

Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA)

A Research & Innovation Cluster in South Australia

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Parents Can Make All the Difference

Date: Wednesday 11 May 2011

(NOTE: event is on a Wednesday not the usual Thursday)

Time: 5.00 - 7.30pm

Venue: Union House (Level 4, Eclipse Room)
University of Adelaide (North Terrace campus)

Registration from 4.30pm for 5pm start

Networking with light refreshments from 6.30pm

All Welcome - FREE admission

RSVPs required by Friday 6 May

✉ anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au (*email preferable*)

☎ (08) 8303 8222

SPEAKERS

Dr Julia Pitcher

Neurodevelopment in children after preterm birth: how parents can help

M.S McLeod Research Fellow, Neuromotor Plasticity & Development (NeuroPAD),
School of Paediatrics & Reproductive Health, Robinson Institute, University of Adelaide

Professor Pauline Harris

At home with children's literacy

Lillian de Lissa Chair, Early Childhood (Research), University of South Australia and the
Department of Education and Children's Services

Dr Leah Brennan

The role of parents in child eating and weight

Clinical & Developmental Psychologist, Monash University

Dr Helen Jeffreys

The interface between child protection and mental health

Senior Research Officer, Department for Families and Communities

CHAIR

Professor Claire Roberts

Senior Research Fellow, The Robinson Institute, University of Adelaide



The Foundation of a Healthy Society

Winner in Excellence in Research Collaboration

... SA Science Excellence Awards 2009 ...

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Dr Julia Pitcher is a M.S. McLeod Research Fellow in paediatric medicine and co-leader of the Neuromotor Plasticity and Development research group at the Robinson Institute, School of Paediatrics & Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide, Australia. A neurophysiologist, Dr Pitcher's primary research interest is the influence of the prenatal and early postnatal environment on cortical neuroplasticity and development, and its long-term health outcomes in humans. She currently leads the PREMOCODE study which is investigating the relationship between motor and cognitive development in school-age children born after 24-41 weeks gestation. In 2009, the PREMOCODE study was named in "Ten of the Best" research projects funded by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC). After conferral of her PhD in 2003, Julia was awarded the Australian Brain Foundation's Elizabeth Penfold Simpson Prize for outstanding neuroscience research (2003), a NH&MRC Peter Doherty Research Fellowship (2004), and in 2005 was named an Australian Young Tall Poppy of Science by the Australian Institute of Political Science.



Professor Pauline Harris is the Lillian de Lissa Chair, Early Childhood (Research). Her role is shared between the School of Education at the University of South Australia and SA Department of Education and Children's Services. The position of the de Lissa Research Chair is named in honour of Lillian de Lissa and represents a partnership between SA DECS, the University of South Australia and the Public Trustee who manages the Lillian de Lissa Trust Fund. Pauline is a world-renowned early childhood academic with particular expertise in children's language and literacy. She has authored four books, the latest being 'Language and learning in the baby and toddler years'. Pauline has an outstanding international record in early childhood research. She has been Chief Investigator on three significant Australian Research Council funded projects, and the quality of her research has been recognised by international awards. She currently leads an ARC Discovery Project on the Australian Curriculum - English, having just concluded an ARC Discovery Project that examines the 'literacy nexus' in terms of connects and disconnects among literacy research, policy and practice. Her current role sees her engage on a daily basis in understanding and strengthening relationships between research, policy and practice. She leads development of early childhood research initiatives and projects; provides Government and Early Childhood sector with advice and recommendations on implications of research findings for policy and practice; and presents professional development sessions to leaders in the early childhood field.



Dr Leah Brennan is a clinical, health, educational and developmental psychologist. Leah's research interests involve the application of psychological approaches to understand, prevent and treat obesity and disordered eating (including eating disorders) and their psychosocial co-morbidities in children, adolescents and adults. She is particularly interested in the development, evaluation and dissemination of evidence-based interventions for the treatment of obesity, disordered eating, eating disorders and their psychosocial co-morbidities. Leah also has an interest in the importance of health behaviours for psychological wellbeing, and the relationship between physical and psychological health and the role of parents in the promotion of healthy lifestyles in children is also a strong research interest. Leah has worked in a range of clinical settings including community based family intervention services, an outpatient clinic for the treatment of morbid obesity, and an inpatient service for the treatment of eating disorders. This clinical experience has strengthened her belief in the importance of developing, evaluating, and disseminating evidence-based interventions for use in real world settings.



Dr Helen Jeffreys is a Senior Research Officer with the Department for Families and Communities, South Australia. Her primary research interests include strengthening statutory social work practices and improving outcomes for children and young people who have involvement with the child protection and alternative care systems. She was the chief researcher for the South Australian Research Report 'Parental substance misuse and children's entry into Alternative Care in South Australia 2009' and over the last five years has made significant contributions to collaborative research studies undertaken with the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the Australian Centre for Child Protection. Prior to this, Helen worked as a social work practitioner in Families SA with children and young people under long term guardianship of the Minister.

HDA Partners

