

# Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

March 5 2010

## CONTENTS

### Message from the President

### ASPR Committee Contacts

### ASPR Matters

### Conferences and Related

### Scholarships and Positions Available



## Message from the President

Dear Members

Over the last 2 months, ASPR has had two major foci: The first has been to attending to the business "operations" of the society. A primary task over the next few months will be to overhaul and extend our membership list, develop an online portal for membership services and payments, and centralise our banking and communications.

A second focus is on advocacy for the importance of mental health research. ASPR has had some brief talks with Dr Meridith Arcus, advisor to Nicola Roxon, over the relatively low funding for mental health research relative to disease burden, the lack of recent grants in suicide prevention (in response to the Senate Inquiry into Mental Health (submission on the Senate website at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/suicide/submissions/sub20.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/suicide/submissions/sub20.pdf)), and also with Professor Warwick Anderson – with respect to the success rate of mental health grants. For example, mental health research was not represented in the recent round of Development Grants, nor indeed with Australia Fellowships in 2010. The real issue is of course a workforce one - the small number of submitted by mental health researchers does not result in a huge proportion of the health grant budget – as the proportion of grants awarded per submissions is pretty uniform across specialist areas. The importance of developing a mental health research workforce is critical for the development of our fields, of primary importance to ASPR, and a target to pursue over the next few years.

This bulletin also features latest ASPR members recognized in the latest honours lists. Congratulations!

Finally, I would like to extend an enormous thank you to Liz Horten who is now retiring from the University of Melbourne. Liz will no longer be directly involved in running the society. Liz has been the administrative backbone of ASPR from its earliest days. She has worked with a succession of presidents, treasurers and secretaries to ensure that the society ran smoothly. Indeed, without her contribution there have been many occasions on which it may not have run at all! Liz kept membership records up to date, nudging late payers, keeping track of constantly changing addresses. Most of Liz's work for ASPR was done after hours. Trips to the bank to deposit payments were done in lunch breaks. Every secretary and treasurer of ASPR owes Liz a special debt of gratitude: the perfectly balanced books, statement of memberships and financial reports were the result of her careful work over the year rather than ours. In many ways, Liz was an additional 'founder' of ASPR and we wish her a happy retirement!

Helen Christensen

# Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

March 5 2010

## ASPR Committee Contacts

Professor Helen Christensen (President)  
[Helen.Christensen@anu.edu.au](mailto:Helen.Christensen@anu.edu.au)

Dr Claire Kelly (Secretary)  
[ckel@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ckel@unimelb.edu.au)

Assoc Professor Robyn Langdon (Treasurer)  
[robyn.langdon@maccs.mq.edu.au](mailto:robyn.langdon@maccs.mq.edu.au)

ACT: Dr Peter Butterworth  
[Peter.Butterworth@anu.edu.au](mailto:Peter.Butterworth@anu.edu.au)

NSW: Dr Anthony Harris  
[aharris1@mail.usyd.edu.au](mailto:aharris1@mail.usyd.edu.au)

NZ: Dr Sunny Collings  
[sunny.collings@otago.ac.nz](mailto:sunny.collings@otago.ac.nz)

QLD: Dr Tom Burne  
[t.burne@uq.edu.au](mailto:t.burne@uq.edu.au)

SA: Professor Cherrie Galletly  
[cherrie.galletly@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:cherrie.galletly@adelaide.edu.au)

VIC: Dr Elizabeth Scarr  
[elscarr@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:elscarr@unimelb.edu.au)

WA: Ms Giulietta Valuri  
[valurig@meddent.uwa.edu.au](mailto:valurig@meddent.uwa.edu.au)

TAS: Dr Kristy Sanderson  
[kristy.sanderson@utas.edu.au](mailto:kristy.sanderson@utas.edu.au)

Dr Eoin Killackey (co-opted) [eoin@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:eoin@unimelb.edu.au)

Dr Flavie Waters (Early Career Researcher)  
[Flavie@ccrn.uwa.edu.au](mailto:Flavie@ccrn.uwa.edu.au)



## ASPR Matters

### AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Congratulations to Professor Patrick McGorry, past recipient of the ASPR Founder's Medal, for being named the Australian of the Year 2010.

Congratulations to Phil Mitchell, past president of ASPR and a recipient of the ASPR founder's Medal. Phil was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for "service to medical education, particularly in the field of psychiatry, as an academic, researcher and practitioner, through contributions to the understanding, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses".



# Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

March 5 2010

## ASPR Matters continued

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS ON THE 2010 WORKING PARTY FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Flavie Waters is looking to add to her team of volunteers to help develop a program of activities aimed at researchers early in their careers.

The ASPR Early Career Researchers working party is committed to provide a comprehensive program of activities and opportunities aimed at developing the skills and strategic knowledge of researchers early in their career, and at enhancing their future research career.

Volunteers can be at any stage of their career to contribute. If you have knowledge, ideas, enthusiasm or skills, apply now!

Contact details: [Flavie.Waters@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Flavie.Waters@health.wa.gov.au)

## Conferences and Related

### 2010 ASPR CONFERENCE UPDATE

SAVE THE DATE!!! The Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research (ASPR) will be held from Sunday 5 to Wednesday 8 December 2010 in Sydney, Australia. Be sure to keep the dates free for what is certain to be the best conference yet!

The conference will provide a forum for mental health researchers and professionals to present and discuss the latest work in the field.

Fantastic Pre Conference Workshops are also being planned for the Sunday so stay tuned for these programs.

The conference will appeal to people from a wide range of disciplines including psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurses, statisticians, neuroscientists, geneticists, social scientists, health economists and health policy professionals.

The conference will also feature keynote presentations from international experts with research presentations and poster sessions showcasing the latest work in the field.

For further information regarding the conference, please contact the conference organisers, ICE Australia on 02 8282 0544 or via email to [aspr2010@iceaustralia.com](mailto:aspr2010@iceaustralia.com)

## Conferences continued

### SURVEY OF HIGH IMPACT PSYCHOSIS (SHIP)

Clinicians and researchers working in the area of psychosis may be interested to know that March 2010 is the census month for the Survey of High Impact Psychosis (SHIP), the second national survey of psychosis, 13 years after the first survey, the Study of Low Prevalence (Psychotic) Disorders in 1997-98. Screening for psychosis will be take place in seven catchments across five Australian States: NSW, QLD, SA, VIC and WA.

The total number to be sampled for interview and assessment from those screened is 2000. The survey is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing with The University of Western Australia as the lead institution.

Key personnel include: Vera Morgan (National Project Director and Convenor of the Technical Advisory Committee), Assen Jablensky (Chief Scientific Advisor) and Anna Waterreus (National Project Coordinator). Other members of the Technical Advisory Group include: Robert Bush, Vaughan Carr, David Castle, Martin Cohen, Cherrie Galletly, Carol Harvey, Pat McGorry, John McGrath, Helen Stain, Barbara Hocking, Andrew Mackinnon, Amanda Neil, Suzy Saw. SHIP has a strong focus on social roles, housing, health, and services for people with psychosis. Several novel components include: a detailed assessment role function and role support; a brief assessment of cognitive function; the clinical assessment of physical comorbidity; triangulation of data sources including data from the treating general practitioner; and the calculation of the economic and community costs of social breakdown associated with psychosis.

# Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

March 5 2010

## Scholarships and Positions Available

### Top Up Scholarships in the Brain & 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: 31/01/2010**

**To apply for this Scholarship go to the UNSW Graduate Research School website at:  
[www.grs.unsw.edu.au](http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au)**

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

These top up Scholarships are offered by the Brain and Ageing Research Program, UNSW, a high profile research program funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), which is undertaking research the determinants of cognitive disorders in the elderly.

The Scholarships may encompass broad areas of study including ...neuropsychology, neuroimaging, biomarkers, genetics, proteomics etc.

The successful candidates will be working on data derived from study cohorts of international significance (the Sydney Memory and Ageing Study and the Older Australian Twins Study) and may encompass work with brain magnetic resonance imaging and genetics. A well developed program exists in the Brain and Ageing Program which supports a large number of Doctoral students.

**Essential Criteria:** In receipt of APA or equivalent; an honours degree in Science, Psychology, Health Sciences or equivalent, or a degree in Medicine; demonstrated aptitude for research; excellent academic record.

**Please note: if you are looking for a full APA equivalent scholarship, please refer to PhD Brain & Ageing Research Program advertisement**

### 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.*

*The successful applicant will need to be enrolled as a UNSW PhD student and be **ineligible** for the Australian Postgraduate Award (APA).*

*The Scholarship is provided for one year, with possible renewal for up to three years, which is contingent upon satisfactory progress. The scholarship will provide \$30,000 p.a. for living expenses, paid in fortnightly instalments.*

*The award is subject to the discretion of the selection committee.*

**CLOSING DATE: 31 March, 2010**

**To apply for this Scholarship go to the UNSW Graduate Research School website at:  
[www.grs.unsw.edu.au](http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au)**

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

This Scholarship is offered by the Brain & Ageing Research Program, UNSW - a high profile research program funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), which is undertaking research on the determinants of cognitive disorders in the elderly.

**Essential Criteria:** An honours degree in Science, Psychology, Health Sciences or equivalent, or a degree in Medicine; demonstrated aptitude for research; excellent academic record.

Applicants who are not Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents will be responsible for their own university tuition fees. If you are **eligible** for an Australian Postgraduate Award please see the Brain & Ageing Research Program Top-Up Scholarships advertisement.

# Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

March 5 2010

## **Advertising in the ASPR Bulletin**

The ASPR Email Bulletin is sent out once every two months, at the start of each 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 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)**