

Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 6

December 2006

Upcoming Events...

9-11 February

The 3rd global conference on 'Creative engagements - thinking with children' to be held in Sydney, Australia.

6-13 March

Early Childhood Research Seminar Series with Dr Fraser Mustard (*Thinker in Residence*) to be held across all 3 Universities.

6 March - International research agenda in early childhood development (Flinders University)

8 March - What are the challenges confronting us in conducting early childhood research (UniSA)

13 March - Informing and defining directions in early childhood research in South Australia (HDA / University of Adelaide)

1-4 April

The 11th annual congress of the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) to be held in Melbourne, Australia.

For further information visit our events page at:

www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

HDA LATEST NEWS

HDA's Annual Report for 05/06 was submitted last month to the University Research Committee for annual review.

In brief, our last 2 Thematic Evenings on 'early childhood development' and 'nipping mental illness in the bud' were a great success. These events are a great way of networking and developing opportunities for research collaborations in these areas as attendees cover a broad array of research disci-

plines and the government sector.

Also in November, HDA held an 'early childhood research grant forum' in collaboration with and attendance from all 3 Universities. A small number of researchers presented their project ideas to Thinker in Residence, Dr Fraser Mustard with feedback to assist in further development of projects. [More on these events on page 4.](#)

We would like to especially thank Anne for her continued dedication and hard work, the Working Groups and Symposium Committee for their time and effort in bringing together another great year of activities.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy your holidays.....

Prof Robert Norman
Prof Caroline McMillen
Prof Michael Sawyer

AWARD WINNERS AT HDA'S ECR SYMPOSIUM

On 2 November 2006, HDA held its inaugural *Early Career Research Symposium - Growing Pains: Ensuring the health of our millennium babies*. Postgraduate students and early career researchers across all disciplines and the 3 Universities showcased their latest research towards healthy development, spanning from preconception to adolescence. Four Symposium theme sessions were held on Healthy Reproduction, Healthy Pregnancy & Parenting, Healthy Weight & Nutrition, and Healthy Development.

The Symposium provided an important networking forum for students and early career researchers from all 3 Universities, together with HDA associated research organisations and areas of government.

Dr Julia Pitcher from the University of Adelaide delivered the opening ECR talk on 'The benefits of planned happenstance and other cheshire "cat-isms" in early research career development'.

Dr Rob Morrison from Flinders University presented the afternoon highlight lecture on 'Healthy scepticism, science and the media - some do's and don'ts'.

The following prizes were awarded at the Symposium:

Most outstanding PhD student
- Ms Brooke Summers (Hanson Institute / University of Adelaide)

Most outstanding ECR
- Dr Beverly Muhlhausler (University of South Australia)

(both awards sponsored by CSIRO Human Nutrition)



Most outstanding Multidisciplinary presentation

- Ms Siew Lim (HDA Scholar - CSIRO Human Nutrition / University of Adelaide)

(sponsored by University of Adelaide, Flinders University, University of South Australia)



go to page 3 for photos of the symposium

MEMBER PROFILE - DR LAUREN MILLER-LEWIS

SCHOOL OF PAEDIATRICS & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



Volume 2, Issue 6



Dr Lauren Miller-Lewis is an NHMRC Public Health (Australia) Postdoctoral Research Training Fellow at the Research and Evaluation Unit within the School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health at the University of Adelaide and the Division of Mental Health at the Women's and Children's Hospital (CYWHS).

Lauren's research interests broadly encompass developmental and health psychology and predominantly focus on the health risks, mental health and wellbeing of children and youth. Methodologically, Lauren's research interest is in conducting prospective longitudinal research with children and adolescents in order to make recommendations for the development of prevention efforts, which can then be implemented and evaluated systematically.

Her PhD thesis longitudinally investigated the psychosocial predictors of pregnancy risk-taking, pregnancy and child-bearing in Australian youth.

Since completing her PhD, Lauren has been working with Professor Michael Sawyer in the Research and Evaluation Unit based at the Women's and Children's Hospital. In this role she has been responsible for managing research projects investigating the mental health and well-being of young children.

Lauren's current research is specifically focussed on investigating ways of predicting and promoting mental health resilience in early childhood. Working in partnership with the University of Adelaide, the Women's and Children's Hospital, and the Department of

Education and Children's Services (DECS), Lauren is conducting a longitudinal study following children attending preschool in the Southern Sea and Vines District into early primary school. The aim of this project is to identify longitudinal predictors of mental health resilience in young children, and then use the knowledge gained to develop and implement a preschool intervention program in conjunction with DECS.

Dr Lauren Miller-Lewis can be contacted on Ph: 8161 6910 or lauren.millerlewis@adelaide.edu.au

INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MIND

HDA has been invited to take part in the Learning Mind Project working group that is a formal partnership with the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) and the Institute for the Future of the Mind. Other working group members include Flinders University, CYWHS, University of Adelaide, DFEEST, Department of Health, SANI, UniSA, and Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Institute for the Future of the Mind, is one of 10 research

institutes in the new James Martin 21st Century School made possible by a \$100M benefaction to Oxford University, with the aim of *finding solutions to the biggest problems facing humanity and identifying the key opportunities of the 21st century*. The Institute's director, is past Thinker in Residence, Baroness Susan Greenfield.

The goal of the project is to stimulate new thinking and generate practical ideas on issues that are likely to influence schooling in South Australia

and the United Kingdom particularly as they relate to learning and the developing brain.

The Learning Mind project has three main objectives:

- * Providing forums for the stimulation of new thinking in relation to the developing mind and the needs of 21st century schooling

- * Promoting rigorous debate about the application of neuroscience to learning and contributing to building an evidence base to inform educational

systems decision making and policy directions

- * Engaging the public in the dialogue about the needs of 21st century education

Additional information is available on these websites:

www.futuremind.ox.ac.uk

www.21school.ox.ac.uk

For any enquiries contact Loris Glass, Manager of the Learning Mind Project on 8226 8869 or glass.loris@saugov.sa.gov.au



HDA and the Research Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide in partnership have developed an interactive and coordinated School Education Program on the research currently taking place in the areas of 'reproductive health' and 'healthy development'.

The program will aim to benefit students in years 9-10 as it educates on cutting-edge research and enlightens students to possible career paths open to them at University. Senior researchers and postgraduate students will go out to schools for interactive talks and slide sessions.

The following topics are being offered to high schools in 2006:

How life before birth affects your health?

IVF and assisted reproductive technology - how does it work?

Infertility is on the rise - what is the cause?

Mental health in young people - should we be worried?

Schools interested in registering can go to www.adelaide.edu.au/hda or www.adelaide.edu.au/rch

SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Healthy Development Adelaide

AWARD WINNERS AT HDA'S ECR SYMPOSIUM - PART 2



Symposium Organising Committee

Pictured I-r back: Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri, Kirsty Pringle, Anne Jurisevic, Rachael Nowak, Emma Beukema.

Pictured I-r front: Justine Whitham, Roxanne Portolesi and Chair, A/Prof Pat Buckley



Two of the prize winners, Dr Beverly Muhlhausler (outstanding ECR presentation) and Ms Brooke Summers (outstanding PhD presentation)

Attendees enjoying a break



Dr Rob Morrison's highlight lecture Healthy scepticism, science and the media - some do's and don'ts



Committee members with Dr Rob Morrison

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS

The Australian Science Communicators (ASC) is a network of over 400 people working in science and technology communication across Australia and overseas. It has been running since 1994. Members include science communicators and educators, journalists and broadcasters employed by major media outlets, freelance writers and consultants, scientists, teachers and public affairs officers working for research organisations, laboratories and universities.

ASC is drawn together by a desire to improve skills, ex-

change ideas and build synergies, and in general to advance the profession of science communication.

Most members and non-members meet at face-to-face activities (usually monthly or bi-monthly) organised by state Branches in all the capital cities. These meetings include professional development sessions, site visits, invited speakers and social events.

Going to an ASC Branch meeting or event is a great way to meet like-minded people and discuss issues of common concern.

The SA Branch committee currently consists of:

Belinda Barr
Communications and Education Manager, Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics

Rachael McKay
Director of Commercialisation, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Research Foundation

Nicole Brackenridge
Public Relations Manager, Bio Innovation SA

Clare Peddie
Science Journalist, Advertiser

Anne Jurisevic
Network and Communications Officer, Healthy Development Adelaide

Magda Kaziniec
Marketing and Public Relations Officer, Research Centre for Reproductive Health

Further details on ASC or becoming a member go to www.asc.asn.au



RECENT HDA HIGHLIGHTS



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT - THE DAWN OF A PARADIGM SHIFT

On 19 October, HDA held a Thematic Evening on 'Early childhood development - the dawn of a paradigm shift' at the State Library. Four highly regarded speakers in this area presented to an audience of 100 that included researchers from all 3 Universities, government and health service agencies.

A/Prof Colin MacDougall, Department of Public Health from Flinders University on *Adultist fairytales or children's agency?*

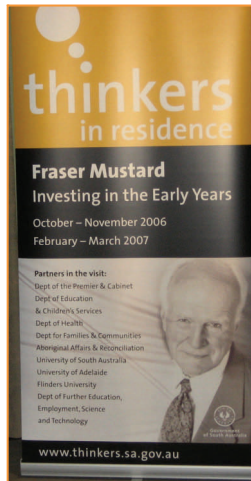
Ms Chris Christensen, Department of Education and Children's Services on *Children centres: New landscape for early childhood development and parenting.*

Dr Fiona Arney, Australian Centre for Child Protection on *Early childhood development and child protection: Changing perspectives and the role of research.*

Dr Fraser Mustard, Thinker in Residence for the Government of South Australia.

The event was moderated by Prof Michael Innes, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences from the University of Adelaide.

The event was proudly sponsored by the Research Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide



Pictured l-r: Prof Michael Innes, A/Prof Colin MacDougall, Dr Fiona Arney, Ms Chris Christensen and Dr Fraser Mustard



HDA CO-HOSTS EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH GRANTS FORUM

On 23 November, a special forum on developing ideas in early childhood research with Thinker in residence, Dr Fraser Mustard at the State Library. A small group of researchers across the 3 Universities presented their project ideas towards developing further collaborations and grants submissions in this vital area.



The forum was sponsored by the University of Adelaide, UniSA and Flinders University

NIPPING MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE BUD

Also, on 23 November HDA held its final Thematic Evening for the year on 'Nipping mental illness in the bud' at the State Library. Four expert speakers from diverse backgrounds presented to an audience of 70 researchers and broad array of government and health service agencies. Chaired by Dr Claire Roberts, University of Adelaide.

Dr Manya Angley, UniSA on *quality use of antipsychotic medications in children and adolescents.*

Dr Anne Sved-Williams, Head of the Helen Mayo House on *perinatal mental health and infants.*

Dr Alexandra Osborn, University of Adelaide on *programs and interventions for children and young people in out-of-home care.*

Mr Adrian Booth, Department of Health within the Health Promotions Unit on *research perspectives; considerations, challenges and collaborations.*



Pictured l-r: Dr Alexandra Osborn, Dr Anne Sved-Williams, Dr Claire Roberts, Dr Manya Angley and Mr Adrian Booth

