

# Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

3 November 2010

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## Message from the President

Congratulations to all our members who received awards for research work over the last 2 months. If we have missed any others who were also successful please accept our apologies – we try to keep on top of ones announced in the news or which we capture through our alerts.

Also congratulations to all members who were successful in the recent ARC Discovery and Linkage Grants Round. These grants are displayed on page 5. Again there may be ones we have missed. Let us know- we try to keep track of all member grants so that we can advocate for more and better mental health research from funding agencies, such as the ARC and NHMRC, and also through advisors to ministers.

The NHMRC announced the results of the Centre for Research Excellence Grants on October 19th 2010. Of the 14 CREs announced, none focuses on mental health research. We think at least 5 applications for CREs were made by members. We have approached Professor Warwick Anderson for a discussion as to how to make mental health grant applications better able to meet criteria for funding through this scheme.

The ASPR conference is just over 5 weeks away. We hope to see you at the AGM which will be held at The Swiss Grand Main Plenary Room on Tuesday December 7 5pm-6pm. A letter from Assoc Prof Flavie Waters (ASPR ECR member) is published in this Bulletin (p. 4). We would like to see all members of the society attend the AGM. Our Early Career Researchers are particularly very welcome. You are critical to the future of mental health in Australia.

Helen Christensen

# Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

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## ASPR Committee Contacts

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

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Assoc Professor Flavie Waters (Early Career Researcher)  
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Professor Andrew Mackinnon (Public Officer)  
[Andrew.Mackinnon@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:Andrew.Mackinnon@unimelb.edu.au)

## ASPR Matters

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not already done so, please remember to renew your membership in order to receive this email bulletin and save \$\$\$ on registration fees at the upcoming conference! To renew please complete this [form](#) and return to Mick Gould at [convention@optusnet.com.au](mailto:convention@optusnet.com.au)

**Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research 2010 Conference. Sunday 5 to Wednesday 8 December 2010**

**Swiss Grand Bondi, Sydney, Australia**  
[www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010](http://www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010)

### Standard Registration

**REMINDER!** Standard Registrations for the ASPR 2010 Conference closes in **3 weeks!** Register by **Monday 22 November** to secure the standard rate starting from \$745 for ASPR members. All registrations after this date will incur a \$50 late fee.

### Full Program Available!

We are pleased to announce the program for the ASPR 2010 Conference is now available on the conference website. This premier research event for members of the Society, trainees, mental health practitioners and researchers will attract both national and international audiences and is set to be the most innovative ASPR Conference yet. To view the full program please visit the conference website  
<http://www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010/program.html>

### Pre-Conference Workshops and Seminars

Don't forget to register for the pre-conference workshops and seminars. These are filling fast, register quickly to secure your space.

This year we have increased the scope and number of pre-conference workshops.

### Gala Conference Dinner

Tuesday 7 December 2010  
Zest Waterfront Venues  
Royal Motor Yacht Club  
21 Wunulla Road Point Piper Sydney 2027  
7:00pm to 11:00pm  
\$121 per person

### Early Career Researcher Workshop

Monday 6 December 2010  
Swiss Grand Bondi Beach  
5.00pm to 6.30pm  
Complimentary

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## ASPR Matters continued

CONGRATULATIONS TO A/PROF SHARON NAISMITH



Associate Professor Naismith from The Brain & Mind Research Institute at the University of Sydney received a Young Tall Poppy Award in October 2010. Her research has shown that some risk factors for dementia can be treated, including health and lifestyle factors. She is currently working on early intervention programs to treat these factors. Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROF. DAVID KAVANAGH



The winners of the 2010 Mental Health Week awards were announced during in a ceremony in Brisbane.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health Paul Lucas said over the six categories for the awards, there were more than 20 finalists who had been drawn from more than 100 nominations. Professor Kavanagh won in the category "Government service or research and education"

Professor David Kavanagh of the Queensland University of Technology for the On Track information website including helplines and emergency services.

## ASPR Matters continued

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROF. PERMINDER SACHDEV



Professor Sachdev receiving his award from the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO

ASPR Member and University of New South Wales Professor Perminder Sachdev has been named as the winner of the 2010 NSW Scientist of the Year in Biomedical Sciences. Professor Sachdev's research is in the area of healthy brain ageing, vascular dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other dementias, neuropsychiatric aspects of dementia and treatment of an array of neurological conditions. This prestigious award acknowledges Professor Sachdev's considerable contribution to the field of brain ageing.

The NSW Scientist of the Year Awards were established in 2008 by the NSW Office for Science and Medical Research (OSMR), to recognize and reward the State's leading researchers for cutting edge work that generates economic, health, environmental or technological benefits for NSW.

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## ASPR Matters continued

### TO ALL EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS,

The ASPR Conference in Sydney is approach fast (5-8 December) and I am taking this opportunity to let you know of the events for early-career researchers. We will have an evening workshop on the Monday evening, with presentations about mentoring, publishing and funding. Speakers include researchers at different career levels who will leave plenty of time to take all your questions. We also have many opportunities for networking, both formally at a 'meet and greet' session, and informally in a Bondi bar. I enclose the full list of activities to feast your eyes on.

I am writing in response to concerns by the ASPR committee that early-career researchers are not generally attending and getting involved in the Annual-General Meeting (AGM), held at each annual conference. AGMs can be seen to be quite tedious affairs, but they seek to get ASPR's members approval on several important matters. Topics include the election to new committee members, review of activities from working parties, and discussions regarding the future direction of ASPR.

There are several good reasons for attending an AGM:

1) Your vote is needed, and this is usually conducted with a show of hand. If you're not there, your preference is not counted. Soon, ASPR will use electronic voting, but you may wish to be there to see that your field of research and interest gets adequate and fair representation.

2) The AGM provides important insights into the direction of psychiatric research in Australia. Your job involves psychiatric research, so you might miss out on information that would help you gain an advantage in your work.

3) It is another opportunity to mingle and network. The AGM is attended by many leaders of psychiatric research in Australia. These people may give you a job in their lab or research centre, or may wish to collaborate with you. So it is a good idea to see what these people are like and what their opinions are. You can also distinguish yourself from the crowd by participating in discussions.

4) You might want to get involved in some committee activities relevant to your interests, and it looks great on your CV.

So, get involved to have a voice in the society. I hope to see you there in Sydney in December.

Flavie Waters  
Representative, Early Career Researchers (ASPR)

## ASPR Matters continued

The ASPR Early Career Researchers group is committed to assist researchers early in their career in mental health and psychiatric research. We aim to provide a support structure to enhance research skills and strategic knowledge of early career researchers, and facilitate networking opportunities.

### Who are early-career researchers?

Early Career Researchers comprise anyone who considers themselves to be early in their career in psychiatric research. They include: PhD and masters students, recent graduates, postdocs, research assistants, research officers, mature students or researchers who have returned to work after a long absence, or who have changed career stream.

### What does ASPR offer to early-career researchers?

- Reduced registration rates for students
- Awards
  - ECR Scholar Awards
  - Grants-in-Aid
- A mentoring program
- Information (see ASPR website on scholarship and funding opportunities)

### Events for early-career researchers at the ASPR in Sydney 2010

*Sunday 5th December (at BMRI): Media Training and Presentation Workshop (Supported by Australian Rotary Health). Presented by Prof Rob Morrison, Flinders University; Prof Michael Sawyer, University of Adelaide*

*Sunday 5th December: Welcome Cocktail Reception - Rooftop, Swiss Grand Hotel Bondi*  
Early Career Researcher Meet and Greet from 8pm to 9pm.

*Monday 6th December: 5.00pm - 6.30pm, Early Career Researcher Workshop*

Speakers: A/Professor Flavie Waters - "Mentoring for Early Career Researchers"; Professor Kaarin Anstey - "Preparing Your Research for Publication: An Editor's Perspective"; Dr Andrew Kemp - "Getting things done in academia: navigating bureaucratic red tape, big egos and grant application rejections"; Dr Felice Jacka - "The Dos and Don'ts of being a Successful Researcher"

*Monday 6th December: An evening out in Bondi! From 8pm until late: Ravesi's (<http://www.ravesis.com.au/>) - a 10 minute walk from where the conference*

*Wednesday 8th December: 11.00 - 12.30pm and 1.30 - 3.00pm - Early Career Researchers Symposium*

*Wednesday 8th December: - Early Career Researchers Symposium*

For more information contact: Flavie Waters,  
Flavie.Waters@health.wa.gov.au.

## ASPR Matters continued

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: CO-ORDINATION OF THE ROTARY DISSEMINATION AWARD

The Rotary Dissemination Award is funded by Rotary to support research programs which translate evidence into health projects or services. After 2010, Assoc Prof. Eoin Killackey will step down as the co-opted ASPR member who co-ordinates the applications for this award.

The ASPR committee invites members of the society to express an interest in taking up this position. It involves evaluation of applications for the award in conjunction with Rotary, and a co-opted member role on the ASPR committee. Please contact [Helen.Christensen@anu.edu.au](mailto:Helen.Christensen@anu.edu.au) if you are interested. The committee welcomes all expressions of interest

### LATEST ARC FUNDING ROUND

Congratulations to all ASPR members who received funding from the Australian Research Council in the latest round. A list is included below:

A/Prof Robyn Langdon  
Dr Elizabeth Scott  
Prof Debra Rickwood  
Prof Cherrie Galletly  
A/Prof Murat Yucel  
Prof Vaughn Carr  
Prof Roshel Lenroot  
Prof Richard Bryant  
Prof Susan Paxton  
Dr Tim Windsor  
Prof Kaarin Anstey  
Dr Elizabeth Scarr  
A/Prof Sharon Naismith

## Conferences & Related

### CINP PACIFIC-ASIA REGIONAL MEETING:

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 19-22nd June, 2011.

Symposium proposal deadline: 1st December, 2010.

Free communications abstract deadline: 15th March, 2011.

Acceptance Notification: 31st March, 2011.

Early Bird Registration closes: 8th April, 2011.

For more detailed information click [here](#)

### XII<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF PERSONALITY DISORDERS CONGRESS

1-4 March 2011 Melbourne

Early Bird Registration Deadline: 3 December 2010  
[www.isspd2011.com.au](http://www.isspd2011.com.au)

The Congress will bring together the world's leading experts in personality disorder research and treatment and act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences. It will focus upon bridging research and practice through an educational and stimulating program highlighting translational research and contemporary clinical practice. The Congress will feature an exciting program including international and national speakers with a focus on themes such as neuroscience, suicide, neurodevelopment, epidemiology, psychosocial and biological approaches to treatment, psychotherapy, early intervention, and comorbidity. Confirmed keynote speakers include Professor John Gunderson, Prof Dr Sabine Herpertz, Dr Perry Hoffman, Professor Roger Mulder, Professor Kenneth Silk, Professor Andrew Skodol, Professor Jean Twenge, Professor Peter Tyrer and Dr Andrew Chanen.

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## Scholarships and Positions Available

### PHD OPPORTUNITIES IN WORKPLACE HEALTH, COMMENCING 2011

The Menzies Research Institute is offering three University of Tasmania Elite PhD Scholarships. Applicants should have an Honours degree in health sciences, economics or other relevant field. Projects aim to influence the policy and practice of workplace health promotion. Details:

<http://menzies.utas.edu.au/partneringHatW>

### THE SYDNEY CENTENARIAN STUDY PHD SCHOLARSHIP

**The Project:** Centenarians are individuals who have lived to an exceptional age of 100 years and over. Studying centenarians allows us to examine the factors associated with exceptional longevity and successful ageing. The Sydney Centenarian Study collects data on a wide range of measures including cognitive performance and neuroimaging data, and has collected DNA samples for genetic testing.

This scholarship provides the opportunity for a PhD student to undertake research into exceptional old age working on the Sydney Centenarian Study.

**When:** The successful applicant would be expected to begin their doctoral studies in 2011.

**Where:** The research will be undertaken in the Brain and Ageing Research Program at the School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales. The successful applicant must be enrolled through the UNSW's School of Psychiatry.

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

**To apply:** Go to the UNSW Graduate Research School website, [www.grs.unsw.edu.au](http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au). Both local and international applicants are encouraged to apply.

**More information:** Contact Angie Russell, Administration Manager of the Brain & Ageing Research Program - [angie.russell@unsw.edu.au](mailto:angie.russell@unsw.edu.au)

See also

<http://psych.med.unsw.edu.au/psychweb.nsf/page/brainage>

**CLOSING DATE: 30 November, 2010**

## Scholarships and Positions Continued

### PHD SCHOLARSHIP IN IMAGING GENOMICS OF PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS

A PhD Scholarship in Imaging Genomics of Psychotic disorders is available for an exceptional student to undertake research in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales. The Scholarship is an A.P.A. stipend provided for three years to a student commencing their PhD in 2010, with the potential for a six (6) month extension (at the discretion of provider).

The scholarship will provide \$22,500 p.a. for living expenses, with the potential for additional top-up funding and travel allowance for conference attendance. The award is subject to the discretion of the selection committee.

**Closing date: 28 February 2011**

For more details contact Dr Melissa Green at [melissa.green@unsw.edu.au](mailto:melissa.green@unsw.edu.au)

Imaging genomics is an emerging, transdisciplinary field that uses neuroimaging data to provide biologically plausible phenotypes for genetic investigation. This research will specifically examine the functional significance of genes implicated as conferring shared vulnerability for psychotic disorders (i.e., schizophrenia, bipolar-I disorder, schizoaffective disorder). The project will involve the integration of cognitive, functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), and physiological data to determine neurocognitive targets for genetic association. The use of innovative methods for genetic investigation (i.e., epistasis effects, novel haplotypes), and the pursuit of endophenotypes that may be shared among, or distinguish, specific disorders, will be encouraged. Further opportunities within related research projects will also be available.

Essential to selection will be a degree in Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology/Neuroscience, Computer Science or equivalent. Familiarity with computational and statistical methods for functional neuroimaging (e.g., Unix/Linux, C/C++, MATLAB, SPM, AFNI, Brain Voyager) and/or experience in genetic research would confer an advantage but are not required.

### To apply for this Scholarship

Please submit a letter outlining your interest and experience, and current CV to Dr Melissa Green, 02 9382 8382, [melissa.green@unsw.edu.au](mailto:melissa.green@unsw.edu.au)

Closing: 28 February 2011.

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## Scholarships and Positions continued

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT (FULL-TIME) SCHIZOPHRENIA LIBRARY

UNSW Research Unit for Schizophrenia Epidemiology  
St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst

The Schizophrenia Research Institute (SRI) has recently established a program of research in schizophrenia epidemiology and population health. A major component of this program is a web-based Schizophrenia Library, which is a resource comprising relevant schizophrenia- and psychosis-related research findings, gathered from a variety of sources, and stored in a searchable database. This role will involve searching electronic databases such as MEDLINE, managing files and databases, collating and commenting on existing systematic reviews and meta-analyses, as well as assisting in conducting new and especially commissioned systematic reviews and meta-analyses on various schizophrenia-related topics.

#### The successful applicant will have the following necessary experience, knowledge and skills:

##### *Essential:*

- An honours degree in science, psychology or mental health related field
- Well developed computing, data management and data analysis skills
- Highly developed organisational skills
- Demonstrated high level written and oral communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills

*Desirable:* Knowledge or experience in one or more of the following would be advantageous: knowledge of mental health or related field; schizophrenia/ psychosis research; working in a collaborative research team; use of reference management software (endnote, reference manager); conducting systematic reviews; and/or searching and managing electronic databases.

**For further information** please contact Ms Sandra Matheson (02 8382 1425 / 0413 340 307 or [s.matheson@schizophreniaresearch.org.au](mailto:s.matheson@schizophreniaresearch.org.au)).

Applications close 11 November 2010.

#### Applications must include a completed application form and current CV to be considered.

Submission of applications (via email):

Liesl Duffy

E-mail: [l.duffy@schizophreniaresearch.org.au](mailto:l.duffy@schizophreniaresearch.org.au)

Please note that this position is readvertised and previous applicants need not apply.

## Scholarships and Positions continued

### PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP IN BRAIN STIMULATION

School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

The School of Psychiatry at UNSW invites Ph.D. applicants for projects using novel Brain Stimulation techniques, including Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) and Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) which are effective, non-invasive, potential new treatments for depression. A scholarship of \$25K/year (for up to 3 years) aimed at understanding the biological basis of treatment response to these stimulation techniques is available.

The research will encompass training in these cutting edge techniques along with genetic, biological and cognitive assays and will enable the student to develop expertise in the evaluation of novel treatments of psychiatric disorders including depression. Doctoral students will be working with researchers in the School of Psychiatry, University of NSW: A/Prof Colleen Loo (also Black Dog Institute) and Prof Cyndi Shannon Weickert (also Schizophrenia Research Institute; Neuroscience Research Australia), located in Randwick, Sydney.

Applicants are encouraged from students/researchers from a variety of backgrounds, particularly medicine, psychology, molecular biology and neurophysiology.

For further details, please contact Assoc. Prof Colleen Loo (by phone +61-2-9113 2039, or email: [colleen.loo@unsw.edu.au](mailto:colleen.loo@unsw.edu.au))

## Miscellaneous

### WORKING WITH TRAUMATISED CLIENTS IN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG (AOD) SERVICES: HOW DOES THIS EFFECT YOU?

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), in collaboration with the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), is looking for people who work in AOD settings (e.g., nurses, medical practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors, social workers, and other AOD workers) from across Australia to participate in a study which aims to examine the impact of working with traumatised clients.

Participation involves completion of an anonymous online survey that takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. If you are interested in completing the survey and would like further information please go to the NDARC website <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au> and click on the relevant link.

Submitted by Philippa Farrugia

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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)**