

Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

5 May 2010

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Message from the President

Dear Members,

ASPR has continued its advocacy for improved mental health funding. As a research watchdog we note little research funding has been won by researchers investigating psychosis, anxiety or depression disorders since the beginning of 2010. 4 announcements from the NHMRC since the beginning of 2010 yield the following outcomes.

- The Australia Fellowships: 9 awarded. None in the field of mental health.
- Developmental Grants: 19 awarded. None in the field of mental health.
- Program grants: 10 awarded. 1 offered in stuttering research (4.7M – less than 5% of the 102M offered under this scheme).
- NHMRC EU grants: 2 of 7 in mental health.

These statistics have been forwarded to Dr Meredith Arcus, Advisor to Nicola Roxon, and to Professor Warwick Anderson, CEO of the NHMCR.

COAG funding of health reform was announced in April two weeks ago. Various newspaper articles have appeared calling for additional funds for mental health research. For example, Lanai Vasek in the Australian on April 26th called for additional health research findings and continued advocacy through the media is helpful.

For individuals interested in the impact of Australia's psychiatry and psychology research, a publication by the NHMRC "Measuring Up" is available on the NHMRC website. Authored by Linda Butler and Kumara Henadeera, it evaluates the impact of NHMRC research from major schemes and concludes that NHMRC funded research achieve citations at or above the world benchmark. The report can be found at:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/tracker/tracker10/index.htm>

In the next few weeks members will receive a letter describing changes to the terms and fees for ASPR membership. ASPR membership fees will operate on a calendar basis (from January to December), and fees, will unfortunately be increased. Our fees have remained the same for the last 8 years! In order to facilitate the change over, and to soften the blow, new membership fees will cover the years 2010 and 2011. Members will effectively pay for two years for the price of one. Your membership fees cover the costs of Emerging Researcher Fellowships, poster awards and travel in aid funds. The society also liaises with a range of organisations to offer substantial research awards to new and established researchers.

Regards,
Helen Christensen

Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

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ASPR Committee Contacts

Professor Helen Christensen (President)
Helen.Christensen@anu.edu.au

Dr Claire Kelly (Secretary)
ckel@unimelb.edu.au

Assoc Professor Robyn Langdon (Treasurer)
robyn.langdon@maccs.mq.edu.au

ACT: Dr Peter Butterworth
Peter.Butterworth@anu.edu.au

NSW: Dr Anthony Harris
aharris1@mail.usyd.edu.au

NZ: Dr Sunny Collings
sunny.collings@otago.ac.nz

QLD: Dr Tom Burne
t.burne@uq.edu.au

SA: Professor Cherrie Galletly
cherrie.galletly@adelaide.edu.au

VIC: Dr Elizabeth Scarr
elscarr@unimelb.edu.au

WA: Ms Giulietta Valuri
valurig@meddent.uwa.edu.au

TAS: Dr Kristy Sanderson
kristy.sanderson@utas.edu.au

Dr Eoin Killackey (co-opted)
eoin@unimelb.edu.au

Dr Flavie Waters (Early Career Researcher)
Flavie@ccrn.uwa.edu.au

ASPR Matters

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH 2010 CONFERENCE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

“Glial-Neuronal Networks in Neuropsychiatry”

The Scientific Committee for the ASPR 2010 Conference invites you to be part of this year's conference by submitting an abstract for either paper or poster presentation.

Abstracts are now being called for 15 minute oral presentations, and/or poster presentations. While the Scientific Committee particularly encourage submissions which address the conference theme 'Glial-neuronal Networks in Neuropsychiatry' and focus on how better understanding of the glial-neuronal networks that determine mental ill-health may lead to new preventative and therapeutic strategies, they also invite submissions across many other sub-themes as listed below:

- Anxiety Disorders
- Awareness and Advocacy in Mental Health
- Cardiovascular Disease and Depression
- Circadian Rhythms and Sleep in Psychiatry
- Clinical Staging of Adolescent Onset Mental Disorders
- Cognition
- Cognitive Training and Other Non-pharmacological Interventions
- Developmental Disorders
- Epidemiology
- Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia
- Neuroimaging and Neurophysiology
- Neuroinflammation/Immunology
- Primary Care in Health Services Research
- Psychosis
- Public Health
- Substance Misuse/Abuse

Please note: Poster presentations will be an important feature of this year's ASPR Conference with dedicated time in the program for viewing and discussion.

For further information regarding the conference, including the abstract submission guidelines, please visit the conference website www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010 or contact the Conference Organisers, International Conferences & Events on 03 9681 6288 or via email to aspr2010@iceaustralia.com.

The Annual ASPR Conference will be held from Sunday 5 to Wednesday 8 December 2010 in Sydney, Australia. The conference will provide a forum for mental health researchers and professionals to present and discuss the latest work in the field.

Dates: Sunday 5 to Wednesday 8 December 2010

Venue: Swiss Grand Bondi, Sydney, Australia

Website: www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2010

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Conferences and Related

14TH PACIFIC RIM COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS SCIENTIFIC MEETING – Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre 28th -30th October 2010

The conference committee for the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists Scientific Meeting is happy to announce that the abstract submission deadline for workshops and symposiums has been extended to the 14th May 2010. The paper and poster deadline is still scheduled to close on the 30th June 2010.

To submit an abstract please visit the conference website at <http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/PRCP10/>. All accepted abstracts will be published in *Asia-Pacific Psychiatry*, the official journal of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists.

The conference program includes an outstanding line-up of International and National keynote presentation.

For more information about the conference including keynote speakers and sponsorship visit the conference website at <http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/PRCP10>.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE - Melbourne July 29th & 30th 2010.

The conference will bring together local and global experts to inform the wider community of best practice developments and interventions in Youth Mental Health.

The conference will showcase research and evidence based best practice presentations across the key areas of youth well-being and mental health. It will include youth health and mental health, education and vocational issues, health promotion, service reform, and drug and alcohol streams.

The conference will also focus on youth participation in health settings and the importance of innovative technologies such as e-technology to support youth engagement.

The conference will appeal to mental health and allied health specialists including psychologists, social workers, educators, psychiatrists, nurses, occupational therapists, youth workers, counsellors, policy makers and anyone interested in young people's mental health.

Go to <http://www.iymhconference.com.au/> to view registration details and register your attendance.

Conferences Continued

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF PERSONALITY DISORDERS CONFERENCE

The XIIth International Congress of the International Society for the Study of Personality Disorders will be held in Melbourne 1-4 March 2011. Confirmed keynote speakers include John Gunderson, Andy Skodol, Ken Silk, Sabine Herpertz, Perry Hoffman, Jean Twenge and Andrew Chanen. For more information, please see www.isspd2011.com.au.

AUSTRALASIAN SCHIZOPHRENIA CONFERENCE 2010 – 'MOLECULES TO MIND'

An impressive line-up of international speakers including Shitij Kapur, Cameron Carter, David Penn and Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg headline the Australasian Schizophrenia Conference 2010, to be held at the Sheraton on the Park Hotel in Sydney on 22-24 September 2010.

The conference theme will be 'Molecules to Mind', which reflects the broad perspective required to achieve a greater scientific understanding of schizophrenia, understanding that will make a tangible difference in the lives of people with this illness.

A pre-conference workshop on genetics and schizophrenia has been organised for 21 September and is being organised by Lynn DeLisi and Cyndi Shannon Weickert.

The ASC2010 is affiliated with the Schizophrenia International Research Society and International Congress on Schizophrenia Research and we expect a large number of clinicians and researchers to gather for three days of talks, symposia, workshops, posters, and social events.

Please note that the deadline for abstract submission and Early Career Investigator Awards has been extended to 14 May. Early-bird registration cut off will be 30 June.

Complete information is available at www.asc2010.com

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Conferences Continued

THE 2ND RURAL & REMOTE MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

"*Winds of Change: New Perspectives on Rural and Remote Mental Health*" will now be held at Novotel Brighton le Sands in Sydney from September 29th - 30th 2010.

The conference will explore new perspectives within the P4 parameters, policy initiatives, primary interventions, promoting recovery, preventing relapse by way of individual conference papers, keynote presentations, and workshops.

Call for Abstracts is now open and can be submitted online.

Confirmed Keynote Presenters include:

* Australian of the Year, Professor Patrick McGorry, Professor of Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, Clinical Director of ORYGEN Youth Health, and Executive Director of the ORYGEN Research Centre

* Prof Vaughan Carr, Director, Centre for Brain & Mental Health Research, University of Newcastle

* Mr David Crosbie, CEO - Mental Health Council of Australia

* Prof Mark Creamer, Director - Australian Posttraumatic Mental Health, University of Melbourne

* A/Prof. David Pierce, Director - University Dept of Rural Health School of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Sponsorship and Exhibitor opportunities exist for the Symposium. Details can be found on the website.

<http://www.anzmf.asn.au/rmh10>

Conferences Continued

THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

The 27th International Congress of Applied Psychology will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia from 11 – 16 July, 2010.

The congress program will feature Pre-Congress Workshops, State-of-the-Art Talks, Keynote Presentations, Debates, Panel Discussions, Symposia, Individual Oral Paper Presentations, Brief Oral Presentations and Electronic Posters.

The Committee now invites submissions for:
Symposia
Panel Discussions
Individual Oral Paper Presentations
Brief Oral Presentations
Electronic Posters

Please visit <http://icap2010.com/index.php> for more information.

FIFTH NATIONAL ANXIETY & DEPRESSION CONFERENCE BY RECONNEXION, 17 - 18 May 2010, Melbourne

Standing on the Edge: What is the Way of the Future?

The conference will explore the connections and differences between the diverse range of therapies and treatment interventions, endeavouring to challenge and support participants to stand close to the edge, and to examine how they will provide their services in the future. It is an adventurous time in the area of treatment for anxiety disorders and depression.

Conference presentations demonstrate the wide diversity of therapeutic approaches –from mindfulness, Buddhist psychology, narrative therapy to e-therapy and text messaging. New directions in treatment including 'stepped care' models and inspiring new programs in indigenous health provide stimulation and food for thought. As always, the Conference has a focus on presentations which have a practical focus for practitioners.

For more information or to register please visit <http://www.icap2010.com/>

Conferences Continued

2ND INTERNATIONAL SWINE FLU CONFERENCE

Top leaders and key decision-makers of major companies representing a broad range of industries will meet with distinguished scientists, public health officials, law enforcers, first responders, and other experts to discuss pandemic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery at the 1st International Swine Flu Summit.

At the summit, attendees will be able to draw on first-hand best practices to create the solid business continuity plans that their companies and organizations need in order to prepare for, respond to, and survive a pandemic.

The summit draws on the success of the seven previous Bird Flu summits which featured as speakers several distinguished personalities such as Dr. David Nabarro, the United Nations Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza, Alex Thiermann of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and Dr. Wenqing Zhang of the WHO Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response.

In addition to insightful presentations and dynamic panel discussions, you can also choose from over 30 concurrent breakout sessions that includes:

- Breakout 1. Mass Fatality Management Planning
- Breakout 2. Psychological Issues
- Breakout 3. Business Continuity Planning
- Breakout 4. Continuity of Operations (COOP) & Continuity of Government Planning
- Breakout 5. Emergency Management Services
- Breakout 6. Law Enforcement Agencies
- Breakout 7. First Responders: Fire Department
- Breakout 8. First Responders: Public Works
- Breakout 9. 911 Call Center Services
- Breakout 10. Hospital and Emergency Medical Services
- Breakout 11. Workplace Planning
- Breakout 12. School/University Pandemic Planning
- Breakout 13. Airlines, Travel, Airport, Quarantine and Border Health Services
- Breakout 14. Infectious Medical Waste
- Breakout 15. Swine Flu: Agriculture Perspective & Intervention..... and many more.

For more information on the event, please visit <http://www.new-fields.com/2ndISFC>

Resources

NEW COMORBIDITY RESOURCE

New comorbidity resource for the alcohol and other drugs field. Over recent decades, a large body of research has documented the extent to which mental health conditions co-occur with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use. There has also been growing recognition of the significant challenges faced by those working in the AOD field when treating clients with co-occurring mental health conditions.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide AOD workers with up-to-date, evidence-based information on the management of comorbid mental health conditions in AOD treatment settings. They are based on the best available evidence and draw upon the experience and knowledge of clinicians, researchers, consumers and carers from around Australia.

The Guidelines aim to:

- Increase AOD workers' knowledge and awareness of mental health conditions.
- Improve the confidence and skills of AOD workers working with clients with comorbid mental health conditions.
- Provide guiding principles for working with clients with comorbid mental health conditions.
- Improve AOD workers' ability to identify mental health conditions.
- Provide practical information on the management of comorbid mental health conditions.
- Provide information regarding the treatment of comorbid mental health conditions.
- Provide information regarding referral processes.
- Provide resources that may be used to facilitate all of the above.

In December 2009, hardcopies of the Guidelines were distributed to all AOD treatment services across Australia. The Guidelines, and other resources, are also available for download from <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/comorbidty>. AOD workers may provide feedback on the Guidelines via a short online survey at this site.

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Scholarships and Positions Available

VETERANS' REVIEW BOARD

The current daily fee for Senior Members is set at \$658 and \$586 for Services Members and Members. Positions available in Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth.

The Veterans' Review Board invites applications for appointment as a part-time Senior Member, Services Member or Member.

Following release of the Independent Study into Suicide in the Ex-Service Community by Professor David Dunt, the Government has indicated that panels hearing matters involving mental health-related conditions should aim to have one member with a clinical mental health background. Applications are particularly sought from persons with such qualifications.

Applicants seeking appointment as a Services Member should approach a national ex-service organisation and propose that they be nominated to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs as a Services Member by that organisation.

The application form and an information package are available on our website (www.vrb.gov.au). Applications for appointment should be emailed to memberapplications@vrb.gov.au by close of business 14 May 2010.

Enquires should be directed to Glenn Katsoolis on (02) 9213 8617.

Scholarships and Positions Continued

INDUSTRY & INVESTMENT NSW EUREKA PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING MEDICAL RESEARCH TRANSLATION

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes - *Rewarding Science*

Final call for entries and nominations!

Entries for the **Industry & Investment NSW** Eureka Prize for Outstanding Medical Research Translation close midnight AEST Friday 7 May. \$10,000 will be awarded to an individual or research team conducting outstanding medical research translation.

For further information on this prize, including how to enter go to <http://eureka.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka-prize/medical-research-translation> or email eureka@austmus.gov.au

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – BEACON PROJECT (part-time)

Centre for Mental Health Research, School of Health and Psychological Sciences, ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment

The Centre for Mental Health Research (CMHR) is seeking to appoint a Research Assistant to maintain and contribute to an externally funded mental health website service. The position involves locating and evaluating scientific research papers about web interventions, writing summaries about these websites, editing input from health consumers and then updating the website with these new materials with input from the research team.

Please go to <http://jobs.anu.edu.au/PositionDetail.aspx?p=1224> for more information and to apply.

Enquiries: Prof. Helen Christensen, T: 02 6125 8409, E: Helen.Christensen@anu.edu.au

Scholarships and Positions continued

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW

Centre for Mental Health Research, School of Health and Psychological Sciences, ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment

Applications are invited for a new post-doctoral position at the Centre for Mental Health Research at the ANU. This post doc position is supported by AFFIRM: The Australian Foundation for Mental Health Research.

AFFIRM invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellowship to be held at The Centre for Mental Health Research. You will undertake research concerned with identifying and improving the mental health of the community. You will work with the current Centre members on mental health topics which depending on the skills and interests of the applicant might include one or more of the following: the analysis of longitudinal mental health data, the development of scales to measure mental disorders, reviewing and designing studies focused on suicide prevention and consumer focused research. Skills or interest in mental health issues will be an advantage. Applicants with the necessary academic qualifications and who can undertake research from a lived consumer experience are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should have a PhD in psychology, epidemiology, or a related discipline. High-level skills in the management and analysis of data using packages such as SAS, STATA or SPSS is highly desirable.

Please go to <http://jobs.anu.edu.au/PositionDetail.aspx?p=1223> for more information and to apply.

Enquiries: Prof. Helen Christensen, T: 02 6125 8409, E: Helen.Christensen@anu.edu.au

Funding Opportunities

Research Grants - Australian Cancer Research Foundation – closes 7 MAY
http://www.acrf.com.au/page/cancer_research_grants.html

ARC Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development (DIRD) - closes 12 MAY
http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/DI11_fundingrules.pdf

ARC Linkage Projects (Round 1) - closes 12 MAY
http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_default.htm

Cardiovascular and Lipid Research Grants - Pfizer Australia – closes 15 MAY
<http://www.cvlgrants.com.au/grants/CardiovascularLipid.aspx>

Grand Challenges Exploration Round 5 - Grand Challenges Exploration - 19 MAY

<http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Pages/TopicsOverview.aspx>

Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) - 26 MAY
http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lief/lief_default.htm

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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**

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**