

Newsletter

Upcoming Events...

- 14 July

HDA seminar on Aboriginal Health Indicators to be presented by Mr Jerry Moller.

- 4 August

HDA Thematic Evening on Obesity & Lifestyle.

- 18-19 August

Research Centre for Reproductive Health 2005 Conference at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

- September (date to be advised)

HDA Cultural Awareness workshop to be run by Mr Roger Thomas.

- 20-23 September

15th IFOAM Organic World Congress at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

- 25-28 September

32nd Annual Fetal & Neonatal Physiological Society Conference at the Stamford Grand, Glenelg.

- 20 October

HDA Thematic Evening on Substance Abuse.

For further information visit our events page at:

www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

Any suggestions for news items or event ideas for 2006 please contact Anne on 8222 6878

CONVENORS' MESSAGE

We would like to take this opportunity to farewell Miranda Tripodi on her extended trip overseas and to a new and exciting career direction. Miranda has been with us from the very beginning development stages and promotions of HDA. We have benefited immeasurably from Miranda's devoted efforts and her stamp

will be on HDA for many years to come. We have always been impressed with Miranda's "can do" attitude, and this, coupled with her endless suggestions of new ideas has made her a much valued person. We all wish her well in her next challenge.

Prof Robert Norman
Prof Caroline McMillen



ORATION & RESEARCH DAY A SUCCESS

Over 100 people from government, industry, senior university representation, HDA members, students and researchers from Flinders University and University of South Australia attended this prestigious event on 26 May. The Vice Chancellor, Professor James McWha presented the 'Healthy

Development Adelaide Award' to Professor Graeme Hugo for excellence in research relating to healthy development.

The following day, four health priority areas were tackled with over 150 attendees participating in interactive round table sessions promoting col-

laboration and new research questions in 'Childhood Obesity', 'Modern Reproduction', 'Challenges to Healthy Families' and 'Genes, Environment and Development'. The day was capped off with a highlight lecture focussing on the *social inequalities and determinants of health in SA*.

NEXT THEMATIC EVENING - OBESITY & LIFESTYLE

This hot topic will include speakers: *Dr Peter Clifton* (CSIRO Human Nutrition), *Dr Lisa Kettler* (Dept of Psychology), *Dr Jon Buckley* from the University of South Australia and *Prof Graeme Hugo* (Dept of Geography & Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical In-

formation Systems). The evenings discussion will be moderated by *Prof Gary Wittert* (Dept of Medicine).

When: 4 August, 4.30-6.30pm

Where: University of Adelaide - Union House, Equinox (level 4)

RSVP's: 27 July to Anne at

anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au or phone 8222 6878

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of South Australia**

MEMBER PROFILE — DR LISA KETTLER

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Dr Lisa Kettler is a lecturer in the Department of Psychology and a registered psychologist, currently practicing through the Highbury Family Practice Unit.

My research primarily focuses on: *Adherence to treatment in chronic illness. *Child and adolescent mental health, including anxiety, depression, bullying, conduct disorder and the efficacy of psychological interventions such as systemic family therapy. *Child protection (collaboration with the

child protection service at Flinders Medical Centre) and *Health psychology, as it relates to children and adolescents.

I worked for ten years as a clinical psychologist in the public sector, working with Child Protection Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and adult health psychology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I currently supervise 7 postgraduate students in areas related to asthma and anxiety in chil-

dren, interventions to address bullying in schools, interventions for conduct disordered youth, resiliency in children of parents with mental illness, evidential interviewing by the police in cases of suspected child sexual abuse, factors impacting on carers of children with developmental disabilities and factors affecting obesity in children.

Dr Kettler can be contacted on 8303 5737 or lisa.kettler@psychology.adelaide.edu.au



Dr Lisa Kettler

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH—FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, COMPUTER & MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES AND THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

A new and exciting joint collaborative project between the two faculties is underway with PhD student Alys Clark.

Alys is supervised by Dr Yvonne Stokes and Dr Stephen Cox within the School of Mathematics and A/Prof Jeremy Thompson from the Research Centre for Repro-

ductive Health. The project involves using different modelling strategies to determine what level of substrates are reaching the surface of the egg from the surrounding fluid via the cumulus cells. One of the key functions of cumulus cells is to modulate the nutrition of the egg from the surrounding fluids which bathe

the cumulus-egg structure.

Already her work has changed the design of experiments, where the level of oxygen used to investigate its effect during egg maturation was much lower than normally considered optimal, with the result that this has affected subsequent embryo development.

Clinically, this data suggests that oxygen concentration is a factor that eggs in the follicle of an ovary respond to and therefore adapt to different levels. The relevance of this lies with changes in fertility to lifestyle factors such as smoking, exercise and obesity.

MEMBER PROFILE — PROFESSOR ERIC HAAN

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF GENETIC MEDICINE AND THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL GENETICS SERVICE AT THE WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

On 13 June, Prof Haan was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his service to clinical genetics.

I was fortunate to have started my career at the time when genetics was taking off and to have done so in hospitals where inspiring people were carrying out world class research into the human genome and genetic disorders, and other equally inspiring people were developing clinical genetics as a medical spe-

ciality. These people were great mentors who provided opportunities to participate in the genetics roller coaster from the mid-70s to now. The award would not have been possible for me without those opportunities and the encouragement and support from past and present colleagues.

We are steadily gathering knowledge about the causes of inherited disorders and birth defects, processes that underlie conception and early devel-

opment, genetic changes that underlie cancer and the way in which genetic variation and environment / lifestyle interact to cause common disorders of adult life, the seeds of which are sown early in life. Governments need to support research into the genetic contribution to health and disease, invest in biotechnology, and ensure that clinical services have sufficient resources to deliver the fruits of genetic research to community in an ethical and cost-effective way.



Prof Eric Haan