

## Newsletter

### Upcoming Events...

#### • 8 June

ASMR public lecture on Frontiers in Cancer Research in South Australia. To be held at the Nova East End Cinemas, Rundle Street. (supported by HDA).

#### • 22 June

HDA 'Research, Policy & Practice' Seminar. To be held at the University of Adelaide staff club.

#### • 23-28 July

7th Congress of the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids & Lipids (ISSFAL) to be held at the Cairns Convention Centre in Cairns, Queensland.

For further information visit our events page at:

[www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events)

### HDA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The year is flying past and we have to date presented a number of successful events and forums for researchers. They have included our first Thematic Evening on 'building research collaborations - multi sector perspectives' which was very well received and requests to run the event again next year.

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

\* Dr Fiona Arney - University of South Australia.

\* Prof Kevin Forsyth - Flinders University.

\* Prof Dorothy Scott - University of South Australia.

\* Dr Susan Semple - University of South Australia.

\* Prof Philip Darbyshire - CYWHS, Flinders University and University of South Australia.

\* Dr Lauren Miller-Lewis - Uni-

versity of Adelaide, CYWHS.

\* Dr James Dollman - University of South Australia.

*Contact us if you are interested in developing multidisciplinary research collaborations in the area of 'healthy development' preconception to adolescence. (see page 2 on NHMRC 'healthy start to life').*

**Prof Robert Norman**  
**Prof Caroline McMillen**

### SUCCESSFUL HDA ORATION AND RESEARCH DAY



*Professor Alastair MacLennan with his award, presented by the University of Adelaide's Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research Professor Alan Johnson.*

This year's Oration (25 May) was delivered by University of Adelaide Professor Alastair MacLennan on cerebral palsy litigation and how South Australia should be taking the lead in "saving" Australian maternity services and preventing costly litigation. "The main costs and injustice of litigation centre on cerebral palsy, which occurs in one in 500 babies and is not preventable," says Prof MacLennan. Prof

MacLennan was presented with the *Healthy Development Adelaide Award* in recognition for his 'excellence in research contributing to healthy development'.

The Research Day (26 May) focussed on four priority health areas relevant to Healthy Development: Cerebral Palsy (session sponsored by Novita Children's Services), Chronic Diseases - Asthma and Diabetes, Mental Health, Families Work and Health. The sessions provided an opportunity to identify cross-disciplinary links and collaborations needed for the future as well as highlight some key research priorities in SA. The highlight lecture this year was presented by HDA Co-Convenor Prof Caroline McMillen on 'Women and Research'.



*Dr Pammi Raghavendra (Novita Children's Services), Dr Ray Russo (CYWHS), Mr Glenn Rappensberg (CEO, Novita Children's Services), Dr Lauren Miller-Lewis (University of Adelaide), Dr David Caudrey (Department for Families and Communities), Chairs Prof John Taplin and Prof Alastair MacLennan (University of Adelaide).*



*Professor's Caroline McMillen & Margie Ripper.*

## MEMBER PROFILE— EMILY STEELE

### DISCIPLINES OF PUBLIC HEALTH, OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY



cology, University of Adelaide.

A trend for women to delay childbearing is clearly established in demographic and perinatal data collections, and epidemiological studies show that increasing maternal age is associated with health risks to mother and child. Furthermore, as more women delay attempting to become pregnant, the issue of age related sub-fertility becomes more obvious, and many women are turning to assisted reproductive technologies to help them achieve a viable pregnancy. A range of health related complications, as well as a significant financial burden, are associated with these technologies. With these issues in mind, Emily believes it is important to understand why Australian women are delaying childbearing. Emily's research

is underpinned by a public health focus on structural factors (amenable to population level intervention) that may be acting as barriers to women having children when they would like to. Guided by theoretical perspectives highlighting the influential role of economic uncertainty in low fertility rates, Emily's project aims to describe economic uncertainty in the lives of young women and quantify its' contribution to delaying childbearing for women across the spectrum of social strata.

The research project has been designed within a social epidemiological framework and will be based on a cohort of young women born at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the 1970s. Data collection is due to commence in August 2006.

Emily is hopeful that investigation of the impact of economic uncertainty in this way may highlight (modifiable) structural factors potentially acting as barriers to women having children at a younger age.

As with all social epidemiological investigations, the research project is informed by interests that overlap with disciplines beyond public health: sociology, demography, medicine, labour studies, women's studies and economics. Whilst Emily has had some multi-disciplinary input to her project to date, she looks forward to opportunities to discuss her research interests in multi-disciplinary settings in the future.

*Ms Emily Steele can be contacted on 8303 3585 or [emily.steele@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:emily.steele@adelaide.edu.au)*

Ms Emily Steele is currently undertaking her PhD (funded by an NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship), which investigates 'how patterns of financial (in)security and the nature and (in)security of work in young women's lives relate to delayed childbearing.' Her supervisors are Dr Vivienne Moore (primary supervisor) and A/Prof Philip Ryan from the Discipline of Public Health, and Dr Michael Davies from the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

## HDA TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

### 'RESEARCH, POLICY & PRACTICE'

HDA's second Translational Research Seminar will focus on 'Research, Policy and Practice' to be presented by Mr Andrew Stanley from the Department of Health.

The translation of research findings into changed and improved practice is the aim of much research, but remains a mysterious process for many researchers. This seminar will present a

perspective from an agency which advances health practice through creating policy, and will examine how researchers can have significant input to informing such policy changes.

The presentation and panel discussion will explore some of the complexities in the researcher, government policy and program settings. Panel members include Ms Heather

Petty (Department of Health), Prof Michael Sawyer (University of Adelaide) and Prof Libby Kalucy (Flinders University). The seminar will be chaired by A/Prof Pat Buckley (University of South Australia).

The Seminar is a great opportunity in particular for students and early career researchers to develop and communicate ideas in research translation.

*When: Thursday 22 June 3.30 – 5.00pm at the University of Adelaide staff club (Hoods room).*

*RSVP by 20 June to [anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au) or 8222 6878.*

*Proudly supported by the Department of Health*



**Government of South Australia**

## NHMRC "A healthy start to life for all Australians" Strategic Research Award

NHMRC has called for Expressions of Interest for the Strategic Research Award. There are opportunities for HDA members to collaborate in the NHMRC "A healthy start to life for all Australians" Strategic Research Award.

The major objective is to identify and reduce the impact of

conditions occurring in adulthood which have their origins in the early stages of life. An associated aim is to advance understanding of the interaction between genetic, biological, social and environmental factors which enhance the potential for the development of resilience and well being in

children.

Up to \$5 million over 5 years has been provided to support projects that may inform policy and programs related to detection, intervention and prevention in the areas of perinatal, postnatal, maternal, infant and child health. The award focuses on innovative research

which has an interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach to child health.

*For further details go to [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au) and contact HDA if you are interested in developing collaborators for your project.*