

Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research

9 November 2011

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Message from the President

The major issue this Bulletin concerns our poor performance in the NHMRC Project Grant round. Attached to this bulletin is our letter to the Minister and a response from Professor Warwick Anderson to our original enquiries. As you can see, the major difficulty appears to be in the calibration of rankings across panels. We estimate that the failure to calibrate across panels cost mental health research about 12 million dollars from project grant funding in 2011. 12 million dollars equates to approximately 120 researchers in mental health either losing their jobs or being deployed doing other work. A number of people have contacted me about the impending loss of a job as a result. Please let me know if you are in this position, or know of someone in this position. We need to talk to NHMRC about what they propose to do to fix this. Our conversation with Prof Anderson will continue over the next weeks. Meanwhile, our paper describing 'gaps' in mental health funding in 2010 will appear in the December issue of the Medical Journal of Australia.

ASPR also wishes to sincerely congratulate successful NHMRC and ARC Grant recipients this year. Our success rate for NHMRC grants was only 15% so you really do deserve your success.

I am pleased that the Bulletin also includes a list of the new members of the ASPR Executive Committee, including the appointment of Prof Pat McGorry as President Elect of the Society, our award winners, and the list of MHCA awardees for the Dunedin conference this year. Congratulations to everyone on their awards and appointments.

A full report of our funding in 2011 will be presented at the AGM in Dunedin in December.

You should receive your membership renewal notice in the next week. Please continue to support your society as we continue to try to promote the importance of equity in funding, and through research improve outcomes for people with mental illness.

With best wishes,

Helen

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ASPR Committee Contacts

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ASPR Matters

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH 2011 CONFERENCE

Dates: Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8 December 2011
Venue: University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand
Website: www.iceaustralia.com/aspr2011

Standard Registration
REMINDER! Standard Registrations for the ASPR 2011 Conference are closing soon! Register by Thursday 17 November to secure the standard rate starting from \$750NZD for ASPR members. All registrations after this date will incur a \$50NZD late fee.

Networking Opportunities
Gala Dinner
Date: Wednesday 7 December 2011
Venue: Pier 24 Restaurant & Bar, St Clair Beach Resort 24 The Esplanade, St Clair, Dunedin
Time: 7:00pm to 10:30pm
Cost: \$130.00NZD per person

The Gala Dinner is the highlight event on the Social Program, and this year's will really be something special. With stunning views of the Pacific Ocean, the multi-award winning Pier 24 Restaurant & Bar is the perfect location for this year's dinner. Register today and book your ticket to what will be a sell-out event.

Need further information?
Visit the conference website, or contact the Conference Organisers:
International Conferences & Events Pty Ltd
1/12 Gladstone Place, South Melbourne, VIC 3205, Australia
Phone: +61 3 9681 6288 • Fax: +61 3 9681 6653
Email: aspr2011@iceaustralia.com

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ASPR Matters continued

ECR EVENTS AT ASPR 2011 DUNEDIN CONFERENCE

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECR) SESSION
(sponsored by the Department of Psychological Medicine,
Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago)

Date: Tuesday 6 December 2010.

Time: 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

Cost: Complimentary (finger food and drinks will be provided as part of the workshop).

The *Early Career Researcher* event always provides an opportunity for young researchers and those new to the field of psychiatric research to hear about the experiences, tips and successes of others at this stage of their career, in a relaxed setting. All student delegates or those up to five years postgraduate are welcome to attend this free event. This year, Early Career Researchers will have the opportunity to hear from middle-career and senior researchers in an informal Q&A session.

Confirmed speakers and panel experts include:

- Dr Felice Jacka, Deakin University- "Research is tough, get a helmet"
- Dr Liana Leech, The Australian National University- "What it like being an Early Career Researcher - the real deal!"
- Professor Gin Mahli, The University of Sydney – "Publishing- a must do!: An editors perspective"
- Professor Cliff Abraham, University of Otago- "Getting going as an independent researcher: Grunt, grants and good times"

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS SOCIAL NIGHT (following the Welcome reception)

Date: Tuesday 6 December 2010.

Venue: Ombrellos Courtyard Caffé & Bar, 10 Clarendon St, Dunedin

Time: 8:00pm till late.

This is an informal opportunity for ECR (and anyone else really!) to continue to enjoy a drink or two together or even a meal following the Welcome reception.

ASPR Matters continued

ASPR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of year again! Please don't forget to renew your membership to ASPR. Membership will now run for the length of each calendar year so please remember to update your 2012 membership! Please complete the form at <http://www.aspr.org.au/member.php> and remember if you refer a member you can receive a \$30 rebate on your membership.

ASPR 2011 AWARD WINNERS

ASPR is proud to announce the winners of this year's ASPR Conference Awards. Congratulations to all of you!!

ASPR Founder's Medal: **Perminder Sachdev**

Eli Lilly Oration: **Gin Malhi**

Lundbeck Institute Award (formerly MSD): **Alex Fornito**

AFFIRM Early Career Researcher Award: **Philip Batterham**

Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Research Trust Fund Bursary: **Rachel Batty**

MHCA Grants in Aid

Tamsyn Van Rheenen

Carolyn Coulson

Fiona Cocker

Rachel Batty

MHCA Early Career Researcher Travel Awards

Philip Batterham

Alison Callear

Jacqui Brewer

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ASPR Matters continued

NEW ASPR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

After the recent nominations round, ASPR is proud to introduce the new Executive Committee.

2012 President	Helen Christensen
2013-2015 President Elect	Patrick McGorry
2012-2014 Treasurer	Robyn Langdon
ACT Rep	Alison Calear
NSW Rep	Anthony Harris
Qld Rep	Tom Burne
SA Rep	Cherrie Galletly
TAS Rep	Kristy Sanderson
VIC Rep	Sue Cotton
WA Rep	Flavie Waters
ECR Reps	Felice Jacka & Lana Williams
KDWP Rep	Robert Tait
Public Officer	Andrew Mackinnon
2011-2013 Secretary	Frances Kay-Lambkin
NZ Rep	Chris Gale

Congratulations to all of you and welcome to the ASPR Executive. And very many thanks to our retiring member for their hard work over the years:

ACT Rep	Peter Butterworth
VIC Rep	Elizabeth Scarr
WA Rep	Giulietta Valuri

ASPR Matters continued

CONGRATULATIONS!

These are the successful project grants given to our members. Congratulations!

NHMRC Project Grants

Prof Cynthia Shannon Weickert
Dr Felice Jacka
Prof Michael Berk
Dr Gavin Lambert
E/Pr Patricia Michie
Prof Alison Yung

NHMRC Established Career Fellowships

Prof George Patton (SPRF)
Prof Cynthia Shannon Weickert (SRFA)
A/Pr Murat Yucel (SRF B)

NHMRC Early Career Fellowships

Dr Philip Batterham
Dr Sarah Olesen
Dr Liana Leach

Congratulations to all NHMRC and ARC grant winners! Well done!

If we have inadvertently left your grant off the list, please alert us.

Conferences & Related

GRANTS MASTERCLASS AT ANU

The Centre for Mental Health Research at The ANU and the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand co-hosting a half-day workshop for Early Career Researchers on the secrets to Successful health research grant applications on Nov 23rd. Speakers include representatives from the NHMRC, experienced grant-review panellists and successful applicants.

Researchers from all fields of health research are welcomed and will find the workshop relevant.

The workshop will look at how to make successful grant applications. Focusing on NHMRC project grants a panel of experts including a senior NHMRC representative, a successful applicant, and grant review panel experts will reflect on common pitfalls and the secrets of success, the key elements of a strong grant application, tips and techniques for successful grant writing, and ways to improve writing discipline. This will be followed by a Q and A session. The workshop is open to everyone but will be of particular interest to early career health services researchers seeking initial success in grant writing. Places for this unique workshop are limited and priority will be given to HSRAANZ Members.

To ensure the relevance of the workshop we invite delegates to provide a list of the issues they would like to see addressed by presenters and a few questions that they would like answered during the Q and A session. These should be sent to sarah.green@chere.uts.edu.au by Monday 21 November 2011.

To reserve your place please contact Sarah Green for a registration form and pay by Monday 21 November 2011

For any queries contact sarah.green@chere.uts.edu.au or click [here](#).

Scholarships & Positions Available

PHD SCHOLARSHIPS WITH THE BRAIN AND AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAM, UNSW

One or more PhD scholarships are currently available through the Brain and Ageing Research Program, UNSW. Applicants are invited to research any aspect of brain ageing, including neuropsychology, neuroimaging, genetics, epigenetics, proteomics, health economics, and psychosocial aspects of ageing.

Applicants should have either a high Honours degree or equivalent research experience. Applicants from a variety of disciplines are welcome, e.g. psychology, psychiatry, biology, engineering, mathematics, statistics and IT.

To find out more about our Program, please visit our website: www.brainage.med.unsw.edu.au

For further details about applying for a scholarship, please contact Kate Crosbie via phone (02 9382 3779) or email (k.crosbie@unsw.edu.au).

Scholarships & Positions Continued

PHD RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES – CENTRE FOR BRAIN AND MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH UNSW

The School of Psychology within CBMHR is seeking highly motivated, high quality graduates to undertake PhD studies on a maternal infection model of schizophrenia in the rat based on a successful National Health and Medical Research Council grant entitled “The effects of maternal infection on glutamate-related behavioural, electrophysiological and neuropathological measures relevant to schizophrenia”. Successful applicants should possess a 1st class honours degree or equivalent in either Psychology, Neuroscience or Biomedical Sciences, coupled with a desire to pursue a career in research. Individuals with some experience of behavioural or electrophysiological methods in the rat are particularly encouraged to apply.

Students are required to apply for a living allowance scholarship from the University of Newcastle. Successful applicants will then have their scholarships ‘topped up’ to \$25,000 per annum tax free. This is a full-time scholarship for three years with the possibility of a six month extension in approved circumstances. Applications from domestic and international students are accepted throughout the year.

The University of Newcastle has a vibrant research culture and has enjoyed strong and increasing success in research performance. We hold a unique place in the higher education sector as the most research-intensive university outside of an Australian capital city. Ranked in the top 10 universities in Australia for research, a proven track record of innovation continues to drive our reputation as a place of research excellence and groundbreaking discovery. Our campus at Newcastle is set in a bushland setting and is close to some of Australia’s most beautiful beaches. The cost of living in Newcastle is considerably less than capital cities elsewhere in Australia.

Interested students should contact either Emeritus Professor Pat Michie at pat.michie@newcastle.edu.au or Associate Professor Deb Hodgson at deborah.hodgson@newcastle.edu.au.

Miscellaneous

SURVEY OF HIGH IMPACT PSYCHOSIS (SHIP)

The report of the 2010 Survey of High Impact Psychosis (SHIP) will be launched by Minister Butler on 23 November at Parliament House, Canberra. This survey is one of the most comprehensive surveys of people with psychosis worldwide. It builds on knowledge gathered in the course of the first Australian psychosis survey in 1997-98, the Low Prevalence (Psychotic) Disorders Study, in order to expand and deepen our understanding of the circumstances and needs of people with a psychotic illness, including changes over time. Copies of *People living with psychotic illness 2010. Report on the second Australian national survey* will be available online and in hardcopy after the launch.

For details, contact Prof Vera Morgan (vera.morgan@uwa.edu.au) after 23 November.

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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**