

FOODplus

Vision-Research excellence linking sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition to improve human health

RESEARCH
CENTRE



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



Women's & Children's
Health Research Institute Inc.
Research for the future health of our children

Important dates:

29th November

Joint Annual Scientific Meeting of the Nutrition Society of New Zealand and the Nutrition Society of Australia

Date: 29th Nov-2nd Dec 2011

Venue: Queenstown, New Zealand at the Rydges Lakeland Resort

For information, go to:
www.events4you.co.nz/nutr2011.html

15th December

FOODplus End-of-the-Year Discussion & Celebration

Time & Date: 2:30-6:00 pm, 15th Dec 2011

Venue: Plant Research Centre Auditorium, Hartley Grove Entrance 2a, Waite Campus.

Invitations will be sent out soon



FOODplus Updates and achievements

Key Activities for October-November

We are delighted to announce the following FOODplus successes in NHMRC and ARC grants:

1. **NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence: Foods for Future Australians** (2012-2016, \$2.5 million): The CRE brings together a large group of Adelaide based CIs from within and outside FOODplus, and will focus on building our research capacity and facilitating research translation.
2. **NHMRC Project Grant: 6-year allergy follow-up of the DOMInO children** (2012-2014, \$429,231): The allergy follow-up of DOMInO children at 1 year suggested a reduced incidence of allergies in infants of mothers supplemented with omega-3 fatty acids during pregnancy. This study will follow this same group of children to determine whether these early changes translate into reduced asthma and allergies in school age children.
3. **NHMRC Project Grant: N-3 fatty acids for the improvement of respiratory outcome in preterm infants (N3RO)**: (2012-2014, \$1.87 million). This large randomised trial will investi-

gate the potential for omega-3 fatty acids to reduce the incidence/severity of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) in preterm infants.

4. **ARC Linkage Project: Novel technologies for biodiesel production from meat processing waste streams.** The ARC has now approved the changes to this study, and the project will be underway soon.

Congratulations to all those involved in successful applications!

- ◆ **Bev Muhlhausler gave a talk on FOODplus 2012 and beyond** at the 2011 School of Agriculture, Food and Wine Research Day on November 10th. **Jess Gugusheff** and **Wei-Chun Tu** also presented at this event.

- ◆ **The FOODplus End-of-the-Year Discussion & Celebration** will be held at PRC Auditorium, Waite campus on 15th December from 2:30 pm. Formal invitations will be sent out shortly.

Don't forget to follow FOODplus on twitter and keep an eye on the website (www.adelaide.edu.au/foodplus) for upcoming exciting news and events.

Study Update - the **DINO7** Study



This study is designed to determine whether providing pre-term infants (<33 weeks' gestation) with a high dose of the omega-3 fatty acid, docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in the neonatal period results in improved cognitive functioning, educational progress and behaviour. DINO7 is a 7 year follow-up of the 657 preterm infants enrolled in the DINO randomised controlled trial (*DHA for the Improvement of Neurodevelopmental Outcome in Preterm Infants*), in which we demonstrated that fewer infants in the high-DHA group exhibited significantly delayed mental development at 18 months' corrected age (Makrides et al, JAMA, 2009). In DINO7 we are investigating whether these early effects lead to improved cognitive and behavioural performance at school age. If successful, this study has the potential to identify a simple, inexpensive dietary intervention to enhance cognitive development in this high-risk population, improve quality of life and decrease the burden on family and education resources.

Member Profile — A/Prof Imme Penttila

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Since completing her PhD in Immunology, Imme has worked in the area of gut mucosal immunology with a particular focus on the role of maternal milk in programming the developing immune response. Imme has worked extensively in the field of infant immune development both in animals and in humans. She has worked for 16 years at WCHRI, and has considerable experience in research related to the role of nutrition in gut immunology and allergy prevention. Her lab also has a strong translational focus, working with industry to develop milk-derived bioactives.