

Newsletter

Upcoming Events...

- **27 April**

HDA Thematic Evening on Building Research Collaborations, multi-sector perspectives.

- **4 May**

Department of Health seminar - Prevention Across the Continuum. To be held at the National Wine Centre.

- **25 May**

HDA Oration by Professor Alastair MacLennan - Who will deliver the next generation? Cerebral palsy-causation and Litigation.

- **26 May**

HDA Research Day to be held at University of Adelaide. Sessions include Cerebral Palsy, Chronic Diseases - Asthma and Diabetes, Mental Health, Families Work and Health: Key Issues.

For further information visit our events page at:

www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

HDA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

As you are aware HDA is moving towards developing a state wide portfolio for South Australia in developmental health research and welcomes members from the University of South Australia, Flinders University, health service providers and Government departments to work together in this endeavour.

A special welcome is extended to new members joining HDA in recent months:

* Dr John Hayball - University of South Australia.

* Dr Sarah Blunden - University of South Australia.

* Dr Emily Steele - University of Adelaide.

* Dr Beverly Muhlhausler - University of South Australia.

* Dr Inge Kowanko - Flinders University.

* Ms Chris Christensen and Ms Janine Harvey - Department of Education and Children's Services.

* Dr Jurgen Michaelis - Bio Innovation SA.

* Prof David Olson - Perinatal Research Centre from the University of Alberta.

* Ms Linda Cooper - Department of Premier and Cabinet.

* Dr Phil Hamdorf - Office for Recreation and Sport.

* Dr Pammi Raghavendra - Novita Children's Services.

Prof Robert Norman
Prof Caroline McMillen

BARONESS PROFESSOR SUSAN GREENFIELD REPORT HIGHLIGHTS HDA'S ROLE FOR THE STATE

Recent Thinker in Residence to Adelaide, Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield's final report *Getting to the Future First* is now available to download at www.thinkers.sa.gov.au.

Chapter 4 of the report highlights HDA's role in improving liaisons between the three universities. Baroness Greenfield states that "research clusters provide a way of liaising with scientists of the 'union' without biasing one university over another....very valuable resource because they are small, involve fewer people and are highly strategic"

Chapter 5 highlights HDA's role and involvement from 'creativity to innovation'. Baroness Greenfield has identified ten initiatives to enhance the quality of life in South Australia.

I Bragg Initiative

II Oxford Centre for Science of the Mind

III James Martin 21st Century School

IV Science Outside the Square

V Twinning Scientists and Teacher Program

VI Women in Science, Engineering and Technology

VII Health and Community Services

VIII Continuing Training for Teachers

IX Australian Science Media Centre

X Science Infrastructure and Research

where an expert panel presented different aspects of early childhood development covering topics of education, child psychology and intellectual development.

HDA Co-Convenor, Professor Caroline McMillen is champion for the Women in Science, Engineering and Technology initiative recently established. Professor McMillen will be working closely with the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology to address strategies towards this initiative.

HDA was involved with the successful Science Outside the Square initiative last year. 'The Wonder Years - Science meets the Community' event



MEMBER PROFILE— GRANT BRINKWORTH

CSIRO HUMAN NUTRITION

Volume 2, Issue 2

Dr Grant Brinkworth is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at CSIRO Human Nutrition. Grant holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Exercise and Sport Science and a First Class Honours degree in Human Movement from the University of South Australia. His PhD degree in exercise physiology and nutrition was also awarded by the University of South Australia in 2003. His PhD thesis examined the physiological and athletic performance effects of oral bovine colostrum supplementation in adults.

Dr Brinkworth's current re-

search program is aimed at investigating the role of dietary interventions, nutritional components and physical activity in the prevention and treatment of lifestyle disease, including obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. He is also examining the role of weight management and lifestyle intervention for promoting reproductive health, fertility and its treatment of polycystic ovary syndrome.

Dr Brinkworth has presented at a number of national conferences and authored 11 scientific publications. He has played

a lead role in preparing successful nationally competitive project grant applications from the NHMRC, NHF and the Diabetes Research Australia Trust. This research includes evaluating the long term health and safety effects of low carbohydrate diets and the effects and lifestyle management on reproductive function in overweight and obese women with polycystic ovary syndrome.

Dr Brinkworth currently supervises 4 Honours and one PhD candidate and holds an adjunct research fellow position

with the University of South Australia and is a member of HDA's Research Day working group.

Dr Grant Brinkworth can be contacted at grant.brinkworth@csiro.au or 8303 8830



HDA THEMATIC EVENING - BUILDING RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS, MULTI-SECTOR PERSPECTIVES

Government funding policies are changing with the changing needs of the community and the necessity to distribute the available funds to address areas of need in such a way that outcomes are maximised. We need to think of new ways of working together in a multidisciplinary environment that facilitate these outcomes.

Researchers in particular need to develop ways that maximise the gains to the community without neglecting the basic research that underpins innova-

tion. Government departments are committed to improving policy and practices for the benefit of the community. Collaboration between government, researchers and research institutions, community groups as well as the private sector has the potential to improve outcomes for all concerned.

In this thematic evening we aim to show that collaboration improves research, policy and practice outcomes. It enhances development of intellectual property and translation to the

clinic, improves government policy and practices, empowers communities, includes stakeholders and essentially 'makes a difference'.

Dr Claire Roberts, Chair of HDA's Research Synergies Working Group.

Speakers include Dr Inge Kowanko, Ms Sherry Thompson, Prof Peter Howe and Dr Sean Flaherty. Evening moderated by Prof Alan Johnson.

Further details at www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

When: Thursday 27 April 4.30-6.30pm at the State Library Lecture Theatre.

RSVP by 20 April to anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au or 8222 6878.

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and Children's Services**



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HDA SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS 'ETHICS IN RESEARCH'

On 6 April, HDA held its first Translational Research Seminar on 'Ethics in Research' as part of HDA's Research Training Program. We hope that these HDA Seminars will add value to current research training with a specific emphasis on the value of multidisciplinary approaches and translation of research outcomes. The seminar was presented by A/Prof Annette Braunack-Mayer from the Discipline of Public Health at the University of Adelaide who is an ethicist with research interests revolving around the intersection of ethics, qualitative research methods and social analysis in health care, and particularly concerning public health and health technology assessment.

The seminar was very well attended that included students and researchers from the University of Adelaide, University of South

Australia and CSIRO. Other attendees included Novita Children's Services, Department of Health, Department of Families and Communities, and Department of Education and Children's Services. The seminar was very thought provoking and engaged numerous questions from the audience in areas of the 'virtuous' researcher, informed consent, coercion, advocacy and community engagement.

A/Prof Braunack-Mayer's presentation can be found on HDA's website 'news' page and she can be contacted for further comment at annette.braunackmayer@adelaide.edu.au or 8303 3569.

HDA ORATION AND RESEARCH DAY: 25-26 MAY

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, UNION HOUSE (LEVEL 4)

Volume 2, Issue 2

The Oration and Research Day aims to attract scientists from all three universities, government, industry and health service representatives to identify cross-disciplinary links and collaborations as well as highlight key research priorities in SA.

On **Thursday 25 May** (5-7pm) the **HDA Oration** is to be presented by *Professor Alastair MacLennan on Who will deliver the next generation? Cerebral palsy causation and litigation.*

Professor Alastair MacLennan is Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide specialising in reproductive endocrinology. Professor MacLennan is an international expert on the menopause and also researches in feto-maternal medicine with a special interest in the causation of cerebral palsy.

On **Friday 26 May**, HDA hosts its annual **Research Day** focusing on 4 research sessions and highlight lecture. The research sessions will showcase different multidisciplinary perspectives in Cerebral Palsy, Chronic Diseases – Asthma and Diabetes, Mental Health, and Families Work and Health: Key Issues.

The sessions provide an opportunity to identify cross-disciplinary links and collaborations as well as highlight some key research priorities in South Australia. This year we have invited government representatives in these key research areas to take a key role within these sessions either as speakers or as co-chairs to better enhance the discussions for future collaborative endeavours not only between researchers but between researchers and government.



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Oration is proudly sponsored
by the Department of Further
Education, Employment, Sci-
ence and Technology
(DFEEST)



Cerebral Palsy session is
proudly sponsored by
Novita Children's Services

Further details on the Oration and the Research Day sessions can be found at www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

RSVP's by 18 May to anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au or 8222 6878

HDA INAUGURAL SCHOLARS WELCOMED

On 31 March, HDA's inaugural PhD Scholars Leigh Guerin, Anne Raimondo, Siew Lim and Lynlea Simmonds were congratulated and officially welcomed on being awarded a Healthy Development Adelaide Scholarship in 2006. The welcome function held at the University of Adelaide was attended by HDA Convenors, HDA's Research Training Program working group, Supervisors to the Scholars and invited guests.



The Scholars will be the first cohort to undertake the HDA Research Training Program with an aim to add value to current research training with a specific emphasis on multidisciplinary approaches and translation of research outcomes, to promote effective mentorship, professional development and career aspirations, to achieve recognition as a 'flagship' program for HDA, and to enhance recruitment of outstanding scholars with interests in all discipline areas of relevance to healthy development.

*pictured from left to right:
A/Prof Pat Buckley (Chair of HDA's Research Training Program working group), HDA Scholars: Anne Raimondo, Siew Lim, Lynlea Simmonds and Leigh Guerin with HDA Co-Convenor Prof Robert Norman (background).*