

Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA)

A Research & Innovation Cluster in South Australia

www.adelaide.edu.au/hda

Brain, Behaviour & Development: *the future looks bright!*

Date: Thursday 20 October 2011

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 14 October

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

☎ (08) 8303 8222

SPEAKERS

Professor Jozef Gecz

Genetic causes of epilepsy in children: latest developments & future research
Head, Neurogenetics Research Program, SA Pathology (WCH)

Dr Debbie James

Let's talk about children's communication, speech and language needs
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Research and Evaluation Unit, Women's and Children's Health Network

Dr Manya Angley

Autism research: progress and future directions
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Autism Research Group, UniSA

Ms Donna Nitschke

Building the best brains: child brain development and action in schools
Neuroscience Coordinator, Department of Education and Children's Services

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 ...

... An initiative of the University of Adelaide since 2004 ...



Event sponsor





Professor Jozef Gecz is a NHMRC Principal Research Fellow and Professor of Human Genetics at the University of Adelaide. He is the Head of the Neurogenetics Research Program at the Department of Genetic Medicine, SA Pathology at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide. The broad research aim of his group is the further understanding of brain function through the identification and characterisation of genes with naturally occurring mutations in patients with intellectual disability, autism and some, primarily monogenic, forms of epilepsy. His team discovered or contributed to the discovery of more than 40 different disease genes. Many of these genes pointed to new and unexpected biological pathways essential for normal brain function. Their current effort focuses on the application of next generation genomic technologies and massively parallel sequencing in particular to unbiased gene discovery in rare human disease.



Dr Debbie James has worked in the paediatric speech pathology field for around 30 years as an academic (teaching and research), clinician, consultant, director, manager, and project officer in the public (education, health, disability, mental health), non-government and private sectors. Her work is grounded within the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF-CY, World Health Organization, 2007) and aims to not only work with children to enhance their communication, speech and language skills but also to work with people in the community to build their capacity to facilitate children's communication, speech and language skills.



Dr Manya Angley has a background in pharmacy and held academic appointments in the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, University of South Australia (UniSA) from 1990 to 2010. In 2004 she established the Sansom Institute-based Autism Research Group (ARG) which is a multidisciplinary team of researchers who endeavour to better understand autism and develop more effective diagnostic techniques and treatments. She now has an adjunct Senior Research Fellow appointment at UniSA and continues to be involved with the ARG's activities. She recently established Manya Angley Research and Consulting (MARAC), which is an independent organisation that provides expertise in the design, implementation and evaluation of health and academic programs and services.



Ms Donna Nitschke is currently the Coordinator Neuroscience in the classroom within four DECS primary schools. She has worked in the field of education for most of her adult life and is also enrolled as a PhD candidate at UniSA. Due to a generally low boredom threshold, Donna has been employed as a teacher at all year levels from preschool to year 12. She has lectured at university and worked in a number of specialist educational organisations including, Autism SA, the Down Syndrome Society and Novita. She was also a Senior Project Officer for the Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities.

HDA Partners

