratulate Stephen Wood who has been appointed as Professor at the University of Birmingham. Stephen has been a prominent and rising star in psychiatric research and has contributed to ASPR regularly and ASPR wishes him well in his new role.

### ASPR AS A SIGNATORY ON LETTER TO PM

Recently, ASPR became a signatory on a letter to then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd regarding reshaping mental health services in Australia, click [here](#) to read the letter.

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## Conferences and Related

### ASPR 2010 CONFERENCE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – EXTENDED TO 15 JULY!

“Glial-Neuronal Networks in Neuropsychiatry”

Abstracts can be submitted for 15 minute oral presentations; the Early Career Researcher Symposium; and/or poster presentations

Invited, are abstracts addressing the conference theme, as well as many other sub-themes. Please visit the conference website [www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010](http://www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010) for a full list and to submit your abstract.

This is your final opportunity to submit an abstract, so don't miss out! Submissions must close on Wednesday 15 July 2010.

#### CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**Prof Bernard Balleine**, *Brain & Mind Research Institute NSW*

**Prof Richard Banati**, *Ramaciotti Centre for Brain Imaging, NSW*

**Prof Max Bennett**, *Brain & Mind Research Institute NSW*

**Prof Ian Everall**, *Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne, VIC*

**Prof Ranga Krishnan**, *Dean and Professor, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore*

**Prof Rhoshel Lenroot**, *School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales and Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, NSW*

**Prof Patrick McGorry**, *Executive Director and Director of Clinical Services, ORYGEN Youth Health Research Centre, University of Melbourne; VIC*

**Prof John O'Brien**, *Newcastle University, United Kingdom*

**Prof Chris Pantelis**, *Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne, VIC*

**Dr Margie Wright**, *Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QLD*

#### PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP PROGRAM RELEASED!

Visit the conference website, to download the full program.  
<http://www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010/workshops.html>

Conference Organisers: International Conferences & Events  
Phone: 03 9681 6288 Email: [aspr2010@iceaustralia.com](mailto:aspr2010@iceaustralia.com).

Dates: Sunday 5 to Wednesday 8 December 2010  
Venue: Swiss Grand Bondi, Sydney, Australia  
Website: [www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010](http://www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010)

## Conferences Continued

### UPDATE ON SURVEY OF HIGH IMPACT PSYCHOSIS (SHIP)

SHIP is the second national survey of psychosis and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

In March 2010, screening for psychosis was completed in seven catchments across five Australian States: NSW, QLD, SA, VIC and WA. There were 10,662 people screened who met age and postcode eligibility criteria: 76.7% were screen-positive, with 37.3% of these aged 18-34 years and 62.7% aged 35-64 years. Two thousand screen-positive people have been randomly selected for interview: 1000 in each age group. A further 300 screen-negative people will be interviewed.

Interviews are currently underway. In addition to collecting data on psychopathology, social roles and functioning, employment, housing, service utilisation and need, SHIP involves a physical health assessment including testing for metabolic syndrome, a cognitive assessment and, in partnership with the Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank, the collection of blood for DNA analysis.

Vera Morgan (National Project Director/Convenor) on behalf of the SHIP Technical Advisory Group and Project Implementation Steering Group: V Morgan, A Jablensky, A Waterreus, R Bush, V Carr, D Castle, M Cohen, C Galletly, C Harvey, P McGorry, J McGrath, H Stain, B Hocking, A Mackinnon, A Neil, S Saw

For further information, contact Vera Morgan  
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### THE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES PROJECT

"The Healthy Lifestyles Project" is looking for participants currently smoking 15 or more cigarettes per day, with an interest in improving their diet, exercise and/or smoking. Participants need to have a diagnosis of a Psychotic or Bipolar disorder. Recruitment will continue until Dec 2010. For information please contact - Sydney: Jo on 0413714099 or 0293853433, Melbourne: Sacha on 0390766583, Newcastle, Liz on 40335717 or 0488530990

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## Conferences Continued

### 14<sup>TH</sup> PACIFIC RIM COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Registration is **now open** for the 14th Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists Scientific Meeting being held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from the 28th - 30th October 2010. Full Registration to the conference includes attendance to all conference sessions, conference satchel and book of abstract, morning and afternoon tea, lunch and the Welcome Reception. The conference dinner is an optional extra and a night not to miss. Registration details and prices can be seen [here](#). The program will feature distinguished international and national keynote presenters including;

**Dr Aaron Groves** - Director Mental Health, QLD Health

**Prof Norman Sartorius** - Association for the Improvement of Mental Health Programmes, Geneva

**Prof Beverley Raphael** - Population Mental Health and Disasters, Medical School, University of Western Sydney

**Prof David Castle** - St Vincent's Health & The University of Melbourne

**Mr Anthony Fowke AM** - President, World Federation for Mental Health

**Prof David Clarke** - Research Advisor, beyondblue & Monash University

**Prof Kua Ee Heok** – National University of Singapore

**Prof Min Soo Lee** - Pharmacogenomic Research Centre for Psychotropic Drugs & Korea University

**Prof Julio Licinio** - John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University

**Prof Fumitaka Noda** - Division of Social Welfare, Department of Human Welfare, Faculty of Human Studies, Taisho University

To register or for more information about keynote speaker and sponsorship opportunities please visit the conference website [here](#).

## Relevant Media

### SYDNEY MORNING HERALD – 16/06/2010

“To defeat mental illness, you can't short-change the research” – Jayashri Kulkarni

Click [here](#) to read the article online.

### AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

New Inventors, episode 18, 2010 “EVestG”

Invented by Brian Lithgow & Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, EVestG was the winner and people's choice on the program New Inventors on the ABC. EVestG is a new diagnostic technique that measures the patterns of electrical activity in the brain's vestibular (or balance) system allowing Doctors to dramatically fast-track the detection of mental and neurological illnesses. Click [here](#) to read more on the ABC website.

## Scholarships and Positions Available

### PHD SCHOLARSHIP IN THE BRAIN & AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAM

There is currently an opportunity for a PhD Scholarship in the Brain & Ageing Research Program. This scholarship has been established to encourage exceptional students to undertake research on our Sydney Centenarian Study. This study explores the cognitive and neuroimaging aspects of exceptional old age. For more details contact Angie Russell - [angie.russell@unsw.edu.au](mailto:angie.russell@unsw.edu.au).

### TOP UP SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE BRAIN AND AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAM

One or more top up scholarships have been established to encourage exceptional APA eligible students to study neurocognitive disorders in the elderly. The successful applicant/s will undertake research within the Brain and Ageing Research Program, School of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine. The Scholarship is provided for three years and will amount to \$5,000 p.a. The award is subject to the discretion of the selection committee.

CLOSING DATE: 30 July, 2010

For more details contact Angie Russell - [angie.russell@unsw.edu.au](mailto:angie.russell@unsw.edu.au).

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## Advertising in the ASPR Bulletin

The ASPR Email Bulletin is sent out once every two months, on the first Wednesday of that month. We are happy to include relevant news items and information about positions, conferences and courses. However, the Bulletin does not include attachments that are not core ASPR business. Therefore, please email a very brief statement (2-3 lines) on the news item or about the position, conference or course, with website and contact details for those who may want more information, to **Kanupriya Kalia: [Kanupriya.Kalia@anu.edu.au](mailto:Kanupriya.Kalia@anu.edu.au)**

*Your email should arrive at least one week before the end of the month to ensure inclusion in the next Bulletin. In order to avoid email overload, advertising material is not emailed to ASPR members in between Bulletins.*

## Privacy Information

If you would like to update your email details or to remove yourself from the ASPR electronic mailing list, please contact **Kanupriya Kalia: [Kanupriya.Kalia@anu.edu.au](mailto:Kanupriya.Kalia@anu.edu.au)**